



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, June 6, 2019 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 27, 2018.

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

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by councilwoman Carpenter, to amend the order of the meeting to allow the Presentation by Bogota Beautiful to take place before the first Citizen Remarks segment. Motion carried.

Presentation and Discussion – Bogota Beautiful Representative Amaru Bustamante explained the need for the governing body to create a Creative Arts Team. He explained that in order to follow Sustainable Jersey guidelines, a resolution must be passed to create a Creative Arts Team consisting of a minimum of six members (one elected or appointed official, two artists, one business leader, one educator, and one green team member). The team's focus would be to align the town's Master Plan with Arts and Culture. Mr. Bustamante requested that Bogota Beautiful members be a part of the Creative Arts Team.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to move the meeting to the Senior Center due to the large crowd attending the meeting which was a violation of the Fire code.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to continue the meeting in the Senior Center. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to open the meeting up to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Jorge Nunez thanked all the elected officials for their commitment to the community. He said that discussion of bonding is a matter of priority. He said that the Recreation Center was going to be largely subsidized by the developer and his understanding was that the Council did not want to bond although money was earmarked for the Recreation Center. He said that Bogota is the heaviest taxed community in Bergen County and is concerned with a \$6 million bond for firehouses. He feels the infrastructure is in disrepair and it is time to take responsibility for the needs. He said that the community needs to pay attention and the Council and community need to work together. He does not believe that bonding \$6 million for firehouses is a responsible move at this time.

Tito Moses Ball said that he agrees with everything that Jorge Nunez said. He would like to know what these bond ordinances mean.

Michele Rugar asked that when ordinances are introduced, that they are explained to the public, so that the public can understand what they are.

Michael Connors said that many people attended the meeting about the Recreation Center showing support for bonding for it. He said that Council members said that bonding would be irresponsible even though the town had three million dollars coming in. Now the Council is talking about a \$6 million bond and asked how they can bond for \$6 million when they could not bond for \$3 million.

Carmen Diaz said that she did research on how many fires Bogota had in recent years and was told there were four fires. She said that she supports the fireman but would like to know why we need three firehouses.

Scott Woegens said that he is a 60 year resident. He said that one elementary school is gone and there are not enough children now to fill sports teams in Bogota. He said that 350 fire alarms were responded to last year. When he started on the Fire Department, there were 79 alarms. He said that there is money from the developer for the Recreation Center but no money for firehouses. He said that infrastructure is dead, and the firehouses need to be repaired. The Recreation Center should have been rebuilt when it first burned down.

Tony Culmone agrees with everything Scott Woegens said.

Lisa DeMauro said that a facebook post was made about the \$6.5 million bond which she feels was irresponsible. She said that a Recreation Center is needed as well as repair of the firehouses.

Ruth Craig is new to the town and asked if a new firehouse is needed because of the new development.

Alex Breuss, Fire Chief, said that the amount being requested for fire house repair is \$4 million.. One firehouse is over 100 years old and is totally dilapidated and needs to be torn down. The other firehouse was built 75 years ago and needs major repair. He agrees that a Recreation Center is needed, but firehouse repair is also needed. There are 88 active firemen who give their time.

Dan Klima said that he attended all four fire calls.

Sherry Solimov said that she is the admin of the facebook page concerning the bonds. She said that not everyone can attend meetings, and social media is a way for people to communicate. She said that no one criticised the volunteers, and she is a great supporter of the volunteers. She feels that the community needs to be informed of the needs, so everyone can work together. No one's life should be put in danger. She said that a budget should be presented, so everyone can understand what is needed.

Pete Faller, fire inspector, explained that the firemen go out on many calls to stop fires before they start.

Frank Miranda said that bullying is not acceptable. He asked for real numbers about the cost of the firehouse repair and Recreation Center. Everyone has the right to say something, but they need to be informed to be able to give their opinion.

Motion was made by councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried. Mayor Keleman said that he and the Council appreciate the Citizen's comments.

Councilman Napolitano said that the architect presented the \$6.5 million for the firehouses which included soft costs etc. He said that when he started 5 years ago, buildings were in disrepair, but there was no talk about firehouses. The town has been in need of money for years. Last year, when a new fire engine was discussed, we learned that the firehouse was in major disrepair. The Recreation Center also needs to be rebuilt. Children need to have something to occupy their time to avoid drugs etc. He said that the \$3 million from the developer came through negotiations. The decisions on the firehouses and the Recreation Center are tough decisions that the Council has to make.

Attorney Betesh said that he will explain each ordinance as it is introduced.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the bond for the Recreation Center was for \$4.7 billion. The \$3 million is still earmarked for the Recreation Center. Firehouse 2 was red tagged this past winter, so the Council asked the architect to present a report of options about firehouse #2 and #3 which was presented at the last Council meeting. It was decided then that dialogue would continue. The fire engine from Hose #2 will have to be moved to a warm place for the winter.

Mayor Kelemen thanked all the volunteers for their service which is why he brought back the volunteer dinner. He said that the town cannot afford a paid fire company. He said that two years ago problems at Hose 2 were discussed. A new truck for Hose #2 was bonded for last year. That was \$600,000. The hook and ladder truck will have to be replaced soon as well at a cost of \$1,000,000. A lot of problems had to be addressed to satisfy OSHA concerns. \$1.2 million was spent on the new DPW building. Borough Hall also needed major repairs that have been done. The Hose #3 building needs major repairs as well. He was disappointed that the Recreation center bond was voted down. He asked for the governing body to work together for the betterment of the town. Everyone on the governing body wants a new firehouse. There is limited money to take care of the needs, and they need to work together to find a solution for the fire houses and the Recreation Center.

Discussion:

Bogota Firehouses #2 and #3: Councilwoman Murphy asked that discussion continue about what direction does the council want to go for the firehouses. Administrator Scarpa explained that the town now has three firehouses. The architect's plan was to tear down one firehouse, and rebuild Hose#3 to a two story building with 4 bays. The second floor would have offices including the OEM office. The present OEM office would be used to make a sally port for the police which is needed. The auditor said that the tax increase would be \$149 per \$260,000 house. He said that the \$6.5 million is not an exact figure. It would have to go out to bid. Councilwoman Carpenter said that the architect could come back to discuss ways to cut back on costs. Councilwoman Murphy asked for the architect to come to the next meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda:

19-091 Authorizing Appointment of Municipal Representatives to the Bergen County Community Development Regional Committee

19-092 Liquor license Renewal

19-093 Award Cleaning contract Bid to AAA Facility Solutions

19-094 Authorizing the Borough of Bogota to enter into a cooperative Pricing agreement with the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey

Introduction of following Ordinances:

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane to remove Ordinance #1525 from being tabled.

Attorney Betesh explained that the ordinance for abandoned properties to be registered only includes properties with structures in place. The following ordinance will include vacant property as well. Councilman Robbins read the email sent by Nick Barese to explain the reason for including vacant land in the ordinance.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the following ordinance. Motion carried.

#1525 Ordinance amending Chapter 9 of the Bogota Code, Entitled "Building and Housing"

Attorney Betesh explained that Ordinance #1526 was a procedural change required by the DEP in order to remain a participant in the National Flood Insurance Program.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the following ordinance. Motion carried.

#1526 Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 of the Code of Borough of Bogota, entitled "Flood hazard Protection

Approvals:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve Bogota High School PTO's request for approval for a 50/50 raffle for the Bogota High School Volley ball team to be drawn on July 22, 2019 at 6:00pm at the Bogota Jr/Sr High School. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the 125th homecoming Planning Committee request to close off Maple Street between Queen Anne Road and Bergen Road from 6pm to 11pm on Saturday, October 5, 2019 for a Saturday Night Social at the 101 Pub. Motion carried

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on May 16, 2019. Motion carried with Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstaining due to her absence from that meeting and only Councilwoman Carpenter voting No.

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

Tony Culmone said that he has been a resident for 60 years and on the fire department for 39 years. He said that Hose#3 has the worst logistical location because there is a lot of flooding there. Also, vehicles having to drive down hills in bad weather and the truck driving uphill in bad weather would be difficult.

Frank Miranda asked about the problem of parking on Cypress Avenue. There is already a problem with parking now. He also asked about cutting down on price by having less bays and only one floor for Hose #3. He feels the location is not good either for traffic problems. He is also concerned about the next time houses are appraised in Bogota which will increase taxes. He said there are a

large number of Bogota children in all the sports programs which are mostly found outside of Bogota.

Tito Moses Hall said he has lived in Bogota for 5 years, and he feels there is too much fighting instead of everyone working together to make Bogota grow. There should be more events like Bogota Day to bring the community together.

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

Administrator Scarpa said that 10 or more parking spaces on West Shore Avenue would be reserved for the fire Department. Councilman Napolitano said the traffic issue will be addressed as per the architect's report. Mayor Kelemen said that he and Councilwoman Murphy met two years ago with the fire officials and looked into other locations for the firehouses, but there are none available. He asked to have a closed session discussion at the next meeting concerning other options. Councilwoman Murphy said that eminent domain was discussed which would be too expensive. Administrator Scarpa said there is a need for a second floor for offices, etc.

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen said that Bogota Day was a success. The fireworks were spectacular. He thanked all the volunteer responders who were there including the Fire Department, Rescue, and Police Auxiliary. He was very proud of the DPW for cleaning up the field for Friendship house the next day. They did a great job. He thanked Councilwomen Carpenter and Murphy as well as Jim Moore and Clerk Cook. He thanked Walter Croft and Alex Hernandez for the Memorial Day service and parade. He met with the Riverkeepers and the Rutgers group to open up the Hackensack River to public events. Seven mayors were involved to work together to get Open Space Grant money to bring life back to the Hackensack River. He will be meeting with them again in three weeks. An Eagle Scout, Jeffrey Kuhl, requested that a sign be put up in parks to warn people against food allergies.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the Eagle Scout project of putting signs up in the parks concerning food allergies. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said the next event for the 125th Anniversary will be showing the movie "Movie Queen Comes to Bogota" on June 11th. She said that 25 people participated in the walking tour at Bogota Day. There is a request for more walking tours. September 14, a bus tour is planned. She would like to geomap historic sights in town. The first draft of the journal is done and will hopefully be completed in September. The next Library Board meeting is on Monday. June 22 will be the readathon at the library.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that there will be a Recreation meeting on Wednesday. She thanked Jim Moore and Joe Scarpa for the fireworks. Jim Moore worked the dunk tank as well as a DPW worker and a resident, Ryan Sharp. The DPW did a great job cleaning up with Jim Moore and her. She thanked Mayor Kelemen for his help as well. She said that Elmwood Park did a health and wellness fair for a full body examination for all staff and families. Pre-registration is required.

Councilman Napolitano said that the Youth Academy had a fund raiser that was very successful. He said that they appreciated the \$5,000 they received from the Council. He said that there were no incidents at Bogota Day, just one injury. He reported that the police had 3,111 calls in May, 294 Motor Vehicle violations, 910 genera. Calls. He said that the Memorial Day service was well attended, and the Mayor gave a great speech and presented a plaque to Walter Croft. The Senior

Citizens appreciated the fireworks because they were able to see them from their homes. They gave him a list of issues to present to the administrator including sidewalk issues and soap dispensers in the bathrooms. Voting at the high school is tough for them. He said that Captain Piterski attended the Senior Advisory Board meeting and was told that the Seniors would appreciate being acknowledged when they wave to a police officer. BACSA is struggling with getting enough student participation for Project Graduation which will cost between \$112 and \$135 per student. They are checking another location. Any donations would be appreciated.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting will be June 11, and Mr. Grygiel should be there. He asked for the Council to look over the papers that Bogota Beautiful presented. She said that June 15th there will be a presentation done at the Community Garden, and Mr. Gallagher said that all 20 lots have been rented. The Fire Department does not have meetings in the summer, but she continues to communicate with them.

Councilman Robbins said that Teterboro airport will have their next meeting in July. Rescue was called out last night for a fallen tree on River road and Homestead Place. The area was cleaned out swiftly before 1:30am. Rescue will be updating their website. He said that the process for putting videos of the meetings on the website will include sending the recording to Dino George to downsize and convert to MP4 for the website. Each of the meetings is about 12 to 15 gigabytes which is a lot of space, plus there is dead time. The posting on the website will be posted either Tuesday or Wednesday the latest. The audio will be converted to an MP3 for the same time. All videos cannot be put on the website without a large cost because the town only has so many gigabytes without an added expense. Videos will be removed and replaced. They will be on a thumb drive if anyone wants to see them, they can be OPRA'd. Nick Barese met with the Tilcon plant addressing maintenance issues there. They have agreed to do many renovations to the site.

Councilman Macfarlane said that the Board of Health has not had a meeting, and Board of Education meets next week. He said that the movie on June 11 will be a silent movie, and he will be providing the musical background on the piano.

Administrator Scarpa said that the town is receiving a community development grant for roadwork. However, the guidelines have changed. The community development district has moved south of the original district. Instead of Cane Street, Central Avenue will be repaired. The DPW facilities were inspected and received a 97% rating out of 100%. Mr. Napolitano has asked about the fencing on one side of the bridge on Main Street. The quote received was \$7,900. He will get other quotes. He said that last year the two summer meetings were held at 7:00pm and asked if that can be done again. The governing body agreed. He said that there were 1,000 hot dogs and 600 ice pops given out at Bogota Day as well as ice tea etc.

Councilman Napolitano asked if CSX could be notified about the slope on Elm Avenue which looks worse now. Mr. Scarpa suggested having the Congressman get involved.

Attorney Betesh reported that the Affordable Housing Judgement was adopted this afternoon. The Borough is in accordance with Affordable Housing until 2025.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris to go into Closed Session. Motion carried and the following resolution was added to the agenda 10:00pm:
19-094 Closed Session

When the meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:50pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.