



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, December 19, 2019 at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Carpenter.

Mayor Kelemen requested that everyone remain standing to share a moment of silence for all those that died in the Jersey City shooting.

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, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Murphy, Napolitano, and Robbins were present. Also attending were Borough Attorney Betesh and Borough Administrator Scarpa.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to open the meeting to Citizen remarks. Motion carried.

Sherry Solomov thanked everyone involved with the Menorah lighting. She said that Gordon Kohles and Eric Solomov did a great job. She said there will be complimentary refreshments, and Bounce Party mania is providing games. She said that Meggan Leone was complaining about the town tree in front of her house that needed to be trimmed.

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

Councilwoman Carpenter commented on the work being done with the tree trimming, and Borough Clerk Cook said that she had the email from Meggan Leone and would forward it to the DPW Superintendent.

Discussion: Renewing Judge Randazzo's appointment – Mayor Kelemen explained that the borough picks its own judge for a three-year term. The judge is appointed by the Mayor with Council consent. He said the appointment will be made at the Reorganization meeting.

The following resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved with Councilwoman Murphy voting No. Resolution 19-153 was removed to be voted on separately.:

- 19-147 Change order for Leonia Avenue Phase III and IV
- 19-148 Final Payment to 4 Clean UP for Leonia Avenue Project III and IV
- 19-149 Meeting Schedule 2020
- 19-150 Holiday Schedule 2020
- 19-151 Renew Amendment to Bergen County Animal Control Shared Services Agreement
- 19-152 Authorizing Purchase of a Rescue Vehicle from the Township of Teaneck
- 19-154 Cancelled Checks
- 19-155 Approval of Towing Companies
- 19-156 Tax Lien Redemption Block 4, Lot 9.03
- 19-157 Tax Collector to Cancel Low Tax Balances
- 19-158 Tax Lien Redemption Block 92 Lot 6

Resolutions voted on separately:

19-153 Budget Transfers: After some discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Macfarlane, to approve the Budget Transfers. Motion carried.

PC19-12 Payment of Claims: After some discussion, motion was made by Councilwoman Carpenter, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to approve the Payment of Claims. Motion carried with Councilwoman Carpenter recusing herself from payment to herself and to Roy Rigitanno, who is her boss.

Public Hearing and Adoption on the following Ordinance occurred:

#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

After an amendment was made to the December 5, 2019 Minutes, motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Carpenter, to approve the amended Minutes for December 5, 2019. Motion carried with Councilwoman Gates-Ferris abstaining because she did not attend the December 5th meeting.

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

Sherry Solomov said that Lizet Gonzalez would like to know if there are any Recreational activities for adults in town such as bowling or cooking.

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

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that the library has a cooking club, and that Ms. Gonzalez should put her name on the mailing list for upcoming activities. Councilwoman Carpenter suggested going to Recreation committee meetings on the second Wednesday of the month to make suggestions and to see what activities are offered.

Reports: Mayor, Council Committees:

Mayor Kelemen said that the borough had an awesome tree lighting. He thanked DJ Eddie, Bounce Party Mania, the police department, Jim Moore, the Rescue Squad, Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Santa's elf. He thanked Sherry Solomov for her prep work for the menorah lighting and for livestreaming meetings. He reminded the Council that the RFQs are downstairs. He explained the value of the Ridgefield Park Rotary Club for all of their contributions to the community such as their \$5,000 donation to the Recreation Department three years ago for uniforms. Kenny O'Donnell (our Santa Claus) belongs to the rotary club. He thanked Joe Scarpa for his prep work for the volunteer dinner including the invitations. He said he is working on the recycling letter. He said it has been a long year with some retirements and some sad losses. He wanted to thank everyone in town for their input in making the 125th anniversary year a success. He said the town includes teachers, administrators, homeowners, volunteers, etc. He thanked Council members Gates-Ferris and Macfarlane for all the work they did for the town and for their loyalty and trust. He said that it has been a privilege being the Mayor for the last 5 years and he looks forward to four more years.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that the last library meeting was on December 9th. She said that Rebecca O'Hagan attended the meeting. She asked that people boycott Macmillan Publishers due to its policy on e-books. She said that contributions to the library are encouraged. She said that Bogota Library is partnering with Teaneck (Bogota on Saturday and Teaneck on Sunday.) She thanked Alex Hernandez of the VFW who participated in a book club. There were 5,288 library program participants and over 300 programs. There are 4,119 library card holders and 1,783 passports were processed. New shelves were donated. More computers are needed because more adults are requesting computer time. The library is going to purchase a bench in honor of Betty Wiemer. Think about adding a food pantry to the new Community Center.

Councilwoman Carpenter said that the Youth Academy movie was wonderful. The high school choir went to Rockefeller Center and sang. The high school concert was great. She encouraged the community to go to school and community events. The Firemen's event was great. The Christmas tree lighting was a success. Terry Robbins helped and Jim Moore made cupcakes and brought cookies. She thanked Mrs. Claus and the elf. She said that football uniforms have not been returned and need to be returned. Cheerleader uniforms have been returned. The last Recreation meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum. The County has a meeting Monday. The DPW is doing a great job. She motioned to extend Joe Scarpa's contract to the end of 2022. Councilwoman Gates/Ferris seconded the motion. Discussion took place concerning the contract extension. Borough Clerk Cook read the letter Mr. Scarpa wrote requesting an extension to the end of 2021. Mayor Kelemen was concerned with a lack of communication about the extension. Motion carried with only Councilman Napolitano voting No.

Councilman Napolitano said that BACSA will resume meetings next year. There is a Winter Wonderland Smoke Shop Advertisement on a bulletin board in town that appeals to young people. The Seniors Advisory board meeting will be in January. Veterans Housing will continue to be discussed. The police are collecting toys for tots. He went to the funeral service for Detective Seals in Jersey City.

Councilwoman Murphy said that the firehouse was put on pause button. Chief Breuss has the schematics.

Councilman Robbins said that the borough received a refund of \$1,095 for the problems with the snow globe for the tree lighting.

Councilman Macfarlane said that he attended the Board of Education meeting this week. The music department is doing well. There will be an opening on the Board of Education in January. He thanked the Mayor for his kind words and thanked everyone for the opportunity to be a Council member.

Borough Attorney Betesh said that an assessment needs to be done for properties with septic tanks who are paying sewer charges.

Borough Attorney Scarpa said that the tax assessor will speak to the home owners and adjustments can be made to properties with septic systems.

Motion was made by councilman Macfarlane, seconded by Councilwoman Gates/Ferris, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:58pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by the Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.