



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, to be held at the Bogota Council Chambers at 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for the family of Joseph Birney, a nine year old boy who died from complications from life-long ailments.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meetings Law have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on December 23, 2017.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Daniel Klima requested assistance from the Mayor and Council with an issue he is having with the DPW Superintendent and the Borough Administrator. He said that sick time and vacation time was taken from him. He also lost a day of pay.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane. Motion carried.

Councilman Miranda said that he will discuss Mr. Klima's situation with the administrator.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC18-11 Payment of Claims

18-142 Approve tax refund from Veteran's Tax Deduction for 301 Larch Avenue

18-143 Emergency Repair of Municipal Roof NJS 40A:4--54

18-144 Approval to Submit Grant Application and Execute a Grant contract with the NJ Dept. of Transportation on behalf of the Borough of Bogota.

Approvals:

- Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the Minutes of 10/4/18.

Motion carried with Councilmembers Fede, Miranda, and Napolitano voting Yes, Councilmembers Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, and Murphy voting No, and Mayor Kelemen voting Yes to break the tie.

-Kirk Kushnerick of the Sahara Club would like approval to have a car show at 24 River Road in August 2019. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris suggested having the Sahara Club join the car show already planned for Bogota Day. The Borough Clerk will relay the suggestion to the Sahara Club.

-Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the Bogota Police are request for approval to acquire two hummers from the Federal Government. Motion carried. (Councilman Miranda explained that thousands of dollars worth of equipment

has been obtained for the police department. He reported that Congressman Gotthiemer presented a Proclamation to the Bogota Police Department for the good use of the equipment.

-Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve Engine 3's Engine 3 request for approval of Stephanie O'Connor as a fireperson. Motion carried.

Discussion: Hiring Police Officers: Chief Maye requested permission to put an add in the newspaper for a police officer changing the wording from the last ad from "must be PTC" to "PTC preferred". Permission was granted.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen thanked Police Chief Maye for the work he is doing with overnight parking. He reported that tenants have been complaining that they cannot find parking spots at night. He believes that COs should contain the information about overnight parking. He mentioned to the DPW Superintendent and the Borough Administrator that the wall on Preston Street is in bad shape and in need of repair. He announced that the company that was repairing sidewalks is no longer in business, so a new company must be found. He reappointed Elizabeth Wiemer and Eileen Karpoff to the Library Board. He said that two years ago, Mrs. Birney asked if there was any way to get a handicap swing at Olsen Park for her son and other handicapped children., so he spoke to Joe Scarpa and Jim Moore, and a handicap swing was installed for handicapped children. He requested that a Council person motion to expand the playground for handicapped children and name that area "JoJo's Playground". Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to create "JoJo's Playground". Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Transportation – She will be attending the next TANAAC meeting at Teterboro Airport next Wednesday.

VFW – She said the VFW is asking for Citizen of the Year and Junior Citizen of the Year nominations.

She said that her daughter was a long-time nurse of Joseph Birney, so she is grateful for this tribute.

She said that she did not attend the last meeting because her father was rushed to the hospital, and her mother could not take care of herself, so she was with her mother. She called into the meeting but encountered a problem and had to hang up. She resents being called a coward by people in the audience and outside. She would not have voted in support of the Recreation Center at this time as she had stated previously.

She reported that the group meeting to plan the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bogota is a great group with a lot of ideas. The group includes: Mayor Kelemen, Administrator Scarpa, Photographer Steve Mazella, VFW Commander Alex Rodriguez, Raul Labraun from Rescue, Library Director Chlelsea Coleman, town Historian Henry Komorowski, Senior Citizen Club President Rosemary Gesevich, Tax Assessor Patrick Wilkins, Board of Education President Lisa Kohles, Police Chief Maye, and Recreation Director Jim Moore.

Councilman Miranda: Recreation -He reported that the Fall Festival will be held on October 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a petting zoo, pony rides, a photo booth, bouncy houses, slides, free food, and a DJ (Raul & Eddie), businesses from town including Kaylen Deli, Police Department will be there. Girl Scouts will be there. He said that he is trying to get the whole community involved.

He will be holding the “Thanksgiving Ham Giveaway” on November 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.  
He was extremely disappointed at a flyer that went out making false accusations about the Recreation Center. He said that the Council was guided by professionals, and one party decided not to vote for the Recreation Center even with the professionals explaining how it would work.

