

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, May 7, 2015, in the Senior Citizen Center at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Fede, Kohles, Mitchell, Napolitano, 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 board on April 21, 2015.

Presentations:

Mayor Kelemen recognized the achievements of the National Honor Society members from Bogota High School and Junior National Honor Society members from St. Joseph's Academy. Mayor Kelemen recognized the winners of Little Miss Bogota, Miss Teen Bogota, and Miss Bogota.

Council President Jorge Nunez assisted in the presentations.

Mayor Kelemen acknowledged the work of Bogota Community Alliance whose members are working to bring the town together.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were adopted:

15-75 to 15-78 Tax checks totaling \$85,132.11

15-79 Void Resolution 15-53 Tax Credit of \$33,811.44

15-80 Accepting the Mid-Bergen Mutual Aid Agreement between Fire Departments of 5 towns

15-81 Authorize Borough Clerk to advertise for sealed bids for leasing real property at 282 Leonia Avenue for the construction, operation, and maintenance of wireless communications equipment.

The following Approval was made by the Mayor and Council:

Hose Company #3 will use the East half of Olsen Park (next to the Bogota High School baseball field) for setting up the Zerbrini Family Circus for 9/21/15 to 9/23/15.

The following Ordinance was tabled:

#1460 An Ordinance amending Chapter XIV of the Code of the Borough of Bogota to Prohibit the Storage of Trash Receptacles in Areas Visible from the Street

(Councilwoman Kohles did not want senior citizens to have to pull garbage cans from the backyard. Administrator Scarpa said that a stipulation could be included stating that, with a doctor's note, the garbage collector could go on the senior's property and take the garbage.)

The following Ordinances were introduced and approved:

#1461 An ordinance amending Chapter II of the Code of the Borough of Bogota to Permit the Borough Administrator to Execute Contracts on behalf of the Borough

#1462 A Multi-purpose bond ordinance

#1463 An ordinance to sanitary sewer systems improvements at various locations (emergency)

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Discussion took place concerning repairs for DPW buildings and the temporary building that was purchased but is not fully functional. Utilities are being installed, but it is not a secure location.

Discussions:

Code Red (a reverse 911 service) ends on May 31. Mr. Scarpa suggested switching to SwiftReach because it offers more services to the residents. Change in garbage pick-up, traffic problems, missing people, etc. 65 to 70 towns use SwiftReach now. A proposal will be prepared for the May 21st meeting.

Mr. Scarpa explained the benefits of using a Road Cooperative for road repair.

The following Resolution was added to the agenda and adopted:

15-82 A Resolution Authorizing Entering into a Cooperative Pricing Agreement with Pascack Valley Cooperative System (107-PVCPS)

Police Chief John Burke was asked to respond to recent allegations by the OEM Coordinator, Tito Jackson, that someone died because the police did not have sufficient oxygen. Chief Burke explained that the Bogota Police Officers provide the highest quality service. All equipment and supplies are checked regularly. As for training, the police budget has been restricted during his 4 years as Chief. Chief Burke and Mr. Scarpa have spoken and agreed that training must be included in budget. Chief Burke also assured the Mayor and Council that he never took computers from the OEM office as Tito Jackson had declared at a previous meeting.

The current Noise Ordinance was discussed and it was decided that it needs to be expanded. The hours of 7:00am to 11:00pm will be added.

Mayor Kelemen congratulated Bogota Beautiful on doing a great job in April with the clean-up which had a large turn-out. Amaru and Isabel Bustamante were applauded for their hard work. Councilman Robbins said the over 100 people came for the clean-up; it was impressive. He wanted to thank the Bogota Fire Department for removing a propane tank from a house quickly and saving the house.

Chief Burke and Officer Kumka will be doing the Unity Tour on May 15th, National Law Enforcement Day. Flags should be at half-mast that day.

Alex Hernandez, VFW Commander, held Loyalty Day on May 1st. 38 people attended. Mayor Kelemen said that the VFW Hall holds 200 people, and he would like to see a better showing for Loyalty Day next year.

Mayor Kelemen congratulated the Mayor and Council of Teaneck for their hard work in dealing with CSX Railroad, and he thanked them for inviting him to their meeting.

Administrator Scarpa congratulated all the honorees. He reported that the front step has been repaired and that the first Safety Meeting was held on April 30th. He wrote to the Bergen County Sheriff about getting inmate labor to do painting in Borough Hall. Work is continuing on

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repairing the drainage problem on Fort Lee Road. He would like to look into hiring a company for waste dumping that is closer than the present company. Public Service will be tearing up more roads in Bogota. The County filled some pot holes. Councilman Napolitano will be contacting PSE&G about repairing roads that PSE&G damaged. The DPW superintendent drove around town with the engineer and saw problems on Larch Avenue, Linden Avenue, and West Grove Street. Chestnut Avenue is also bad, but it may have to wait. Drainage on Queen Anne Road is also a problem.

Councilman Mitchell asked if something can be done about the property across from Buddy's Place.

Councilman Napolitano suggested a pavement management plan for sidewalks uplifted by trees. Councilman Mitchell pointed out that the County put up signs and painted the crosswalk by the baseball fields, but more needs to be done.

Mayor Kelemen explained that the 3rd grade from Steen School toured Borough Hall and asked many relevant questions.

On June 5, Bergen County will be celebrating Chief of the Day where a terminally ill child will be sworn in as Police Chief for the day. Bogota's Chief of the Day will be Kyle Burrell. Chief Burke has a special ceremony planned, and Mayor Kelemen will read a Proclamation declaring June 5 to be "Kyle Burrell Day".

Before opening the meeting to Citizen Remarks, Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone that remarks must be kept to 5 minutes only for each speaker, and each speaker can only have one turn.

Citizen Remarks:

Rosemary Gasiewicz, President of the Senior Citizens' Club, said that her letter was sent to the Mayor and Council, not to Tito Jackson. The letter said to give the car back to Tito Jackson or sell the car.

Tito Jackson said that police officers in this town are second to none. He said that they are not certified because the town refuses to pay for their training. He feels that the police salaries are too low. He said that the police officers are not trained in CPR because the Council voted not to do it. He was reminded that during his terms as Mayor and as Councilman, the police were not trained. He questioned why the suburban was given to the Fire Department. Mayor Kelemen reminded Mr. Jackson that the Fire Department needed a vehicle. The OEM Coordinator does not need a vehicle all the time. Mr. Jackson was told by Mayor Kelemen that his 5 minutes were up, and he refused to sit down. Mayor Kelemen explained again that his time was up, but he refused to stop talking. Chief Burke came to the front of the room and requested that the room be vacated by everyone. Mr. Jackson then left.

Hector Rodriguez said that Little League is in full force now, and he is worried about the children and suggested that a yellow flashing light be put there to warn cars about the children. Mayor Kelemen agreed and said that Steen School also needs to be addressed. Councilman Napolitano is applying for "Safe Route to School".

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Nick Zampetti questioned the changes in garbage pick-up that were in the tabled ordinance. He also questioned the work of Nick Barese in regards to property maintenance at Larch Avenue and West Fort Lee Road, Leonia Avenue and E. Fort Lee Road, and Queen Anne Road and Linwood Avenue. He is concerned with very large trucks driving through town and wondered if there are limitations on the size of trucks allowed.

Art Sopelsa, the Chairman of the Recreation Commission, would like to meet with Mr. Scarpa about some issues. He also is concerned about CSX and idling trains.

George Shaloub said that years ago a grant application was made to build a pedestrian bridge over the train tracks.

Motion was made and seconded to go into Closed Session. Resolution 15-82A was adopted.

Meeting reconvened and motion was made by Councilman Nunez, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to go into arbitration with the police. The motion to go into arbitration with the police was approved by a unanimous vote of Council.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.