



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, December 20, 2018 at 7:40pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Miranda.

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: Councilmembers Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy, and Napolitano were present. Mayor Kelemen was absent, so Council President Fede presided over the meeting. Also present were Borough Attorney Bossong and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Council President Fede announced that the approval of a new fireman for Hose 2 had been added to the agenda.

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

Rosemary Gasiewicz, President of the Senior Citizen Club, thanked Mayor Kelemen, Joe Scarpa and Jim Moore for getting an extra step on the Senior bus to make it easier for the Seniors to get on and off of the bus. She thanked Gordon Kohles and the DPW workers for setting up the Senior Center twice a month for meetings. She thanked the Police Chief for his patience and work in getting photo IDs for the seniors.

Connie Carpenter questioned the Borough Attorney's line of \$26,000 on the bill list. She asked which roof the Haegman Roofing bill was for. She commented on the not yet approved Dec 6 minutes saying that the Mayor did not receive a 10% markdown on the Christmas tree. She said that Councilman Napolitano saying that Bogota's financial position was in good shape as per the Moody report was untrue because the Moody report only rates bonds.

Art Gonzalez said that he lives near Buddy's Place. He said that there are beer bottles left on his lawn and people yelling and screaming as they leave Buddy's Place. Now someone was killed outside of Buddy's Place. He asked if Buddy's Place can be closed down or if anything can be done to improve the situation.

Shelly Solomov asked why Buddy's Place cannot be closed down. She owned a restaurant in Brooklyn which would have lost its liquor license if there was trouble there. Can they limit their hours? What is the next step?

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

Administrator Scarpa explained that the money paid to the engineer was for road resurfacing and the amount fell under the grant threshold allowed to engineers. He also said that the police need to patrol the area by Buddy's Place, and Council can change the closing time for the bars in town. Reports can be given before renewal of the license goes through. Councilman Miranda said that residents could get together and sign a petition to be sent to the state Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to get a liquor license revoked. He also pointed out that the police had issues with landlords and tenants in that area. The prosecutor's office had to be involved. A high profile arrest was made in town. Councilman Napolitano explained that he and Councilman Miranda had met with the police a while ago because of the problems in that area and discussed putting cameras there. He also explained that the Moody Report is a report that affects interest rates. Borough Attorney Bossong explained that the \$26,000 on the payment of claims for his company was payment for September through December which had not been paid.

Councilman Macfarlane motioned to remove Police Chief Maye's contract from closed session discussion. Councilwoman Murphy seconded the motion. Council members Fede, Miranda, and Napolitano voted No to removing the contract from closed session discussion. Council members Macfarlane and Murphy voted Yes to remove it. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstained. Motion did not carry.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris motioned to move the Police Chief's discussion concerning the shooting and cameras above the consent agenda. Councilman Macfarlane seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion: Police Chief Maye explained that patrol officers were busy with a drunk driving arrest at the time of the shooting. The officers did the best they could and made the arrest within 12 hours of the shooting. He reported that in his 30 years on the police force in Bogota, that area was always a problem. He said that he has been requesting cameras in that area for a while. He also wanted cameras by Main Street and Palisade Avenue. He explained that the town joined Crimestoppers which will be a help. Surveillance cameras would be a great help as well. Sgt Detective Liriano and Detective Rivera also spoke. Thanks to Crimestoppers, a number of calls came in that helped solve the case. They said that there have been many drug and warrant arrests in that area. Police Auxiliary Ray Sanchez spoke about the kinds of camera that are available for surveillance and the cost. The police chief repeated the need for cameras on the DPW building and in the parks and the need for more police officers.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC18-13 Payment of Claims

18-164 Hire John Fowler as After School Counselor for Recreation Center

18-165 Yearly Meetings 2019

18-166 Holiday Schedule 2019

18-167 Resolution to Confirm Endorsement of Community Development Project

18-168 Resolution to Oppose Construction of North Bergen Liberty Generating Power Plant

18-169 Change Order#2 for Pascack Valley Paving

18-170 Budget Transfers

The following Ordinance was adopted:

#1520 - An Ordinance Amending Chapter VII Entitled "Traffic" Schedule XVII to Add Handicap Parking Space Near 61 Palisade Avenue Restrict Parking During Certain Hours Near 414 Larch Avenue and Establishing New Bus Stops on West Fort Lee Road.

