

Minutes of the Work session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the Senior Center at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Mitchell

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 bulletin board on February 2, 2015.

The following Resolutions were adopted:

15-42 Resolution of Support from Bogota Mayor and Council Authorizing the sustainable Jersey Grant Application

15-43 Appointing Two BCCD Representatives

Discussion:

Councilwoman Fede explained that the Environmental Commission and the Green Team voted to endorse an ordinance to prohibit smoking in public parks. Mr. Ferrara of the Bergen County Department of Health spoke about the health benefits of prohibiting smoking in the public parks. Second hand smoke exposure is very dangerous even outdoors, and tobacco butts are the number one source of litter.

Councilwoman Fede reported that Police Chief Burke would like to re-name W. Broad Street Henry J. Smith Way after former Police Chief Smith. Chief Smith spent 38 years in law enforcement and also served in the military. He created Cobblestone Way in front of Borough Hall, and he and his wife Dorothy maintained it for years.

Mayor Kelemen said that OEM Coordinator Tito Jackson opted to have the OEM section of personnel in open session. Borough Attorney Bossong said that a rice notice was sent to Tito Jackson on 1/27/15 as a result of an issue on 1/26/15. (The incident involved Tito Jackson as the OEM Coordinator submitting a requisition for four computers for the OEM office minutes after a state of emergency was declared by the Governor.)

Tito Jackson said that four computers and three monitors were missing from the OEM office, and he needed the room to be stocked with computers. The Borough Attorney asked who took the computers and who gave the authority to take them.

Tito Jackson said that the police chief took one computer and re-tasked it. Mayor Kelemen said that his office only had a monitor. The mayor received a computer a few weeks later. When the OEM coordinator said that he needed computers for the storm, The Mayor told him to take the Mayor's computer.

Councilman Nunez asked if there are rules for equipment purchased with Federal funds (since OEM computers were purchased with FEMA money).

The Borough Attorney asked if moving the computers was discussed at Council Meetings, since it seems that one computer was put in Mayor's office and one in the Police office.

The Borough Administrator asked if someone went into the OEM office without being noticed.

OEM Coordinator Jackson said that the Police Chief needed a computer, so he took one from the Emergency Management office out of necessity. Councilwoman Kohles said that she and Councilman Robbins knew that the Police Chief took one of the computers from the Emergency Management office. Administrator Scarpa asked why the Police Chief did not request a computer from Administrator Greiner.

Councilwoman Fede said that e-mails were sent out after the incident that were very upsetting to her. The general tone was disgraceful. Many people were blind-copied on the e-mails that went out after the Monday 1/26 incident when the Administrator did not approve the OEM Coordinator buying more computers for the OEM office a few minutes after the Governor declared a state of emergency.

Tito Jackson said that he had no food for the volunteers. The mayor said that he had told Tito on Sunday night that he (the Mayor) owns a deli and will supply whatever is needed for storms. Tito Jackson brought a requisition for 4 computers for OEM on Monday 1/26 at approximately 2:00pm after having met with the Mayor and Administrator at Noon without mentioning the need for computers. Administrator Scarpa refused to sign requisition, so Tito Jackson called the mayor and said that he would close down the OEM office if he did not get the computers. Mayor Kelemen said that purchasing more computers would be breaking the law. Mayor Kelemen had called the DPW on 1/26 to be sure that the DPW was ready for the storm. He then called Fire Chief Brophy who reported that the firehouse was stacked with food for the storm.

Councilman Napolitano asked why the OEM Coordinator waited until a storm to try to restock the emergency Management office with computers.

Mayor Kelemen demanded that all Emergency Management computers be returned to OEM. Administrator Scarpa said that no need had been brought up for OEM computers. Attorney Bossong said that computers purchased for OEM cannot be "retasked".

Administrator Scarpa said that former Administrator Greiner's e-mails had all been deleted. It is important to have an independent IT person. Councilman Nunez stated that e-mails on a borrowed OEM computer should not be erased and should be retrieved. Administrator Scarpa also questioned Reverse 911 for non-emergency calls.

Administrator Scarpa suggested that the Police should be in charge of the digital message board.

Citizen Remarks:

Fire Chief Michael Brophy questioned the status of the turnout gear. Mayor Kelemen explained that the Administrator is working on a multipurpose bond which will include turnout gear. Chief Brophy also brought up the fire safety issues involved with the new construction on Palisade Avenue as well as the additions built onto Steen and Bixby Schools.

Tito Jackson asked about the equipment from Holy Name Hospital. He said the equipment was discussed in May 2014, and Rescue needed turnout gear. Councilwoman Fede, liaison to Rescue, said that Wayne Sorge of Rescue said that Rescue would prefer helmets.

Administrator Scarpa suggested that each volunteer group submit operating budgets and capital expense budgets.

Councilwoman Kohles said that every Council member should know about a RICE notice before it is given to someone.

Diones (not sure of name) congratulated new people on Council and wished them well.

Hector Rodriguez complained about a lack of communication for garbage pick-up and felt that the fire department could go around and announce changes in pick-up dates.

Ray Dwyer asked to be considered as WebMaster.

Michael Corracio requested an ordinance be put in place that town vehicles must have proper decals.

Nick Zampetti asked OEM Coordinator Jackson why the current emergency plan is more than four years old. He also asked why the town does not have an inventory system as in the past.

Nick Zampetti pointed out some property maintenance issues for consideration.

Jodi Keller Jackson witnessed two personal attacks on Tito Jackson. He saved the lives of babies and people having heart attacks. She thanked the volunteers.

Bill Brennan expressed concern about turnout gear, missing computers, and police negotiations.

Christine Riedel said that there is no police radio service in some parts of town, and Holy Name walkie talkies are needed.

Mercedes Dunn said that there are simple cell phones for the elderly.

Dan Creange requested fairness in the police negotiations.

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilwoman Fede to go into Closed Session to discuss miscellaneous Personnel matters. Motion carried.

The following Resolution was adopted:

15-43A Closed Session

Meeting Adjourned at 10:53PM