Councilwoman Fede: Finance – She thanked the CFO and Administrator for the Payment of Claims process which is now done in a timely manner in a secure location for our review.

Rescue – She reported that Rescue thanked the Mayor and Council for the \$2,500 given to them which is given to each volunteer group They are working on their clothing allowances. Eric Manzino is a new member who is in the Air Force. They worked on Water Rescue in the Hackensack River.

Environmental Commission – She reported that over 160 pounds of plastic bags have been collected. Bogota and Ridgefield Park Environmental Commissions will be having a Styrofoam pick up on Saturday. She will be attending a seminar for computerized tree inventory at the Shade Tree Federation down in Cherry Hill. She will be working with the Administrator on getting tree planting plan together to use the \$30,000 grant money for planting trees.

Councilman Napolitano: Infrastructure – Co-op will be milling and paving from November 5th to the 7<sup>th</sup> including Maplewood Avenue from Palisade to West Shore Avenue, East Broad Street from Palisade to Leonia Avenue, and Larch Avenue from Park Place to the Teaneck border. That is bonded borrowed money that was used to pave the streets. Leonia Avenue Phase IV is being paid for with a \$380,000 grant. Main Street will be paved from the Teaneck Border to the Hackensack border. River Road from Fort Lee Road to Teaneck. There is no date yet. ADA Ramps must be done first, so probably next year. River Road will be done the following year.

Finance – He reported that things are running well, and the records are in order.

BACSA – Checks are coming in for this year and last year.

Senior Citizens – He announced that the Advisory Board meeting will be next week.

He pointed out that there is no law about a fire engine having to be removed from service because of its age. If it passes inspections, it can be used.

Councilwoman Murphy: Library – She reported that the Library Director will be making a presentation to the Mayor and Council in January. She said that one employee is leaving, but no decision has been made on hiring someone else.

Fire Department – She announced that the Fire Chief is working on grants

to help with recruitment. There are issues that need to be brought to the central office.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He reported that the Board of Education has met twice. The Board is pushing to have Pre-K by as early as January. They have 48 slots, so they will have a lottery. They received a \$10,000 NFL grant which will be matched by one player for a watering system. Construction in front of the high school is still ongoing. Mr. Kennedy did a presentation on PARCC scores. He said that Language Arts is above the state average and 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade math is behind. He said that the Board of Education had a Town Hall meeting about safety, and wants to put 3 officers in the schools. He said there is an evacuation plan for the schools.

Administrator Scarpa announced that Sidewalk Safety is out of business, so the town is waiting for prices from other companies. He is working on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary LOGO. Pat Shuber agreed to be the honorary chair for the committee. He said that authorization is needed for the engineer to look at 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Preston Avenue.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, to give authorization to the Borough Engineer to study 3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Preston Avenue, and to check ADA rules for Main Street. He explained that rains have damaged the file room, so a new roof was needed at a cost of \$18,000 which will last 20 to 30 years.

Because it is an emergency, it will be paid over 3 years.

Borough Attorney Bossong confirmed that there is no law that a fire engine has to go out of service. He reported that the CFO and Piazza are closing out everything involving affordable housing for the Special Master.

Borough Clerk Cook announced that the voting location for Districts 2 and 3 for the November election has been moved from Bogota Jr Sr High School to L.M. Steen School due to the construction at the high school.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda to go into closed session for Police Promotion interviews. Motion carried at 8:25pm.

When the meeting reconvened at 10:24pm, Councilman Miranda motioned to promote three Police officers to Sergeant: Officer Victor Negron, Officer Hector Liriano, and Officer Thomas Riedel. Councilman Napolitano seconded the promotion. Motion carried with Councilmembers Fede, Miranda, Macfarlane, and Napolitano voting Yes. Councilwoman Murphy became ill and left the meeting before the Closed Session. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris recused herself from police matters due to conflict of interest and left before closed session as well.

Police Chief Maye thanked the Mayor and Council for the respectful relationship that has developed between the Police Department and the Governing Body. He thanked the Borough Administrator and Borough Clerk for their part. Councilman Miranda thanked the Police Chief and Police Captain for their service to the community. Councilwoman Fede said that the interviews

helped the governing body to get to know each officer better. She was impressed at how poised, well spoken, and talented they all were.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:28pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.