

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota, held at the Senior Center, 375 Larch Avenue, Bogota, NJ 07603, on Thursday September 5, 2019 at 7:41 pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman MacFarlane.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of the life of Charlie Cook, who passed away unexpectedly last week. Mr. Cook is the husband of Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook, and a longtime resident of the Borough. He spent many years volunteering in Recreation activities in town,, including coaching, umpiring, and serving on the Recreation Commission.

The notice requirements of the Open Public Meeting Law have been satisfied as notice was sent to two newspapers and posted on the Borough Hall bulletin board on September 3, 2019.

**Roll Call:** Mayor Kelemen and Council members Carpenter, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh, Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Auditor Lerch, Bond Counsel Rogut, and Developer Stein.

Motion was made by Councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to open the meeting to the Citizen remarks. Motion carried.

Tony Culmone asked who is recording the meeting and who gave them permission.

Michele Rupar wanted to know if the public can ask questions that might not be addressed regarding the new recreation center discussion.

Rosemary Gasiewicz mentioned how the new recreation center can be used for everyone and would like to know if the new recreation center is going to be built. She wanted to know when the town is going to have the town meetings on tv for the seniors to watch.

Bisi Ruckett-Baugh said the Borough of Bogota is in need of a new Recreation center. She said, "We need more programs that can help young people and seniors." She pointed out how the library gets very busy because it is the only place that the kids have to go. The town does not have places for people to go in case of an emergency evacuation. Mrs. Ruckett-Baugh asked when the recreation center is going to be built, or why it will not be built. Bogota needs a new recreation center but most of all Bogota deserves to have a new Recreation Center.

Mrs. Castro thanked the Council for the new road on Fort Lee Road and asked the Council to please consider putting in speed bumps.

Sherry Solomov addressed the question about live recording of the meeting. She said how important it is to deliver transparency to all the residents. She also pointed out how significant it is for the residents to be aware of what's going on in the town, and there are people that

can't make it to the meeting, such as people with kids and seniors. Therefore, having the meeting live is a great way to provide them with that option.

Michael Connors thanked the mayor for bring up the topic about the recreation center. He wanted to challenge all the Council to move forward with the approval of building the recreation center. He said, "We need to move forward as a community and build a recreation center."

Mawzus Baugh is the football director for Recreation football. He mentioned that the football team does not have any support from the town and that parents need to be informed about it. He said, "We are the people and we need to make a decision that will benefit the kids."

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion Carried.

Councilman Napolitano answered the question about the recreation center and how many parents from Bogota volunteer their time somewhere else because Bogota does not have a training room or track. He wants the Council to move forward and get the recreation center built. He reminded everyone that a plan has already been created. It's time to take action.

Councilwoman Carpenter addressed the question about parents supporting the football team. She said that she has always being a great support to the team for many years and continues to support them.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris mentioned how she has always been in support of the Recreation center and recommended to have a referendum with the question about the recreation center added to the Ballot vote to allow the community to vote for it, but that was not approved.

Mayor Kelemen mentioned that "our kids are young only once." He said that the recreation center had the lowest turn out in summer camp because parents sent their kids somewhere else because there is not much to do in the recreation center. He said, "Let's give our kids a chance to do better; they are our future."

Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa mentioned that he is working on getting the town meeting on TV so that the seniors and residents can watch. He has a follow up appointment with cable vision.

**Presentations:** Mayor Christopher Kelemen swore in the first time ever Special Law Enforcement Offices-class 3 (SLEO-3) in the Borough of Bogota (they will be on duty during regular school hours for the length of the school year). Frank Ramaci, James Schielzo, and Jeffrey Vigna were given the oath of office and presented to the public. These officers are instructed not to perform arrests, but to manage a situation until a uniform officer arrives. The SLEO-3 would be paid by the Borough of Bogota, and then the Borough would be reimbursed by the Board of Education. Bogota Police Chief Daniel Maye welcomed the three new officers, and

thanked the Mayor and Council and the Bogota Board of Education for their work to improve the safety of Bogota Public Schools.

Mayor Kelemen recognized the former Director of the Bogota Office of Emergency Management. Peter Faller who served as the OEM Deputy Director and Director Scott Woegens were presented with plaques in honor of their service. Mayor Kelemen also swore in the new Director and Deputy Director for the Bogota Office of Emergency Management. Bogota Police Officer Matthew Luciano took the oath of office as the OEM Deputy Director. Robert Foster of the Rescue Squad took the oath as the new OEM Coordinator for Bogota.