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve the Minutes of December 6, 2018. Council members Fede, Miranda, and Napolitano voted Yes. Council members Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, and Murphy voted No. Motion did not carry.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris – Library: She reported that at the last meeting, salaries were discussed to be moved up to the County minimum standards, and the Library is requesting donations up to \$8,000.

Councilman Miranda – Police Department: He congratulated the Police on all of the work they do. He noted that police chief and detectives work together well and the whole department is involved.

Recreation Department: He reported that Little Ferry showed a small turnout for baseball. There are about 140 children out of the program.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission: She reported that the Sandy Recovery reward was received and tree saplings will be given out this Spring.

Council President Fede thanked Fire Department, the Police, the Police Auxiliary, and the DPW for all their work for a successful tree lighting. She said that the new Christmas in Olsen Park looks nice, the wreaths look nice on the light poles, and Mrs. Claus enjoyed her time in Bogota. She also announced that the policy involving use and parking of town vehicles needs to be addressed in light of one vehicle being involved in multiple accidents due to improper parking. This is an expense to the taxpayer.

Councilman Napolitano – Senior Citizens: He said that the Seniors had a wonderful year. He reported that Ann Taylor and Madeline Banks are both feeling better, and Ann Genovese thanked everyone for the limited time parking for her son.

Planning Board: He reported that the new development is moving forward, and the foundation has been poured for the first building.

Infrastructure: He reported that grant work is ongoing. Preston Street has an issue that needs to be addressed. Elm Avenue had emergency work done due to undermining of Elm Avenue from the creek. Hopefully, CSX and the County will help with that. Applications were done for grants for Palisade Avenue and Cane Street.

Buildings and Grounds: Issues with the firehouses and the Recreation center will have to be addressed next year.

Finance: He reported that Bogota is in its strongest financial position in years. The town is meeting all obligations including bond payments.

BACSA – BACSA is working with the police department to help prevent

children being approached by strangers with drugs.. Cameras will help with that as well.

Councilwoman Murphy - Fire Department: She reported that the next meeting will be in the New Year when the turnover of officers will take place. She said that there are still issues with firehouses that need to be addressed.

Councilman Macfarlane - Board of Education: He reported that the Board of Education met last week.

DPW: He said the DPW did a great job decorating and cleaning up the leaves.

Police: He congratulated the police on resolving the case so quickly.

Borough Administrator Scarpa thanked the DPW on the great work they did decorating the Borough Hall and the town for the holidays. He also congratulated Gordon Kohles on receiving his certification as a Public Works Manager. He reported that the sidewalk repair is on-going throughout the year now with the new company. Pourings cannot be done in the winter, but root cutting and placing can be done. Elm Avenue is being repaired today as Councilman Napolitano mentioned. He said that the roof had been repaired on Borough Hall which lasted about a year and a half. The heavy rains caused leaks in the Police Department and the clerk's file office, so the roof had to be replaced as an emergency. He spoke about the Fire Department swearing in officers in December, but then they take office in January. He would like to have that process looked into. Garbage and recycling calendars will be going out next week.

The Borough Attorney had no report.

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve Muhammad Equus as a member of Hose company No. 2.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda to go into Closed Session at 9:05pm. Motion carried.

When the meeting opened to the public again at 9:20pm, the Borough Attorney Bossong explained that Police Chief Maye wishes to renew his contract with the same terms and conditions, with a 2% increase for each year through 2021. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to approve Police Chief Maye's contract. Motion carried, and the following Resolution was added to the agenda.

18-171 To Renew Police Chief Maye's Contract

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Miranda to recess the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting recessed at 9:28pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.