



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, May 3, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris.

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: Council President Fede and Council members Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

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

Michele Rugar said that she would like to know specific details about changing the form of government and if the community will be involved.

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

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the Community will be involved because a referendum has to be put on the ballot. Councilmen Napolitano said that the Borough Attorney gave out the information about the options for changing the form of government at a past meeting and further discussion will take place. Councilman Miranda said that the community should be given the choice to decide what is best for the town. Councilwoman Murphy agreed.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following Resolution on the Consent Agenda
18-082 Tax Sale Redemption for Block 69, Lot 6

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to introduce the following Ordinance. Motion carried.

#1512 An Ordinance Amending Schedule VII of Chapter 7-3.6 Entitled "Time Limit Parking" – to Establish an Overnight Parking Spot on West Grove Street and Amending Schedule VII of Chapter 7-6.2 Creating a Stop Intersection
Public Hearing on Ordinance #1512 will take place on May 17, 2018.

Approval of Minutes of 4/5/18 and 4/19/18 did not take place as Council members said they did not receive the minutes on time. Councilman Miranda reminded everyone that the minutes for the April 5th meeting were received on April 20, 2018.

Discussion: Solid Waste Disposal: Administrator Scarpa explained that the BCUA Solid Waste Disposal Contract expires soon and must be renewed at the next meeting.

Police Sgt. Promotion – Councilman Miranda said that police promotions are necessary and take a great deal of time, so the process needs to get started immediately. One position will need to be filled soon, and one may come available soon. Administrator Scarpa said that there are two tests offered for the Sergeant position, and he will look into the cost and time frame for each.

Change the form of Government – Councilman Napolitano reminded everyone that the Borough Attorney gave a large amount of information to all the council members concerning changing the form of government. He is interested in finding a form of government that will bring the town together and have no more division. He said that Teaneck, Hackensack, and Ridgefield Park have non-partisan governments. He feels that keeping taxes low and services at their best is more important than party power. Councilman Miranda said that he wants what is best for the town and to let the town decide. He would like bullet points and comparisons, so that an informed decision can be made. Councilwoman Murphy asked that the Borough Attorney condense the information so that they can discuss in open session. Council agreed. Attorney Bossong said that he will put a package together and send it to everyone.

Reports

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris: Transportation - She reported that she attended a meeting in Teterboro, and the FAA did a nice presentation. She received no noise complaints, but she said South Hackensack and Rutherford had noise complaints. She heard that a resident contacted the mayor with a noise complaint.

Councilman Miranda: Recreation Committee- He reported that football registration will begin soon. The flyers have been approved. Summer Camp will start soon. There was discussion of three days a week camp which was not allowed in the past, but a discussion may be in order. He said that the Swim Club is creating a Swimming Team with the Recreation Department. He said that they doubled the amount of water this year for the Memorial Day Parade.

Police Department – He reported that the April 1 to April 21 campaign about texting and driving was a great success. The police issued 467 summonses. Many people were charge with multiple issues.

Councilwoman Fede: Veterans – She thanked everyone who helped with the bridge rededication ceremony. She received and read a letter from the son of Sgt Ryan thanking the town for remembering his father. He said that he will never forget it. She will circulate the letter to the Council.

Rescue Squad – She said that Boot Drive was on Saturday and it was a great success.

Environmental Commission – She thanked the Environmental Commission members that participated in Arbor Day on Friday. She said that the Green Fair will be held this Saturday, May 5th in Ridgefield Park. There will be shuttle buses. Ridgefield Park provided Bogota with two cardboard bins for collecting plastic bags for the Trex recycling program.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance – He reported that Battaglia Associates is working to correct the incomplete issues. Hopefully the 2017 audit will be started soon. All grants are being reviewed for payment etc. Some invoices need to be paid for grant work, final inspections need to be completed.

Infrastructure – The bridge is now completed and the rededication ceremony was a success. He said that the County will help with the erosion where CSX railroad is. He said that Nick Barese reported a concern about safety and erosion to CSX, but CSX is more concerned with safety on the tracks than with the stream and erosion.

Buildings and Grounds – He said they will discuss financing a new Recreation Center once the 2017 audit is complete. The developer at River Development is doing asbestos abatements, and he is getting the permits together to demolish the old buildings.

Planning and Zoning – He said that Mr. Grygiel is working on “Area in need of redevelopment studies” authorized by Council.

BACSA – They are working with Crimestoppers for a War on Drugs. Police are involved as well. He received information on Opioids training, and he is on a waiting list.

Senior Citizens – The Seniors want the boxes out of their room. They are working on a Spanish information pamphlet for seniors. Their last trip was cancelled because there were not enough people going.

Councilwoman Murphy: Library – She reported that the Thank you dinner for the volunteers was a success. Their next meeting is May 14.

Fire Department – She said she admires the work done by the fire department and said that acknowledgments will take place. They are hoping for \$50,000 in grant money for recruitment. A meeting was switched and she was unable to attend.

She reported that the Bogota Community Garden will start their planting soon. There are some plots available.

Councilman Macfarlane: Board of Education – He reported that the Board chose a new superintendent. The school debt will be paid off in 2023. The 2018 2019 budget has been presented. He said that the school system is picking up.

Borough Administrator Scarpa said that he attended an administrator's meeting and learned that there is a commission looking into ways to lower property taxes throughout the state. There will be a reconstruction meeting in the future May 24 or 25th. He suggested that Borough Council members take online mandatory stormwater training. He said that recycling will be advertised on the website.

He suggested getting a smaller bus for senior trips. He also suggested reaching out to other towns. He reported that he sent out a memo about purchase orders and procedures.

Borough Attorney Bossong said that the County Tax Appeal hearing date is May 22. There is a minimum number of appeals.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 8:30pm:
18-082C Closed Session

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:53pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.