**Discussion:**

Construction of New Recreation Center and update on the new building development: Mr. Stein is the developer of PCD River Club Development project along W. Ft. Lee RD. Mr. Stein discussed some of the updates related to the site. He mentioned that Building # 5 and #1 should be ready to open by the middle of 2020, with Building #2 targeted for a late 2020 opening. Mr. Stein added that drainage lines, new curbs, and the widening of W. Ft Lee RD is also progressing. Mr. Stein explained in detail how the Borough will be receiving the payments for the recreation center. He also mentioned the benefits of having a recreation center. It will attract more people to the community and also will help increase the values of the houses. Councilwoman Carpenter expressed concern about not receiving the payments for the recreation center as promised and putting at risk tax payers. She proposed for the Developer to build the recreation center so that way the Town won't have to bond for it. Mr. Stein said that he was not sure if it is possible to be done that way.

The Borough Auditor Mr. Lerch, and Bond Counsel, Mr. Rogut, addressed all questions regarding financing the Recreation Center. Members of Council expressed how they now had the confidence to start the process of planning for this project.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano and seconded by Gates-Ferris, to approve the Bond Counsel to write an ordinance that would be a Bond of \$4.5 million to build the New Community Center. Motion carried. Councilman Napolitano thanked everyone for voting for this. He said that Mr. Stein showed that the face of the community is changing. He said that the permit fees for the development were \$300,000 which was used to update the Construction Department. He said that Bogota is known for having the highest taxes in the area, but the new development may change that.

Councilwoman Murphy proposed having a Stakeholder Committee to take part in designing the new Recreation Center. Members of this committee will be appointed by Mayor Kelemen at a later date. Discussion took place concerning who would be on the committee. Suggestions included representatives from the following groups: Seniors, the Library, The Recreation Committee, the Bogota Schools, the OEM Coordinator, the Police, Recreation Basketball and the High School Band. Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter to create a Stakeholders' Committee with members to be decided at a later date. Motion carried.

Discussion – Firehouse: Councilwoman Murphy said that the Firehouse meeting occurred on August 23, 2019. She explained that this has been in the works for three years. She said that in

2018, the Fire Chief asked for the purchase of the firetruck to be put on hold because Hose #2 was in bad shape. Multiple sites were considered for a new firehouse, and West Shore Avenue was chosen. A rendering was prepared by the architect in May. She said that now schematics must be done .

Mayor Kelemen said that he suggested looking into other locations, and he asked if other options had been looked at. He then suggested purchasing a combination Hook & Ladder pumper to replace the present Hook and Ladder and pumper. Then a larger firehouse would not be necessary. Firehouse Hose 3 would be renovated to be up to code which would be much cheaper.

Councilman Napolitano said that the draft prepared by the architect gave options from \$1.5 million to \$8 million. He suggested fine-tuning and advertising for other architects. He said that RSC had no problem with the Borough getting a second opinion. Soliciting other architects would be a good idea to try to save taxpayer money.

Councilman Robbins said that we need to do the schematics, so motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve RSC to create schematics at a cost of \$22,000.00 for a 4 Bay new construction Firehouse and a 4 Bay addition and renovation Firehouse at West Shore Avenue and Cypress Avenue". Motion carried.

Discussion: Amending Ordinance for Section 21 of the Bogota Zoning Code Concerning Dry Cleaning Establishments: Mr. Betesh explained that some of the prohibited uses in the Zoning code need to be updated. He will prepare a draft for the next meeting.

Discussion: Mr. Scarpa reported that the tax collector, Elizabeth Wiemer, is retiring. Battaglia Associates will be collecting the taxes until a decision is made on hiring a new tax collector or using Battaglia.

Discussion: Amending the Noise Ordinance: Borough Attorney Betesh explained that he and the Police Chief collaborated on finding a suitable Noise Ordinance for Bogota to replace the present one. He will prepare a draft for introduction at the next meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman, Napolitano, seconded by Carpenter, on in favor to introduce the following ordinance:

#1529 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 19 of the Bogota Code Entitled "Property Maintenance Code"

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to introduce the following ordinance:

#1531 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 3 of the Bogota Code Entitled "Police Regulations"

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to adopt the following ordinance:

#1530 An Ordinance Amending Chapter 4 of the Bogota Code Entitled "General Licensing"

Motion was made by Councilwoman ---seconded by councilman ---- to open the meeting up for Citizen Remarks. Motion Carried.

George Nunez- thanked Napolitano and Mayor Kelemn for having the courage to move forward with the approval of the recreation center. He mentioned that it was a great idea to have the council meeting live so that we can have transparency.

Patricia Adriance- Thanked Mayor and council for the appointed of the EOM to the school. She said it is great to know that there is a police officer at the school in case of an emergency.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris motion to suspend council reports due to the time and Macfarlane seconded all in favor.

Closed session: start at 11:16pm  
Gates-Ferris left

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter and seconded by Macfarlane, all in favor. Borough attorney and Health inspector Eric Cuperwich, discussed the matter regarding 486 Elm Avenue regarding the chickens. Council agreed that the doctor's letter need to be more specific and the parents need to provide more details about how the chickens will be cared for during the winter.

Litigation