



Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, February 27, 2020 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Carpenter.

Mayor Kelemen requested a moment of silence in honor of Elizabeth Wiemer, a dedicated tax collector for 36 years for the Borough of Bogota. Mayor Kelemen spoke of Mrs. Wiemer's contributions to the School PTAs, the BUC Boosters, the Ladies Auxiliary of the Bogota Fire Department, the Bogota Public Library as a trustee and President, and to the whole Bogota community through her many years as Bogota resident.

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 27, 2019.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Connors, Fede, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to open the meeting up to the public. Motion carried.

Sherry Solomov said the tribute to Betty Wiemer was beautiful and she wishes her family well. She said that there was a great turnout for the blood drive on February 9th. There were 33 donors which will save 36 lives. There were 15 other people who came to donate blood but were not able to do so. She said that the Steen School Valentine Dance was a great success and thanked Bounce Party Mania for the Photo Booth which everyone loved. She thanked Daniele Fede and Rebecca Youla for joining the Friends of the Library, and Pat Morrone for stepping up as President of the Friends of the Library.

Fran Garlicki said that she enjoyed coming to a Council meeting after all her years being the Clerk here. She said it was enjoyable to be able to sit and watch.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried.

Presentation: Mayor Kelemen presented a plaque to former Councilman David Macfarlane for his full term on Council, and thanked him for his time, energy, and commitment to the residents of Bogota. He told everyone that Mr. Macfarlane did a lot of leg work on his various committees including finance, police, library, and the Board of Education. Mr. Macfarlane accepted the plaque for former Council member Kathryn Gates-Ferris as well.

Capital Budget Presentation by Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Superintendent: Borough

Administrator Scarpa reported that he sent an email to the governing body with a list of items for an \$800,000 multi-purpose bond. It included local road repair, sewer/drainage projects, parking by the firehouse, \$250,000 for a DPW garbage truck, \$100,000 for buildings & grounds expenses including a landscaping trailer, \$25,000 for sidewalk repair, 3 police vehicles, \$10,000 for computers, and a hose dryer for the fire department. He said that 5% down-payment would be \$40,000 which would be in the 2020 budget. He said that Auxiliary Police, Rescue, and Dispatchers will have line items in the 2020 budget. Discussion took place concerning adding a blocking sled for football, video equipment for televising meetings, more money for sidewalks, and Preston Street repairs (concrete street). The multi-purpose bond will be introduced at the first meeting in March.

Discussion: - Legal bills – Discussion took place concerning legal bills and what was included in the monthly retainer fee for the Borough Attorney. Borough Attorney Bossong said that he would email his contract to the Mayor and Council, so they will see how his billing is itemized. They decided to move forward and let the past remain in the past.

- Salary Ordinance for part time crossing guards – They discussed giving the Crossing Guards Christmas pay which had always been done in the past. Approval will take place during the Approval time of the meeting.

- Stop signs - Borough Administrator Scarpa gave the list of stop signs in need of codification to Borough Attorney Bossong to prepare ordinances.

- Grants - Mayor Kelemen and Councilwoman Fede, Mr. Scarpa and Mr. Costa met with the grant writer, Steve Welsh, to discuss Olsen Park and the new community center. They would like to get grant money to redesign the whole park by putting in a soccer field, football field, 8 lane track, bleachers and lighting. They discussed getting private sector donations and corporate donations. He said that the Borough Engineer will have to prepare sketches of the fields in order to move forward. An Open Space Grant application is due May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to authorize Costa Engineering to prepare a sketch of the town fields (not school fields) for multi-purpose use at a cost not to exceed \$1,500. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Connors, to approve the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.:

20-054 Best Practices for Broadcasting Mayor and Council Meetings

20-055 Amend Agreement with BBOE to allow hiring of an additional part-time SLEOIII

20-056 Authorize ANS Geo, Inc. to complete Soil Boring tests for the new community center

20-057 Hiring Paul Storelli as DPW laborer

20-058 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 01, Lot 15

20-059 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 91, Lot 16

20-060 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 62, Lot 27

20-061 Emergency for Sewer Repairs at 102 Fairview Avenue

Resolution to be voted on Separately:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following Resolution after it was pointed out that all purchase orders must be available for the finance committee to review before the meeting. Also, one invoice was listed twice for payment. That will be corrected. Motion carried.

PC20-03 Payment of Claims

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to table the following Salary Ordinance until the next regular meeting :

1538 Salary Ordinance for 2020

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

1537 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance 2-8 Et Seq. Entitled "Recreation Committee" To Increase The Membership Therein

Approval: - Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to accept the Minutes for 2/6/2020. Motion carried with only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

-Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve "Christmas Pay" for Crossing Guards. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Rebecca Youla said that codifying the stop signs was a great idea. She asked if crosswalks could be painted. She also requested light-up signs at the crosswalks so pedestrians would be seen especially at night.

