



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, August 4, 2016, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Connors.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Connors, Fede, Gates-Ferris, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Councilman Miranda was absent. Other attendees included Borough Administrator Scarpa and Borough Attorney Bossong.

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 December 23, 2015.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC 16-14 Payment of Claims

16-126 Snow plowing agreement

16-127 Approve Hiring a temporary Tax Collector while tax collector is away

The following Approval took place:

- Block Party requested by Carol Nicolay for Saturday, August 27, 2016 on Beechwood Avenue from 11:00am to 10:00pm from Queen Anne Road to Dunn Avenue
(Approval of Minutes was removed from the agenda.)

The following Ordinance was introduced and approved:

#1487 An Ordinance amending Chapter VII Entitled "Traffic"

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

#1486 – Ordinance Amending Chapter XXIB Entitled "Stormwater Control" to add a section 12 Entitled "Private Storm Drain Inlet Retrofitting"

Discussions:

Centennial Walkway – Mayor Kelemen said that he would like to re-start the Centennial Walkway in front of Borough Hall which Henry and Dot Smith had handled in celebrating the Bogota Centennial. He will research the particulars with the company, "Written in Stone".

Police Hiring – Council President Mitchell recommended that a new police officer should be hired. Police Chief Maye will attend the next Council meeting to explain the need.

Adding two new Recreation programs – Councilman Connors reported that the Recreation Committee would like to make volleyball and wrestling Recreation sports. Administrator Scarpa said that guidelines must be established concerning cost of programs, insurance, and who can drive the van. Soccer for younger children was also discussed. A Youth Club will be started in the fall. Grants are possible. A Fall Festival may be held with a costume parade for children.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris questioned lost tax bills. Mr. Scarpa and Borough Attorney Bossong reported that state law requires that interest must be paid on late tax payments whether a resident receives a tax bill

or not. The tax collector, Elizabeth Wiemer, could be invited to the next Council meeting to report on interest due. Borough Engineer Costa may come to the next meeting as well to provide an engineer report. Councilman Connors asked if old street signs could be auctioned or sold once the new signs are installed. Borough property cannot just be given away.

Reports

Mayor Kelemen reported that cadets in the Junior Police Academy will be graduating next Tuesday at Steen School. He is proud of the cadets and congratulated Anna Geraghty and Sergeant Lynch and all the former police officers who put in their time. Mayor Kelemen and Mr. Scarpa went to the Recreation Center for a review. All is going well there. He and Councilman Connors went to a CSX meeting last week. The meeting was very informative concerning enhancing public safety in each community. Concrete slabs on West Shore Avenue that were damaged by PSE&G will be replaced. 60% of calls he receives from residents concerning trees and sidewalks. He requested that the budget be doubled next year for sidewalk repair and tree work.

Councilwoman Fede explained that Bogota has used a certified tree expert since 1996. A great deal of time has been given to trees over the last 15 years. More grants are needed. Mr. Scarpa explained that there is only one company in the area that has expertise in both tree care and sidewalk repair and replacement.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that she was not able to attend the meeting at Teterboro Airport on July 27th. She reminded the Mayor and fellow Council members that Ray Dwyer gave a letter to them at the last meeting concerning future plans for the volunteer First Aid Squad.

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Rescue Squad cut up cars at the Police Academy and performed Water Rescue routines. One outside stairwell at the Rescue building has been repaired, and the other stairwell will be repaired soon. A new air conditioner was installed at the Rescue building. A tree at 69 East Fort Lee Road will be coming down. She would like to know if grants are available for generators for life support during blackouts. Mr. Scarpa said that there are some generators under the overpass on Main Street. She announced that the Environmental Commission would like to help with the Town-Wide Garage Sale this year because it helps to prevent waste in landfill.

Council President Mitchell reported that the Seniors had the second floor library window installed which contains the town emblem. The Junior Police Academy is doing well. The \$5,000 Borough donation to the Junior Police Academy will be a help to them. Bogota would like to have a Community Night Out. The Police Chief will be at the next meeting. Golden bags are being given to the police, and the new police vests have arrived. He thanked Mr. Scarpa for the light under the train trestle. He announced that the police have the Mayor and Council's support. They are trying to hire a special police officer.

Councilman Connors thanked the police officers for volunteering their time this week. The Board of Education meeting will take place on August 23rd. There is no Fire Department meeting in July or August. Fire Marshall Lou Kern gave him a list with the state of all the fire equipment, so a committee can be formed to meet and develop a plan to replace equipment where needed. At the Recreation Committee meeting, the after school program was discussed.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the Palisade Avenue project is complete. The West Shore Avenue project is almost complete. The Transportation Trust Fund has been frozen. The Pascack Valley road resurfacing project is ready to begin. D & L will have to mill the roads and fill them in a short time to prevent damage to cars. West Fort Lee Road will need proper drainage before the Midtown Bridge can be closed. PSE&G is waiting for Suez Water to complete work by Elm Avenue and River Road hopefully by August 8th, so the road under the train trestle can be repaved. Mr. Barese has been on top of property maintenance issues. Borough Hall is being renovated. The grant writer is working on grants. The Borough Planner, Paul Grygel, is attending this meeting. Planning and Zoning Board Engineer, Ken Job, is on top of Hess development. The Bogota High School Science lab work is under way, and the asbestos has been safely removed. Construction official Dan Howell worked hard to expedite the process.

Borough Administrator Scarpa reported that painting and new carpeting will be undertaken in the police department. Holy Name Ambulance received 55 calls and handled 45 transports. In one case, the ambulance arrived before the Police. The bids for the new DPW building were too high and must be rejected and rebid. The message board is up and running. Renovations in Borough Hall have begun. 20 items were addressed at the review of the Recreation Center. The town received a \$5,000 grant for a vehicle charging station. The police are working on a drop off station for unused prescription drugs.

The following Resolution was added to the agenda and approved:

16-128 Authorization to reject bids and rebid project for new DPW building

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

There were no Citizen Remarks, so motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Council President Mitchell, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Council President Mitchell, to go into closed session to discuss personnel and real estate. Motion carried. Resolution 16-127C was added to the agenda at 9:00pm.

When the meeting reconvened, the following Resolutions were added to the agenda and approved:

16-129 Authorize advertisement for additional fire prevention officer

16-130 Authorize Planning-Zoning Board Engineer Ken Job to handle TWA for River Development project

16-131 Assign Building Department employee to be Purchasing Control Officer as well

Motion made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Council President Mitchell to Adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:40pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.