

Minutes of the Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, January 21, 2016 in the Senior Center at Borough Hall at 6:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Connors.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Connors, Fede, Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Also present were the Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa, the CFO Frank DiMaria, and the Chief of Police Daniel Maye.

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 15, 2016.

Discussion on Swim Club Lease: Mayor Kelemen led the discussion by explaining that the Swim Club is an asset to the community. The mayor reassured the present Swim Club members that no one on the Council wants to put an end to the Swim Club. He reminded everyone that the Borough is the landlord and needs to write the lease. He suggested forming a committee consisting of members of the Governing Body, Swim Club Trustees, the Bogota Police, and Residents.

Administrator Scarpa then explained that he was going to ask the Swim Club trustees the questions that had been emailed to Pat Brickley so that answers could be prepared ahead of time by the trustees. As he asked questions, Pat Brickley stated that they were advised not to answer any financial questions and that the website provided information. Jeff Clark, the Manager of the Swim Club, interrupted Mr. Scarpa to say that he thought the answers had been given to the Governing Body before the meeting. No answers had been given. Patty Adriance stated that there are 92 members: 66 from Bogota, 16 from Teaneck, and 10 from other towns.

Administrator Scarpa suggested limiting the membership to Bogota residents or Bergen County residents, or possibly partnering with other communities. Councilman Mitchell suggested going to Palisades Park to see how that town resolved problems similar to those that Bogota is having. (Jeff Clark said that he managed the Palisade Park Swim club before managing the Bogota Swim Club.) Councilman Mitchell stated that he and the Mayor, the Administrator, and the Borough Engineer went down to the Swim Club to discuss road repairs etc. He then read a letter from the Police Chief concerning an incident at the Swim Club in 2013 which put Bogota Police Officers in danger. Councilman Napolitano agreed with Councilman Mitchell about partnering with other communities. Councilwoman Fede read the lease and found that a number of provisions were not being adhered to.. She said that she never heard of requests from the Swim Club for special events, and the club should never be open till 1:00am. Residents spoke to her about driveways being blocked public nudity and urination, New York license plates and New York taxis dropping off people at the Swim Club.

Citizen Remarks: On Swim Club Lease Only: Five (5) minute time limit per person

Diane Tagliabu, Frank Mercado, Jonathan Welsh, Steve Brown, and Christian Beeber complained about urinating in streets, breaking liquor bottles in streets, public nudity, parking issues, garbage left on residents' lawns and in the street, and whether the Swim Club has enough insurance to cover the potential damages.

Mary Jane Clark said that the New York license plates belong to Bogota residents.

Diane Searles said that group that caused the problem in 2013 were guests of members.

Shirley Overby reminded the Mayor and Council that in 2014 a group of residents sent a petition to the Mayor and Council about the garbage, noise, etc.

Motion to close Citizen remarks was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked what the next steps will be and who will be on the Committee.

Councilman Mitchell said that the lighting is terrible down there and needs to be improved. Everyone has to work together to improve the conditions.

Councilman Miranda said that very few pools have diving boards which makes Bogota Swim Club attractive to outside people.

Mayor Kelemen concluded that a Committee will be put together to move forward. He suggested Councilman Napolitano for the Committee since he is a member of the Swim Club. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris suggested

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Councilwoman Fede be the other Council member. Councilwoman Fede agreed. The Swim Club disagreed with putting Councilman Napolitano on the committee, but the Administrator said that they do not have a say in the matter.

The Mayor called for a 5 minute recess before continuing with the Regular meeting.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved after Councilwoman Gates-Ferris questioned the appointing of Jesse D'Amore and Joseph Scarpa. Mr. Scarpa explained that hiring Jesse D'Amore as Stormwater Manager and Certified Public Works Manager is a savings to the town of \$7,500. There will be no cost to the town in appointing Joseph Scarpa as Recycling Coordinator. :

16-029 Appointing Jesse D'Amore as Stormwater Manager and Certified Public Works Manager at \$5,000

16-030 Appoint Joseph Scarpa as Recycling Coordinator

16-031 Tax Overpayment

16-032 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption

PC16-01 Payment of Claims

The following Approvals were made:

-Minutes:

December 17, 2016 – Councilwoman Fede abstained because she was not a Councilwoman at that meeting.

January 3, 2016 – Councilwoman Gates-Ferris approved the minutes with one revision. Her comment that receiving the agenda and supportive material less than an hour before a Mayor and Council meeting does not give sufficient time to review the material for voting and discussion.

