

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, May 21, 2015 at Borough Hall in the Council Chambers at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

Mayor Kelemen asked everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence for Dennis Hughes, former police captain.

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 January 8, 2015.

Mayor Kelemen read the Proclamation for Chief of the Day, Kyle Burrell and explained that there will be a ceremony and breakfast on June 5<sup>th</sup> for Kyle Burrell and then a luncheon with Chiefs of the Day from other Bergen County towns.

#### Discussions:

Administrator Scarpa explained that switching to private garbage hauling services would simplify the system. At the present time, there is garbage pick-up 5 days a week.

With private hauling: Monday Vegetative Waste (April to December), Tuesday- Garbage, Wednesday- Recycling, Thursday- no pick, Friday-garbage pick-up. (With a doctor's note, garbage picked up from backyard.) Councilman Robbins asked if there was enough money in the budget. Mr. Scarpa said that there would be enough money for part of the year.

Mr. Scarpa said that there is no day to day cleaning at Borough Hall. The Senior Citizen hallway is very dirty. He would like to prepare specs for a cleaning service.

Motion was made and approved to put Resolutions 15-90 and 15-91 on the Consent Agenda.

Councilwoman Kohles asked what the policy was on Ricing an employee. Borough Attorney Bossong explained that a procedure was established at the beginning of the year whereby, if any Councilperson wishes to rice someone, that Councilperson needs to submit to the Chair of the Personnel Committee whatever serious issues exist. Councilwoman Kohles said that she has been requesting for 4 months now for an employee to be riced, but has been turned down because no one else complained.

Councilwoman Fede explained that the personnel committee evaluated the situation. She reminded that at a previous Council meeting she said that it was a personality problem between a Council member and another individual. She explained that e-mail communication is not the best. They need to all sit down and discuss the matter and learn to get along. Councilwoman Kohles did not want to sit down with the individual and talk.

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The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were adopted:

15-5 Payment of Claims

15-83 Swiftreach Contract

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15-84 to 86 Tax Checks totaling \$42,089.36

15-87 Authorize Acceptance of \$525,000 Bond Anticipation Note & \$188,400 Special Emergency Note

15-88 Resolution Determining an area in need of Redevelopment

15-89 Authorizing Bogota Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills

15-90 Authorizing Bid Specs to be Drafted for Garbage Collection

15-91 Authorizing Bid Specs to be Drafted for Cleaning Services

The following Minutes were approved:

February 5, 2015, February 19, 2015, March 12, 2015, April 1, 2015

A Public Hearing was held for the 2015 Budget. There were no public comments or questions.

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place (voting record is attached):

#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 A Bond Ordinance for sanitary sewer system improvements at various locations  
(emergency)

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Fede spoke about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade poster contest. Winners will be posted in the library. She praised Bogota Beautiful for the lovely flowers they planted. An arborist was hired. He will inventory half of the town this year and half next year. She would like to know the criteria for the clothing allowance for Rescue. She will check the bylaws. There will be June training on CSX Railroad. The Rescue Chief's truck needs to be updated. Wayne Sorge is coordinating a Boot Drive to raise money for Rescue. The Youth Academy is moving forward. The roof and side wall are leaking in the Rescue Building. Clutter has been removed from the library, and there are great events scheduled for the future. Children are loitering in the stairwell; security cameras may be needed. The Friends of the Library need members.

Councilwoman Kohles reported that Nick Barese sent out 198 notices, conducted 28 re-inspections, and issued 13 summonses in April and May. Mr. Barese is happy with the Vacant Property Ordinance. Bogota Day is June 13<sup>th</sup> from 12:00pm to 10:00pm. Football registration is down. Summer camp started with 40 children. The Recreation Center needs cleaning services daily. Recreation finances have issues. Jim Moore would like to meet with the attorney.

Councilman Robbins said Bogota Beautiful is basking in the glow of the cleanup. He wanted to thank everyone who helped, and he is looking forward to next year. He requested that the Borough put one or two more garbage receptacles on Main Street to prevent people from using the planters for garbage. Bogota Beautiful received permission from the landlord for the hairdresser to put a bench and flowers on that property. An Eco-friendly bench would look nice. Store owners on Main Street donated their

Minutes 5/21/15 continued:

windows to display local artists' work in June. He needs to speak to Police Chief Burke about the parking situation for the firemen. Hose 2 is requesting parking spaces.

Councilman Nunez met with the Senior Citizens' Committee. The Senior Center will be painted by Eagle Scouts, and Mr. Scarpa is looking into prices for a new rug. The Seniors had complained about the outside steps not having a railing. Mr. Scarpa explained that a railing has now been installed. Councilman Nunez commented that the meetings are becoming more civil, and a lot of positive things are happening. The broken door was replaced. Ordinance #1463 was adopted for the sewer problem which has been an issue for a number of years. The past administrator wanted the homeowner to pay for the sewer repair. Our new professionals said the town was responsible. (Mr. Scarpa interjected that Community Development money was wasted. This budget is a responsible budget. Who decided to cut garbage and cleaning services from last year's budget?) Councilman Nunez said that the CFO has done a fabulous job. Finances are in order. The Administrator is also doing a great job running the town. Policy issues are the Council's job. The Council voted on a police raise last year and got in trouble for it. The State is watching town spending now.

