

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, January 15, 2015 at Borough Hall at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Napolitano.

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.

Borough Engineer Robert Costa updated the Mayor and Council about Leonia Avenue project. He explained the need to move quickly as June 20, 2015 is date when design, bid and award of project must be completed. Senior citizen unit flooding problem must be addressed first, and more grant money will be needed to complete entire project. Storm drains need to be cleaned. Mr. Costa also agreed to lower his estimated cost for design and construction management of the project from \$88,000 to \$67,500 which was Harry Tuvel's estimate.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Mitchell, to amend Resolution 15-25 which was tabled at the 1/8/15 meeting, and to place it on the consent agenda. Motion was approved and carried. The amended Resolution #15-25 (which changed \$88,000 to \$67,500) was placed on the consent agenda.

Robert Costa suggested that Mayor and Council speak to the County about safety issues concerning the crosswalk at Olsen Park.

Resolution 15-36 was pulled from the consent agenda to be voted on separately.

The following Resolutions on the consent Agenda were approved:

15-37 Tax Check totaling \$20,302.86

15-38 Authorizing CY2015 Budget to be Read by Title Only

15-25 Amended Professional Agreement with Robert Costa, Borough Engineer, for Professional services related for Design & Construction Management of Leonia Avenue

Councilman Napolitano reported that the Finance Committee looked over the preliminary budget and felt comfortable lifting the furlough. Councilman Nunez reminded everyone that although the furlough can be lifted, the borough still has financial concerns. The Police Contract and the DPW contract still must be negotiated.

The following Resolution was approved:

15-36 Lifting of Employee Furlough

Minutes of December 4, December 18, January 3, January 8 were tabled until Closed Session Minutes are available.

Approvals:

Hose company #2 – Jonathan Celnik is accepted as a probationary member
Social Affair Permit for the VFW was approved for a Super Bowl Party.

PC15-01 was tabled due to not enough time for Council to look over all the bills. Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to hold a special meeting next Thursday, January 22, 2015 to review the payment of claims. Motion was approved and carried.

The following Ordinances were introduced:

#1453 Ordinance to prohibit sale of tobacco to persons under the age of twenty one (21)

#1454 2015 Ordinance to Exceed the Municipal Budget Appropriation Limits and Establish a
CAP Band

Discussion:

Mayor Kelemen reminded everyone about the “Helping Hands Board” that once existed in Bogota. He is going to put together a committee to research the screening process, possible grants, etc., to re-instate the program.

Mayor Kelemen suggested forming a committee to investigate Bogota Swim Club property issues. Councilmen Mitchell, Nunez, Robbins, and Napolitano all expressed interest in working together to make improvements. The Borough, the Board of Education, and the Bogota Racket Club can all work together.

Mayor Kelemen expressed interest in the reformation of the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman Mitchell requested a discussion about abandoned properties. The Borough Attorney, Craig Bossong, mentioned state statutes that help towns deal with property maintenance. The Borough Attorney will put together an ordinance.

Committee Reports

Councilman Napolitano reiterated the reason for lifting the furloughs. He said that a preliminary budget was received yesterday. It is important to negotiate contracts with the police and DPW. The bill procedure needs to work out some kinks.

Councilman Mitchell expressed concern about moving forward with contract negotiations for the police. He also spoke to Chief Burke about the crossing guards. He mentioned the importance of working hand-in-hand with the Board of Education for the betterment of the community. He announced that the VFW will be having a special event for Superbowl Sunday. Councilman Nunez will be meeting with the Seniors in a couple of weeks. He met with the Personnel Committee and Finance Committee. The budget may be ready for introduction by the second meeting in February. The Finance Committee is trying to minimize the tax impact on residents contract negotiations must be done soon.

Councilman Robbins announced that the Rabies Clinic will be held on March 7th at the Broad Street Firehouse. He reported that there are safety issues at the Firehouses. Two have

combination locks, and a lot of equipment has been disappearing. Too many people know the combinations. The firemen would like to get key cards.

Councilwoman Kohles said that property maintenance is responsible for a large amount of fine money being collected. A lawsuit was filed against a 5th and 6th grade coach from Recreation sports. They will be in court tomorrow. Registration for basketball is taken place now. The BBO and the Recreation sports are combined now. The high school does not have enough athletes for teams. There is no 5th and 6th grade girls basketball. The Miss Bogota talent show will be held on January 17th at 5:00pm.

Councilwoman Fede needs to meet with Superintendent Kohles. She met with the new Library Director. Library computers were replaced. There are classes for computer use. The Senior room will be Wi-Fi-ed. Shelving was donated, and a Geek squad was started. The chess Club needs someone to run it.

Citizen Remarks

Police Officers Rydell and Kumka, as well as Sgt. Negron and Chief Burke all expressed concern about police officers receiving steps. He CFO, Frank DiMaria explained that a budget will be available in five days, so negotiations can begin then. Officer Kumka demanded that a vote be taken by Council to give the steps immediately. Council voted not to give steps at that time. Wendy Vitiello requested an explanation of the cost of living adjustment because she owns two properties and does not want taxes to increase.

Tito Jackson expressed concern about Borough Engineer Costa's bills from last year.

Pat Brickley spoke about the Swim Club and thanked the staff and management as well as Borough Administrator Greiner and Mayor Kelemen for helping to make the Swim Club strong again.

Don Stofan complained about the construction at 297 Palisade Avenue being a mess and dangerous for pedestrian.

Lois Mitchell requested help for the traffic on Palisade Avenue in front of the high school which is a dangerous place now for crossing the street.

Bob Viviani complimented the Bogota Police for keeping crime down in Bogota.

The following Resolution was adopted:

15-39 Closed Session – contract negotiations

The meeting reconvened at 10:51pm and the following Resolution was adopted:

15-40 Mutual Separation of August E. Greiner as Bogota Borough Administrator

Discussion took place concerning the position of Borough Administrator, and the following Resolution was adopted:

15-41 Resolution to Appoint Joseph Scarpa as Interim Borough Administrator

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Kohles, seconded by Councilman Napolitano; motion approved and carried; meeting adjourned at 11:05pm.