



Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, to be held at the Bogota Council Chambers, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ, on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 7:33pm.

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, 2018.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Councilmembers Carpenter, Macfarlane, Murphy, Napolitano and Robbins were present. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris was absent. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to open the meeting up for Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

John Croney of Conner Foley was representing two businesses in town that were the subject of the need for redevelopment. He requested that before doing the redevelopment study for Resolution 19-145, that they designate and proceed with an overlay zone to protect the businesses from rezoning problems. He asked that the Council consider protecting the underlying zoning that is in place.

Sherry Solomov presented a question from Carly Nunez who asked if the snow ordinance is being enforced. She said that properties were icy and no salt was put down. Sherry Solomov said that there will be a community event called Latin Night on December 20th. A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to the Bogota school PTAs and PTOs.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that after Resolution 19-145 is adopted, the next step is to develop a redevelopment plan which will be done by ordinance, but nothing has been created yet. State law allows municipalities to have overlay zones that allow the original zoning to be in place. Without overlay zones, businesses could become non-conforming uses. Mr. Croney was allowed to speak again to say that he is not here to impede adoption of the resolution. He said that Councilman Napolitano has been very helpful in explaining that the board will work with property owners in developing the ordinance. Councilman Napolitano said that if people see snow not being removed, they should call property maintenance or the police. He asked that people watch for neighbors who may need help with snow removal. Mayor Kelemen said that the high school used to have a youth advisory committee run by a teacher, Mrs. Donaldson, that did community projects. When Mrs. Donaldson retired, the youth group fizzled out. He will look into starting up a youth advisory committee again at the high school.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

19-140 Authorization to Advertise for bids for Olsen Park Basketball Court and tennis Court Renovations

19-141 Shared Services Agreement with Borough of Little Ferry for Municipal Court Services

19-142 Creating a "Safe Zone" at Borough of Bogota Police Department Municipal Building for the Public to Meet for Craig's List and Other Internet-Based Transactions

19-143 Award Contract to Landtek Construction (dba United Terrain Group) for Preston Street Wall Project

19-144 Hiring Full-time DPW workers

19-145 Resolution Declaring Area Blighted
19-146 Hiring Derek DeMatteo as Part-Time Dispatcher

The following Ordinance was introduced:

#1536 An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 2 of the Bogota code, entitled "Administration" to remove the limitation on the number of active members of the Auxiliary Police

Public Hearing and Adoption occurred on the following Ordinance:

#1535 Amending Chapter 21A of Bogota Code, Entitled "Zoning"

Approval: Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the Minutes of November 13, 2019 and September 5, 2019. Motion carried with Councilwoman Murphy recusing herself from the November 13th minutes and voting No on the September 5th minutes.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that he spoke to the Police Chief about speed enforcement on Maplewood Avenue and Palisade Avenue. He said that posts were put in a week ago and the signs will be completed in a week. He thanked Amaru Bustamante and Bogota Beautiful for decorating the Christmas tree at Van Saun Park. He re-appointed Art Konigsberg and Mary Komorowski and appointed Rebecca Youla to the Library Board. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve Mayor Kelemen's Library appointments. Motion carried. He said that a number of people have asked about the memorial bricks in front of Borough Hall. He would like to look into doing them again. He reminded everyone about the installation of fire chiefs coming up on Saturday. He said that Jeffrey Cool had received Council approval a while ago to put up signs about peanuts in the park picnic area. Mr. Napolitano helped install signs in Olsen Park and Pagano Park. He said that the DPW did a great job cleaning up after the last snow fall, and he was treating them all to lunch as a Thank You. He reminded everyone that the Reorganization meeting will take place on January 1 at 2:00PM, and the first Menorah lighting will take place on December 22nd at 6:00pm.

Councilwoman Carpenter reported that the Christmas tree lighting will take place Friday, December 6, and there will be a trackless train starting at 6:30pm. She said that road will close at 6:00pm for the tree lighting. There will be hot chocolate and cookies. She thanked the Council for approving new DPW employees and welcomed the new dispatcher.

Councilman Napolitano said that BACSA is working on a 2020 program. He said that focus is on vaping and the opioid crisis. They are working with Kathy Viola of Garfield for grants. They are looking for stronger wording for the opioid usage. The Bogota Police are sponsoring Toys for Tots. The overnight parking system that Bogota Police now use is getting attention from other towns. Total calls for the police in November were 2,371. A large number of people call for parking permission. There were 38 ambulance calls and 17 fire alarm, 15 of which were false. There were some DUIs. They are working on the Veterans friendly Community Certificate. He said that the Seniors had a wonderful time at the Gala. He reminded everyone that on Monday the Youth Academy movie will be at the Teaneck Cinema at 7pm.Saturday.

Councilwoman Murphy reminded everyone about the fire chief meeting on Saturday.

Councilman Robbins explained a life size snow globe that he would like to have at the Christmas tree lighting. He said that the Borough could rent it for 3 hours. Pictures could be taken and the 125th Anniversary

Logo will be on the pictures. The cost would be \$1595, and would be paid from the Recreation operating budget. Councilman Robbins motioned to have the snow globe at the Christmas tree lighting. Councilman Macfarlane seconded. Motion carried with Council members Macfarlane, Napolitano, and Robbins voting Yes and Councilwomen Carpenter and Murphy voting No. Councilman Robbins said there were no noise complaints. He said there is a new flight plan going over Route 17.

Councilman Macfarlane thanked the Borough for the opportunity to attend the League of Municipalities conference in Atlantic City. He attended many classes and enjoyed learning many new things.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that there was a meeting today with CSX because CSX wants to close the pedestrian walkway on Fort Lee Road. He said that the tree lighting will begin at 6:30pm. The Gala was a success. He said that the municipal Judge's term is up. The volunteer dinner will be in January. He said the Bogota traffic detail will be looking into the stop signs and checking for ordinances. The chief will be working on the street light survey including tree trimming. He said the Borough received an award for the Pine Street and Central Avenue road work. He said that the COOP with Westwood was not put together properly this year.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that he was informed by the tax assessor that River Club has paid the balance of its tax bill. He said that the tax assessor was notified by the County that the a town wide evaluation, and municipalities have the opportunity to do full blown reassessment.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to go into Closed session. Motion carried and the governing body went into closed session at 8:30pm.

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.