



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, March 1, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Napolitano.

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, and Napolitano were present. Councilwoman Murphy was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Bossong, Borough Administrator Scarpa, Interim CFO Curran, and Bond Counsel Rogut.

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

Connie Carpenter asked if the Grant Award letters are available so that she can OPRA them. She said that the Annual Debt Statement is not on the website and some minutes are missing too. The Annual Financial Statement is not completed and the 2016 Audit is not completed. She asked who paid for the striping on West Shore Avenue. She said there is a stop sign that has no ordinance.

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

Administrator Scarpa said that he and interim CFO Curran would be having a conference with the auditor on March 8 to finalize the 2016 Audit. He wrote to the engineer about the stop sign. The County dealt directly with the contractor. The Resolution on November 9, 2017 has the cost of the striping removed.

Interim CFO Curran said that she is completing the General Ledger for 2017. She spoke to the engineer about award letters.

Discussion:

Bond Ordinances: Bond Counsel Steve Rogut reported on the Borough Bond Ordinances from 2010 to the present. He said the debt for this town is not unreasonable. All but one bond has been paid off this year. He explained that tax appeals, employees retiring, infrastructure, and law suits are reasons for needing bonds.

Administrator Scarpa gave the Mayor and Council a breakdown of the Capital budget requests made by the Police, the Fire Department, and the DPW. Discussion took place concerning the requests, and a bond ordinance will be introduced at the next regular meeting.

2018 Budget: Interim CFO Curran gave the Mayor and Council members a draft of the budget. Interest on the bond as well as the down payment appear in the budget.

Commercial Parking: Mayor and Council discussed a possible ordinance to limit parking of commercial vehicles on private properties. An ordinance will be introduced at the next Regular meeting.

Culvert – Discussion ensued concerning the culvert. Councilman Napolitano spoke to Boswell Engineering and they would like to attend the next regular meeting to discuss the culvert. The area has been revisited to look at other things besides the culvert. The trash rack is a problem and is making the situation worse. Boswell Engineering considers the trash rack to be Phase I in trying to solve the problem of the flooding.

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place:

1505 – An Ordinance Amending Chapter II Section 16 Entitled “Rescue Squad” Subsection 16.2

1506 -- An Ordinance Adopting a Policy for Totally Disabled Veteran’s and Surviving Spouses Tax Exemption on Municipal Property

Approvals

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to approve the Minutes for February 15, 2018 and February 22, 2018. Motion carried.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen reported that he and the Council members were invited to the Grand Opening of Golden Day Care on Saturday, March 10, at 10am. Councilwoman Fede will be attending the Grand Opening as well. He also wanted to thank Chief Maye and the police officers who arrived quickly to resolve a problem.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris had no report.

Councilman Miranda: Recreation Committee - He reported that the basketball program is over. He said that the Recreation Committee is preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, May 24th.

Councilwoman Fede: Veterans Affairs – She reported that the Ryan family would like the re-dedication of the bridge to take place on April 21st. She hopes the bridge will be completed by then.

Environmental Commission – She attended the Green Team meeting last night. Isabel Bustamante and Bogota Beautiful are working on having a Farmer’s Market at St. Francis Church in Ridgefield Park. The Pot Luck dinner run by Bogota Beautiful was a great success, and Councilman Macfarlane provided some live musical entertainment.

Councilman Napolitano: Finance – He reported that the budget is being worked on as well as cleaning up the audit and planning for the multi-purpose bond.

The Police Contract will be a burden for the budget.

Buildings & Grounds – He reported that Borough Architect Bilow is preparing plans for the Recreation area.

Senior Citizens – He said that the Senior Advisory Board meeting will take place next week.

Infrastructure – He has not received word from the County on when the bridge will be completed. He reported that the new

developer of the Hess site met with the Planning & Zoning Board and said that demolition should begin in a couple of weeks. The town should receive the remainder of the \$375,000 after the demo permit is received. The developer will have to coordinate with the Police Department for the trucking of soil.

Councilman Macfarlane said that he was happy to participate in the Bogota Beautiful pot luck dinner.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the County Clerk brought over the plaque of historic documents for Bogota. It is framed and hanging in the entrance hallway. He said that the DPW will be getting new jackets etc. He reminded everyone that the bridge was supposed to be completed by November 13, 2017. That date was then changed to February 13, 2018. He has not received a response as to a new completion date. He said that the recycling tonnage report is due by April 30. The town received a \$10,000 grant for a charging station. The Petrik Park grant was 50%. The Leonia Avenue grant is for \$215,000, and the Energy Efficient Appliance Grant is for \$6,000. Ten recycling bins will cost \$15,000. A grant was received for Sandy Recovery in the amount of 100 trees. The Fixed Asset Inventory Report for 2017 has been completed. A fence is being put around 203 Queen Anne Road. The Energy Audit by PSE&G is completed, and PSE&G will come back with a proposal.

Attorney Bossong reported that the Housing Element and Fair Share Compliance hearing has been postponed until mid-April. He said that the Swim Club agreed to the terms of the lease.

Interim CFO Curran reported that the budget is almost ready. She is waiting for police salaries. She also will look into "other expenses" to break them down.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into Closed Session. Motion carried and the following Resolution was added to the agenda at 9:18pm.
18-060C Closed Session

Motion to re-open the meeting was made by Councilman Miranda at 10:48pm, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Miranda. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook