

Minutes of Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, and, Council members Connors, Fede, Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Also present were Borough Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, and CFO DiMaria.

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 December 23, 2015.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked CFO DiMaria to explain the problems with Fire and Police Pensions as well as LOSAP. Mr. DiMaria explained that with a new payroll system, there are always problems, but most of them have been resolved. LOSAP is separate from payroll. Two more item schedules need to be set up for LOSAP.

Administrator Scarpa explained that money for the renovations of Borough Hall were coming from last year's bond. CFO DiMaria explained what a tax sale redemption is.

Discussion took place concerning Resolution 16-052 "Adding Community Garden Committee to Environmental Commission". A motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Mitchell, to remove 16-052 from the agenda. Motion carried.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC 16-05 Payment of Claims

16-053 Authorizing Borough Architect, Bilow Garret Group, to prepare bids for Borough Hall Renovations

16-054 Tax Sale Redemption

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Connors for the following Approvals. Motion carried.

-Social Permit for VFW for Benefit Concert on March 26, 2016

-Rescue Squad Boot Drive to be held on April 30, 2016 or Rain date of May 14, 2016

-PSE&G River Road/Elm Avenue Project – Due to a water main break, the project is behind schedule. PSE&G requested permission to work 24 hours a day (excluding Sunday) to make up the time. After discussion, the Council agreed to allow 24 hour work provided there is no jackhammering done and there is limited truck back-up noise between the hours of 11pm and 7am. Also, PSE&G must agree to repair all burnt out street lights before beginning the 24 hour shifts.

Appointments:

Mayor Kelemen to appoint the following people to the Recreation Committee with Council approval:

John Powner, Farid Briones, Jared Deutsch, Dan Schnipp, Jason Kearns

Alternates: Mike Leong, Carmen Diaz

Councilman Miranda motioned to move Carmen Diaz to the committee and to move Farid Briones to Alternates because he felt it was important to have a woman on the committee. Councilwoman Fede seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Discussion took place concerning No Cash Policy. Mr. DiMaria explained that it will be safer for Borough employees not to be dealing with cash. Mr. Scarpa pointed out that he was sued in Rochelle Park for changing to a no cash policy. The judge ruled in favor of no cash. Details will be ironed out and policy will be presented at a future meeting.

Councilwomen Fede and Gates-Ferris presented a voluminous Community Garden Plan. Many residents expressed interest. The issue is having a community organization establishing a community garden on public property. A community garden committee should be established. After discussion, it was decided that more details are needed to establish a community garden committee, so it will be presented at a future meeting.

#### Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that she met with Pam Dirr of the First Aid Squad and found that First Aid responded to 52% of calls in February. The Squad was able to respond to 100% of the night calls but is unable to respond to all of the day calls because most of the volunteers are working.

Councilman Miranda reported that Recreation Committee will have to look over program costs etc. for the future. He thanked Mr. DiMaria for helping to get finances in order there.

Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone of the Green Day affair on March 19 from 10am to 1pm at the Recreation with a bee keeper, a soda stream raffle, and new smoke free signs.

Councilman Mitchell reported that the Seniors have not had their executive board meeting yet. The police are working hard, and he would like a crossing guard at the high school. Someone will be coming to show samples of security cameras March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Councilman Connors reported that the Fire Department is pushing for a youth program. They will be meeting with the high school principal to discuss community service projects and a youth club. Parents will have to be involved. He is hoping for a September start date.

Councilman Napolitano reported that he met with the Swim Club Lease committee for a three hour meeting. Something will be drafted by the borough attorney. A long term development plan is being developed by the Planning and Zoning board. It needs to be organized in a way that will make it easy to read. A paving ordinance requiring utilities to repair roads that they open would be beneficial to the town.

CFO DiMaria said that the introduction of the budget is scheduled for the next meeting. He will be meeting with the finance committee next week.

Mayor Kelemen thanked DPW Superintendent Gordon Kohles, Administrator Scarpa, and Police Chief May for taking care of the speeding problem on Palisade Avenue. Signs went up to slow down traffic. The Police Department needs work. He is meeting with the Board of Education concerning all schools.

Administrator Scarpa said that there have been many administrators in Bogota, but many plans were never implemented. There is a great need for repairs. A tv was installed for presentations and a lot of garbage has been cleaned up. The Police Department is a mess. The DPW building is almost done. Work on the new building will begin when everything is completed on the first building. There is a decent recycling area. A booth will be put up for the worker. He would like a couple of firemen to show the turnout gear to the public. Community Development money will be used as needed. Shoprite in Hackensack will accept Purchase orders as will the Hilton Garden in Ridgely Park. The town will seek \$4,000 with interest from property owner with the displaced tenant. Parking issues have to be presented to police first before being brought before Mayor and Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Amaro Bustamante thanked Councilwomen Fede and Gates-Ferris as well as Mayor Kelemen for allowing him to speak about the Community Garden. He first presented this in 2013. Now in 2016 it is going strong. He thanked all the volunteers who have helped with Bogota Beautiful. They are planning another Earth Day clean-up. Planters need to be refreshed. There are many ideas and many volunteers who want to be involved. The Walk with the Mayor Program is a great idea.

Cornelia Geraghty thanked Councilwomen Fede and Gates-Ferris for their support of the Bogota Beautiful Program. She also thanked the Mayor and Council for looking into overnight parking.

Motion to end Citizen Comments was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris told Amaro Bustamonte that in the past Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts participated in clean-up projects. Councilman Miranda thanked everyone who participates with Bogota Beautiful. Councilman Napolitano expressed interest in the Walk with the Mayor program and reminded everyone that people used to have block parties where Council would approve closing the street off. Councilman Mitchell said that there are a lot of monuments in town that need upkeep.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to go into closed session. Motion carried. Resolution 16-054A was approved.

Meeting reconvened and Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 9:07pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Cook, Borough Clerk