-Social Affair Permit for VFW for Super Bowl Sunday

-Hose Company 3 accepted Jacob Zardoya, Eugene Roche, and Brian Porcaro as probationary members.

Appointments:

Mayor Kelemen appointed Eileen Karpoff and Faith Samples-Smart to the Library Board.

The following Ordinance was Introduced: (voting record is attached)

#1475 An Ordinance Amending the Rate of Reimbursement By Private Contractors for the Use of Members of the Borough of Bogota Police Department

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances took place:

#1473 Salary Ordinance

#1474 CAP

Discussion:

Changing One hour parking in front of Borough Hall – Mr. Scarpa explained that employees have no parking lot and must find a place to park on the street. Councilman Mitchell would like a crosswalk in front of the library, so children can cross the street safely. He feels that a mid-block crosswalk will slow down traffic. He received a report from the police about a crosswalk. Councilwoman Fede said that parking spots need to be made available to visitors. Councilman Connors agreed. Councilman Napolitano pointed out that a crosswalk takes away parking spots. Mr. Scarpa said that if the police gave out speeding tickets, cars would slow down and it would make it safer for pedestrians. It was decided that further discussion is necessary.

Handicapped Parking space on Palisade Avenue – Police Chief Maye recommended a handicapped spot at 107 Fairview Avenue but denied handicapped parking at 172 Palisade Avenue. (Police Traffic Crew reviews traffic to determine feasibility of handicapped parking space.)

Traffic and Parking issues by St. Joseph's Church – Councilman Mitchell suggested making 4th Place a one way street going downhill. Councilman Miranda talked about traffic and parking problems on 3rd Place and suggested a "Right turn only" out of 3rd Place. Councilman Napolitano explained the problem at St. Joseph's School with "No Parking" between 8:00AM and 4:00PM. The original ordinance was created before preschool started at St.

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Joseph's. Councilman Miranda pointed out that people are getting into their cars to drive to work as children are crossing the street for school. Councilman Mitchell said that all schools have a similar problem now, and Borough Attorney Bossong pointed out that amending the ordinance would include all the schools. Councilman Connors remarked that it is better to take preventative action rather than waiting for someone to get hurt.

Council By-Laws – Administrator Scarpa explained that changes need to be made to the by-laws. The first change is to the committees. Two members are sufficient for each committee. Also, committees can be eliminated and/or combined. The agenda should be completed and distributed by noon on the Tuesday before the meeting. Only emergency issues can be added after that time. For adding items to the agenda, two or three Council members should agree on the addition and direct their request to the Mayor or Council President.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked why two Council members need to agree. Mr. Bossong explained that every Council member cannot decide individually to put something on the agenda. There needs to be some sense of order.

Councilwoman Fede urged to have the Payment of Claims cut off at 5:00PM on the Tuesday before the meeting (except for emergencies).

Mayor Kelemen suggested that whenever an agenda is amended, the amendments should be in bold print or italics, so it will be clear what was added.

Bogota Council Scholarship- Donating salary to set up a high school scholarship fund – Councilwoman Gates-Ferris suggested that the Council salary be used for a scholarship fund or some other worthy cause. CFO Di Maria said that town officials can only make donations from their salaries using a personal check. Councilman Miranda said that he already had decided to donate his Council salary to Recreation.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris said that she wanted Storm Preparation on this agenda. Mr. Scarpa explained that the DPW is prepared. DPW Superintendent Kohles had to rent a salter because one had broken down. The Chiefs of First Aid, Rescue, Fire, and Police were all notified. The Fire Department has an excellent procedure in place for emergencies. Mayor Kelemen said that preparations are in place. Councilman Mitchell said that Reverse 911 will notify residents about snow conditions and parking.

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that there were no noise complaints for the month of December. She mentioned Bogota Beautiful's meeting on Wednesday and their plans for a community Garden at River Road and East Fort Lee Road. Mr. Scarpa said that no formal vote had been taken to use the land and put in irrigation. He suggested sprucing up the Fireman's Park. Councilwoman Fede said that there needs to be a discussion about this organization.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris announced that there will be an Earth Day Clean-up on April 23rd. She said that the First Aid Squad is disgruntled at not receiving clothing allowances.