Michele Rugar asked if Green Acres compliance was looked into as it pertains to the new recreation center. She said that the Borough Architect, Mr. Bilow, had requested the articles that she had referred to at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting concerning the dangers of rubber flooring She proceeded to hand out two of the articles (which pertain to flooring in schools) to the governing body.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Mayor Kelemen and Borough Administrator Scarpa both said that the Borough Architect would be looking into the Green Acres compliance. Mayor Kelemen said that dangerous flooring will not be put in the new Community Center. Councilwoman Murphy said she would like research done on crosswalks. Discussion took place concerning better lighting for the crosswalks. Mention was made of the dimmer lighting put in by PSE&G to save energy. The Borough Administrator will look into reflective lighting for crosswalks and will suggest brighter light bulbs for street lights from PSE&G. Councilman Napolitano suggested putting better lighting in a local aid application.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen thanked Rescue, the Police Auxiliary, DPW and the Police for all their work setting up for Mrs. Wiemer's wake and funeral. He said that Bogota is a great community as seen by the show of respect by residents at Mrs. Wiemer's passing. He thanked DPW Superintendent Gordon Kohles for his work on the emergency on Fairview Avenue. He is glad that the crossing guards are getting their December pay. He thanked Sherry Solomov for the successful blood drive and for live-streaming the meetings. He said that in the next couple of weeks he will be meeting with the Fire Chief, Council members Robbins and Napolitano, and Mr. Scarpa to discuss the firehouse. He told the Council that they will be receiving an invite from Andresa Moody, the Vice President of Valley National Bank, for April 2<sup>nd</sup> from 4pm to 7pm for their grand opening of the bank.

He said that Amaru Bustamante and the Creative Team will have their first meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup> in the Conference Room at 7:30pm. He said that the grant writer sent a letter of intent to the County for \$1,500 grant money for the 2020 Census.

Councilwoman Fede asked for people to join the Friends of the Library. She reported that in April and May they will be collecting gently used shoes (men's, women's, and children's) and hope to raise about \$1,000 doing that. The Environmental Green Team will be supporting that. She attended the Junior Honor Society Ceremony and said that Caroline Nunez' speech was moving. She reported that the Rescue Squad did vehicle extricating training. The Rescue Squad did rope training with Ridgefield Park. She attended the Planning/Zoning Reorganization meeting and learned that Ridgefield Park is challenging the North Avenue billboard approval, so that is in litigation now. She said that she would like to work on the Firemen's Park since Bogota has an Open Space grant for it. She reported that co-sponsored Bogota Beautiful and Library Pot Luck Dinner will take place on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 1pm to 3pm in the Senior Center. She said that the first Creative Team meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30pm.

Councilman Robbins had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the Rescue Squad will meet on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She said that the Library's next meeting is March 9<sup>th</sup>. She said that a portion of the library will be dedicated to Betty Wiemer on Sunday, March 1, at 2pm. She said that Library Director Chelsea Coleman will be coming to the March 5<sup>th</sup> meeting with a report. She asked about the status of bathroom repairs for the library. She asked about the boxes in the Senior Citizen room. Mr. Scarpa said that the bathroom will be repaired and filing cabinets are on order for the boxes. Councilman Napolitano said that state grants are available for libraries, so a grant could be applied for to repair the bathroom as well as other areas. Arrangements will be made for Chelsea Coleman to meet with Steve Welsh.

Councilman Napolitano said that he and Mr. Scarpa attended a budget meeting with the CFO and the Auditor. The Annual Financial Report has been submitted, so the budget should be introduced at the second meeting in March. There should be at least one additional police officer in the budget for 2020. He said that the Police Chief is still waiting for quotes on the cost of producing baseball cards with first responder pictures on them. He said that someone on Fairview Avenue requested a handicapped space, so the police are looking into that. He reported that the Senior Advisory Board will be meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>. For the area in need of redevelopment, he said that he spoke to Kevin Kelly who asked if the Council was moving forward with that. It was suggested that property owners and developers need to get together and have a forum to match up with developers who would be interested. He said that the over 55 community was discussed. A supermarket was suggested as well. Mr. Bossong explained that the first step of the process is to look at each site and develop a plan as to what you want at each site. If you want commercial, then residential developers should not be invited. Maybe invite the public or discuss yourselves what you want. Have a discussion as to what your broad-based plans are and then go from there. There are multiple properties. You need the buyer and seller to agree. A public meeting will have to be advertised if the entire Council will be there. Councilman Napolitano continued that there is one area there that is part of the Atwater plan and is still being considered for Veteran's housing.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the County meeting will take place on March 4<sup>th</sup>. She thanked the governing body for hiring a DPW employee and for putting the new garbage truck in the multi-purpose bond.

Councilman Connors said that there has not been a Recreation meeting since the last Council meeting due to the Recreation Director having a family emergency. The next meeting will be next Wednesday. He said that the Board of Education had a work session on February 11<sup>th</sup>. He said that an audit was done on the school buildings, and boilers, roofs, windows, etc were repaired or

replaced. He reported that Mr. Moore resigned from the Board of Education, and two people applied for the open position: Kristen Meberg and Charlie Severino. He said that the vote ended in a tie. He said that he, the Mayor, and Mr. Napolitano met with the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Education. They shared some great plans that will be revealed soon. They made a commitment to meet more regularly. Councilwoman Carpenter reported that 40 new students enrolled in January. The Pre-K program is a success. Money received from the governor for Pre-K has caused an influx of young families in town. Two more classes have been added to Pre-K. Entry to the classes is based on a lottery and a waiting list. Mayor Kelemen said that yesterday's meeting with the Board of Education was awesome, and he looks forward to working together.

Borough Administrator Scarpa and Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Borough Clerk Cook explained that the Borough has to participate in the 2020 Census to make it work. Hopefully, a kiosk can be set up in the library and a trained census individual can be available to help people fill out their census forms. The Census is being done on line this year. The grant money can be used to hire someone to be trained to help residents fill out their forms. She reminded everyone to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:51pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook .