



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, February 21, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

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 Council members Carpenter, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy, Robbins, and Napolitano were present. Also attending was Borough Attorney Betesh.

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Discussion: Borough Attorney Betesh explained that the Borough's present towing ordinance only lists the cost for tows ordered by the police department. He said that municipalities can set a maximum fee for towing requested by a private place. Councilman Napolitano said that he had spoken to the Police Chief who requested sitting down with the Borough Attorney to look over the ordinance together. It was decided to wait for police input.

Resolutions to be voted on separately:

Councilwoman Carpenter explained that some of the claims needed to be corrected because sales tax was included and must be removed. Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to approve the following Resolution. Everyone voted Yes with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from Roy Riggatano's claim.

PC19-02 Payment of Claims

Discussion took place concerning the Borough Planner. Paul Grygiel has been working on two "area in needs" studies, and the process is 90% complete. It was decided to extend Paul Grygiel's contract to the end of March 2019. The following resolution was approved unanimously.

19-053 Appoint Philips Preiss Grygiel, LLC as Borough Planner

Discussion took place concerning the Webmaster. Councilman Robbins reported that the present webmaster, Genesis Liu, is less expensive than Zuma. He said the website is user friendly. The following Resolution was approved with only Councilwoman Gates-Ferris voting No.

19-054 Appoint Genesis Liu as Webmaster

Discussion took place concerning the Labor Attorney. Mayor Kelemen explained that Borough Administrator Scarpa recommended hiring Brian Giblin in 2016 and he successfully negotiated the Police Contract in 2016 and the new contract in 2017. He also successfully negotiated the DPW contract. Mayor Kelemen also pointed out that labor disputes are generally from employees. Council President Murphy said that it would be better to have one attorney, William Betesh, as both borough attorney and labor attorney. The following Resolution was approved with only Councilman Napolitano voting No.

19-055 Appoint William Betesh of Boggia and Boggia LLC as Labor Attorney

Approvals:

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meetings of January 17, 2019, February 7, 2019. Motion carried with Council members Macfarlane, Robbins, and Napolitano voting Yes, Council members Gates-Ferris, Carpenter, and Murphy voting No, and Mayor Kelemen breaking the tie.

The following Ordinance was adopted:

#1521 Ordinance Amending Chapter 23 of the Code of the Borough of Bogota Entitled "Police Department"

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

There were no Citizen Remarks.

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

Reports:

Mayor Kelemen reported that Sunday was the blood drive hosted by Sherry Solomov in the Senior Center. He said that attendance was poor, so the drive did not meet its quota. He thanked Mrs. Solomov for doing a great job. He then talked about the possibility of buying a large clock to put in front of the building or at another location with a statement on it celebrating the 125th Anniversary. There could also be a plaque with donors inscribed in it which would help pay for the clock. He said that he would email the information to all the council members. He said that the Valentine's Day Dance went well.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that the library board needs a new trustee. She requested an increase in the library's budget. She said that she and Councilwoman Murphy planned the 125th Anniversary Valentine's Day Dance which was held at the VFW. Raul Lebron and Eddie Castro were the DJs. Pizza was provided by Angelos, and soda and water were provided by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris. Approximately 80 to 100 people attended. She reported that this Saturday a pot luck dinner will be held in the Senior Center hosted by Bogota Beautiful. She reported that the 125th anniversary banners are in and up, and the Journal Committee will be meeting at her house tomorrow.

Councilwoman Carpenter reported that she will go through the DPW building soon. She said there was a Recreation Committee meeting last week and only three members showed up. Bogota Day was discussed. She said that the Easter Egg hunt will be held in April. The rain date will be April 20th. She said that the Borough Auditor, Deter Lerch, said that a separate O&E account must be created for Recreation Committee. The trust account is for special things. She said that the

Recreation Committee would prefer to go back to being a Commission. She said that she will be meeting with Tracy Zur next week to discuss what is going on. She said that an email came from Rob Esposito concerning the \$80,000 grant which is due to the County by April 15. She reported that there is a conference on elected officials employment practices offered by MEL which will give the town \$500 for attending.

Councilman Napolitano explained that the Community Development Grant paperwork is due by April 15th. He said that he reached out to Alex Hernandez concerning Veteran matters, but has not heard back from him. He reported that the Police Chief would like to discuss the possible amendments to Bogota's towing ordinance. He said that Detective Rivera will be working with BACSA.

Councilwoman Murphy announced that the Commission on the Status of Women will have their first meeting tonight to discuss fair pay and mentoring for women. She mentioned the two oil tanks removed from Borough properties. The paperwork was filed for one but was not completed for the second tank. She said that discussion needs to take place as to what needs to be done with the \$30,000 tree grant, and Styrofoam bins will be available soon. She reported that the borough engineer and architect are collecting data on the firehouses. She said that Fire Chief Breuss said that the refurb on the hook and ladder did not include springs. There will be a Planning and Zoning Board meeting next week.

Councilman Robbins said that he reached out to Walter Croft who will be in touch with him soon. He said that Teterboro Airport will not have a meeting until April 24th, and the Rescue Squad will not meet until the first week in March. He said that he contacted Nick Barese and Dan Howell about dirt at the construction site at Larch Avenue and West Fort Lee Road. He said that the area was not fenced in, so anyone could go on the property. He said that there is now secure orange fencing around the property.

Councilman Macfarlane said that the Board of Health has not had a meeting, and the Board of Education cancelled last week's meeting. The Board of Education will meet this Tuesday. He said that the Senior Citizens had a meeting last week, and they said that they were glad to see so many sidewalks repaired. He reported that Mr. Scarpa and Mr. Lerch are putting together the 2019 budget, and he said the next week the Mayor and Council have a capital budget meeting with the DPW superintendent, the Police Chief, and the Fire Chief.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that as of January 1st, one tax appeal has been resolved. There are no pending tax appeals. He said there is a March deadline to get certifications finalized, and the grant writer should be questioned on what grants are available. He said that COAH certification was received.

Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook reminded the governing body to follow the Open Public Meetings Act.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook