

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday May 1, 2014, at Borough Hall at 7:30 PM

Roll Call: Mayor Jackson and Council members Burdiez, Kelemen, Kohles, Mitchell, Nunez and Robbins were present.

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 January 20, 2014.

Salute to the flag was led by Councilwoman Kohles.

Mayor Jackson requested a moment of silence for Sgt. Sulborsky of the Ridgefield Park Police Department who is a Bogota resident and died suddenly at 42 years old.

Mayor Jackson questioned Resolution 14-123 which was put on the agenda earlier in the day. Borough Attorney Bern explained that the bills were from 297 Urban Renewal LLC and came via Special Counsel Bruce Rosenberg and were ordered to be paid by Judge Doyne related to 297 Urban OPRA litigation before him. The first bill was discussed by Council a month ago when Bruce Rosenberg was present with respect to one of the 297 OPRA cases. The second bill was questioned by Bruce Rosenberg for an improper entry. The bill was reviewed, reduced, and resubmitted. Bruce Rosenberg requested that these bills be put on tonight's agenda because they were court ordered.

Mayor Jackson pointed out that in court on his contract litigation matter vs. the Borough and Clerk, it was agreed that the Mayor and Council would be given four days to review vendor bills and then remaining questions could be referred to the CFO and auditor if there are any concerns. The Mayor explained that the bills on the resolution were just submitted, and it would not be prudent to vote on them now.

Borough Attorney Bern explained to the Mayor and Council that the Bruce Rosenberg was here last month to explain that the first bill has to do with the Costa report. The other bill involves OPRA requests. These bills came from Kaufman's law firm. They are from Santagata who is charging \$300 per hour. The Council has the Certification of Services relating to the second bill that anyone can look at. This Certification was accepted by Judge Doyne. These are not vendor bills.

Councilman Robbins said that we should wait till the next meeting to vote on these bills. Borough Attorney Bern said that he is simply advising that the bills are court ordered and should be paid.

Councilman Burdiez said that he would like the meeting to move forward.

Mayor Jackson requested a motion to table the bills. Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Kohles. The motion to table Resolution 14-123 passed unanimously.

Councilman Robbins asked for clarification of Resolution 14-119. This resolution was requested by CFO DiMaria to cancel old, outstanding checks that were never cashed. Councilman Nunez questioned whether Borough Engineer Costa had been consulted regarding Resolution 14-118 which involved renovating various streets and sidewalks in the Borough. Administrator Greiner assured everyone that the Borough Engineer was totally on-board with the project.

The following items on the consent agenda were approved:

Resolutions:

14-118 Authorizing Borough Engineer to bid on CDBG funded Project

14-119 Cancelling Outstanding Checks

14-120 Close Unemployment Trust Account

14-121-122 Tax checks totaling \$16,591.64

Discussion:

Mayor Jackson asked Borough Attorney Bern why Ray Wiss was not substituted yet as the attorney for Regina Tasca's disciplinary case. Borough Attorney Bern explained the process.

Councilwoman Kohles suggested having only one meeting in July and August. Acting Clerk Cook reminded the Mayor and Council that there is only one meeting in July and August. Mayor Jackson insisted on changing the meetings to the first Thursdays both in July and August. Motion was made and approved.

Discussion took place concerning Dieter Lerch's charges for 2013 exceeding the budgeted amount.

Mayor Jackson spoke about the DPW structure being constructed in Florida. Someone will be driving down to Florida to pick it up.

Mayor Jackson mentioned the problems associated with the excessive rain fall recently and praised all the emergency services, including Chief Brophy, for their involvement. Councilman Nunez suggested advertising for a planner. A planner will be an asset to the town due to the recent designation of an area of redevelopment at the Hess and Sifford Pontiac sites. Motion was made and carried to publish an "RFQ" for a borough planner.

Citizen Remarks:

Mike Brophy of 111 Larch Avenue explained the need for new turnout gear for the fire department. Councilman Robbins agreed, having seen the gear at fire calls. Councilman Nunez agreed that they need to find the money for turnout gear. The last time a grant was received for the gear was in 2001. There is a need to get priorities straight. Maybe last year, the town could have purchased a less expensive ambulance and then purchased the turnout gear as well.

Fire Chief Mike Brophy commended Councilman Robbins for being one of the best Fire Commissioners the town has ever had.

Daniele Fede spoke about the VFW renovation project. Three members of the Police and the Mayor were present. A group came from Wyckoff to help with the renovations. No Bogota residents came to help. The Environmental Commission budget was cut \$10,000 this year. The CFO, the Administrator, and the DPW have not supported the Commission's objectives for the last three years, so she was not given the opportunity to spend the budgeted amount. Councilman Nunez said that the town needs to address tree maintenance and sidewalk repair. Daniele Fede said that there was a good system in place years ago, and we could use that system again. Mayor Jackson thanked Daniele for her work with the VFW project.

Dan Creange of Wyckoff told the Council not to delay on buying turnout gear. He also said that they were throwing money away on the Tasca case.

The meeting went into Closed Session at 8:52pm.

Councilman Nunez pointed out that a sign was installed on River Road without an ordinance. Motion was made and approved to make a special parking spot for a municipal vehicle.

Councilman Nunez requested information on Mayor Jackson's recent trip to Washington DC. Motion was made and approved to see if trip was paid for with tax dollars.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.