Councilman Miranda reported that he spoke to DPW Superintendent Kohles who said that he rented a salter and is ready for the storm. The Police are also ready for the storm. He met with the Recreation Commission Chairman and a member of the Commission as well as Administrator Scarpa and CFO Di Maria. The Recreation Commission by-laws are 36 years old and need to be updated. The Commission stated that they have used money from the Trust Fund. Trust funds should only be used for the sport they are set up for – nothing else. The Recreation Department is in dire need of a new building. The fields need to be rebuilt, etc. An ordinance should be created to establish a Recreation Committee. Financial decisions will be made by the Mayor and Council instead of the Commission. The Recreation Center could be enhanced. Attorney Bossong explained that the old ordinance would have to be repealed and a new ordinance would be enacted creating a Recreation Committee. Councilmen Connors and Napolitano agreed that it would be a good idea.

Councilwoman Fede said that she donated 40 pounds of lights and received \$5, but she is happy that recycling the lights keep mercury out of landfills. There will be an Oil Train Rally on Sunday on East Main Street. The Library Board did not have a quorum for the last meeting. On Mondays, the nutritionist from Shoprite will be at the

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Library to guide people in eating right. Andrew Fede, a former Borough Attorney, will be giving a talk at the library on February 23rd and donating a book to the library. The Rescue building has a leak in the roof, and the air conditioner is broken.

Councilman Mitchell reported that the Police had an active shooting drill the Mayor and Council were invited to as well as the School Superintendent. The Police are opening lines of communication with the Board of Education. Better equipment is needed for the Police. New vests and new guns will be purchased to improve moral and safety. The Senior Citizen Center has been redone and looks really good. Windows at Borough Hall need to be redone. The town logo will be put on the large window in the library staircase. Everyone should have Nixel on their phones. After a group meeting with Bergen County officials, it was agreed that the road by Elm Avenue and River Road will be open one way.

Councilman Connors attended the Board of Education meeting where three new Board members were sworn in and officers were chosen: President – Charles Severino, Vice President – Patrick McHale
In the new academic assessments for grades 3 to 11, the students did very well. They were comparable in most categories and ahead in a few of them. The results demonstrated consistency in leadership by the Superintendent. There is also work being done to keep more special needs students in district.
Some Capital improvements are being planned including a renovating the science labs and the auditorium. The Steen Principal position is open, but the pool of applicants is not strong. He met with Fire Chief Greiner and saw the new turn-out gear. Scot packs are needed, about \$30,000 worth. Lou Kern is the new Fire Department Administrator. The Junior Fire Department program will be revamped. The biggest concern is the need for volunteers.

Councilman Napolitano reported that renovations to the DPW building are going well. Renovations on Borough Hall will begin soon. The Leonia Avenue project went well. The Queen Anne Road drainage project was a success. Mr. Scarpa is asking for estimates on drainage and road work for 2016. The Planning and Zoning Board is still waiting for a Site Plan for the Hess site. A developer's agreement should be in the works.

Mayor Kelemen reported that Mr. Scarpa is waiting for Department Heads to give information for the budget. The police shooting meeting was very informative.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Scarpa will send a request to Department Heads for Capital items requests. Scot packs are a priority for the Fire Department. \$200,000 worth of local road improvements is anticipated. The shared services road program saves money on the road work and also on engineer fees, and it requires having money ready early. PSE&G sent out a letter to the whole town about future road openings.
Mr. Scarpa went to a Utilities meeting and spoke along with Old Tappan's Administrator, Pat O'Brien about the 2% CAP. 2016 roadwork should include Chestnut Avenue, Linden Avenue, and East Grove Street.

Citizen Remarks: Five (5) minute time limit per person

Lisa Kohles said that it is laziness that is causing the problems at St. Joseph's. Parents are supposed to park in the parking lot and walk up to the school. Residents will be angry having to move their cars at 7:00AM.

Patrick Teran is concerned with the PSE&G work that will begin soon. He said that overnight parking on Fairview Avenue seems to be overlooked. People speed through Fairview Avenue and park too close to the corner. Fairview Avenue should have yellow lines by the driveways and parking should be allowed only on one side of the street. A 4 way stop sign might help slow down traffic.

Patricia Adriance commented that DPW snow removal has always been done well. Leonia Avenue looks great. The forward motion is great.

Radwa Ali suggested a speed bump on Larch Avenue to prevent speeding.

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Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Connors to go into closed session. Motion carried. Resolution 16-032A was adopted

Meeting reconvened at 10:25PM. Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:26PM.

Respectfully submitted by Jeanne Cook, Borough Clerk