Councilman Mitchell said that Girls' Softball finished well. Boys' Baseball did a good job. Thank a vet this weekend. Remember all those that died for us, so that we could be free. He reminded everyone that the town has special labor issues now, and needs to hire a special labor counsel to deal with them. He motioned to hire Giblin and Gannaio . Councilman Napolitano seconded the motion.

The following Resolution was added to the agenda and adopted:

Resolution 15-92 Authorizing Contract for Professional Services of Special Counsel

Councilman Napolitano is proud of the finance committee members. He also thanked the Administrator and CFO for their help in staying under the 2% CAP. The 2015 budget is almost \$600,000 less than last year's budget with no essential services cut. Borough Hall was in complete disrepair. Turnout gear needed to be replaced for years. Project Success and Senior Bus Driver grants were not applied for last year. Drainage at West Fort Lee Road will be looked at on Tuesday. County money will be used to repair the River Road and Elm Avenue drainage problem. The Leonia Avenue drainage project should be going out to bid next week. Councilman Napolitano and Mr. Scarpa met with PSE&G about road repair. A representative will be at the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. First Aid Squad has very little coverage day or night. The building is in bad shape. Councilman Robbins will attend First Aid meetings when Councilman Napolitano is not available.

Mayor Kelemen said that he is getting calls from Elm Avenue and Leonia Avenue about idling trains. He is communicating with Congressman Garret's office. The idling is getting worse, and the Board of Realtors is meeting to discuss the situation. Memorial Day services will begin at 11:00am in front of Borough Hall. Bogota Swim Club is opening this weekend. The lot is looking better. The Michael B. Ganquist Dinner will be held on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Councilman Robbins went to a Teaneck demonstration about the idling trains.

Minutes 5/21/15 continued:

Administrator's Report: The budget contains a 2% salary increase for non-contractual employees. The plumbing sub-code official resigned and Michael Quercia applied for the position. Motion was made and Michael Quercia was approved. Jesse D'Amore was sent by the state as Bogota's new state housing inspector. There have been requests made for speakers in the Council Chambers. Mr. Scarpa is going to upgrade the sound system. The DPW facility needs to be repaired. The roof, bay doors, and floors need to be replaced in the larger building. We have to go out to bid for the work. He is meeting next week with companies that offer vegetative waste facilities to find a closer location than the one we use now. May 16<sup>th</sup> is Armed Forces Day. He ordered new flags. The OEM truck was de-equipped. 13 antennae and 95% of equipment were removed, so Fire Department can use it. Mr. Scarpa is getting pricing for a landscaper to improve the appearance of the property in front of the building. He spoke to Community Development about getting money for Senior Activities and Road work.

Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone that each person has 5 minutes to speak. Mayor and Council will answer all questions after Citizen's Remarks are done.

Citizens' Remarks -

Rosemary Gasiewicz agreed that picking up yard waste on Mondays is a good idea, and asked if the Noise Ordinance has been strengthened. She said that the inmates did a great job setting up for the Senior meeting, and the outside of the building looks nice.

Connie Carpenter asked if there was an Ordinance or Resolution for the Ricing Procedure. She asked about Special Counsel Giblin. She said that Project Success and the Senior Bus Driver Grants have not been applied for in four years. Isn't the audit due June 30<sup>th</sup>? Do you have an annual Financial Statement for this year? In the new budget, Legal Services is \$200,000. Isn't that high? Property Maintenance has no salary in the budget. Are you getting rid of that position? The Police Clerical line only shows \$1,500 increase. Police Dispatching has nothing budgeted. Is training for Police on line? Solid waste collection shows \$80,000. Is that all you are doing this year? Rescue money was taken away. First Aid shows \$9,700.

Hector Rodriguez asked Councilwoman Kohles how something gets on the agenda. If the procedure is followed, why was it not followed today?

Samir Aziz thanked Mayor Kelemen for responding to his e-mails. He said that he called the police one day because he saw someone in his backyard, and the dispatcher said that they cannot send someone to Egypt. He is disturbed by the Church of God with so many cars parking on the streets. Someone from the Church of God told Mr. Aziz that they have a license for daycare.

William Valentinetti lives behind the Church of God and is annoyed by a very strong smell from the exhaust fan. Police allow the members to park for long periods of time.

Minutes 5/21/15 Continued:

George Silos thanked Council for doing a great job cutting non-essential services. He asked about \$9,000 paid in December for legal services. He asked if the town has an Emergency Management Plan in force now because lives are at risk without one.

Mr. Scarpa said there is no Emergency Management Plan. The town is working on getting the attorney fees back. He met with one resident concerning the Church of God. Arrangements are being made to meet with representatives of the Church of God to discuss the shed, the retaining wall, parking, the fan, etc. Line items have been combined on the budget. The amount for garbage is for a portion of a year. The property maintenance official was not cut. There was a 2% increase for employees. The noise ordinance has not been changed yet. Ordinances last forever. Resolutions are good for only one year.

Borough Attorney Bossong explained that resolutions can be raised and voted on at any meeting.

Motion was made and carried to go into Closed Session at 9:36pm.  
Resolution 15-92A was added to the agenda and adopted.

Meeting reconvened and adjourned at 9:45PM.