



Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, August 18, 2016, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Mitchell.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Councilman Connors 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.

Police Chief Maye presented Letters of Commendation to Police Officers Geraghty, Kumka, and Rivera for separate and distinct acts of outstanding police work in apprehending drug dealers.

Chief Maye presented lifesaving awards to Sgt. Cole, Sgt. Lynch, and Detective Liriano for working together to save a resident's life with the use of CPR.

Chief Maye also acknowledged Sgt. Lynch for founding and continuing the Police Youth Academy for 6 years often using his own money. Chief Maye also commended Sgt. Lynch for his outstanding community service with assisting with issues at the high school and after long shifts of police work.

Sgt. Lynch said that he does not work alone, commending his fellow officers, the Fire Department, Resue, and EMS. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the \$2,500 for the Youth Academy.

Borough Engineer Costa reported that he needs to contact CSX to inquire about inspecting the bridge by River Road. D & L will begin road resurfacing on August 30th and work through September 2nd as part of the Pascack Valley Cooperative. Fort Lee Road drainage will be done by the County before the Midtown Bridge is closed. 4 Clean-up completed the Palisade Avenue repair under budget. He suggested adding a resolution for discretionary aid for Leonia Avenue. He reminded the Mayor and Council that Community Development grants will be available soon. He said that the sanitary sewer line needs to be looked at before the project at the old Hess site can begin, and the pumping station should be large enough to accommodate future development also. The County is replacing the River Road culvert in the near future. He will talk to Suez Water about finishing up under the train trestle on River Road. Councilman Mitchell asked him about getting flashing lights for the roads by the schools. Mr. Costa said that grants may be available.

Police Chief Maye spoke about hiring a police officer to fill voids in scheduling due to illness, vacations, etc. He requested authorization to advertise for a PTC certified officer. The following Resolution was added to the agenda and approved:

16-137 Authorization to advertise for a PTC certified police officer.

Chief Maye reported that school signs were placed today and "Slow School" was painted in the street. He reported that there have been no issues with the Swim Club since the new lease was put in place. Chief Maye said that the police officers appreciate the new vests they received, and the 1033 Federal program provided \$50,000 worth of free equipment for the police department. He recommended moving forward with the Active Shooting Program to provide a full security system for Bogota. He reported that BACSA will pay for the medicine drop box which will include a travel box. He is looking into having a Community Day Out. He said that Holy Name Ambulance response time has been 5 minutes or less, so the patients and police have no wait time.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC 16-15 Payment of Claims

16-132 Bogota Municipal Endorsing Resolution of Community Development Project

16-133 Authorization to Apply for a Grant for a Charging Station for 375 Larch Avenue

16-134 Authorization to Apply for a Grant for a Charging Station for 7 East Fort Lee Road

16-135 Tax Redemption for Block 1, Lot 39 Christiana Trust

16-136 Additional Tax Refund to Michael Court Associates for Tax Court Judgment

The following Approval took place:

Approval of June 2, 2016 Minutes: Councilwoman Fede abstained due to being absent, Councilwoman Gates-Ferris objected because her edits were not put in the minutes, Council members Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano approved.

Approval of June 29, 2016 Minutes: Councilman Miranda abstained due to being absent, Councilwoman Gates-Ferris objected, Council members Fede, Mitchell, and Napolitano approved.

Approval of July 21, 2016 Minutes: Councilman Miranda abstained due to being absent, Councilwoman Gates-Ferris objected, Council members Fede, Mitchell, and Napolitano approved.

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

#1487 An Ordinance amending Chapter VII Entitled "Traffic"

Reports

Mayor Kelemen thanked everyone who extended condolences for the loss of his nephew. He attended the Police Youth Academy graduation last week and saw many proud students and parents. He thanked Sgt. Lynch, Anna Geraghty, Pam Dirr, the Rescue Squad, the Fire Department and all the police who volunteered their time to make the Academy a success.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that there were no noise complaints and that her next meeting with Ray Dwyer concerning the First Aid Squad will be in September.

Councilman Miranda just returned from vacation and had no report.

Councilwoman Fede announced that the town-wide garage sale will take place on September 24th. She suggested a press release in the Bogota Bulletin. She reviewed the Tree Complaint Procedure: All complaints should be referred to the Borough Clerk in order for them to be logged in and tracked. She will be attending a meeting in September with the Swim Club committee as per the new lease.

Council President Mitchell suggested bonding for more money to take care of the tree issue and sidewalk issue. He praised the police on their commendations, and reported that the Senior Citizens are trying to deal with the extreme heat.

Councilman Napolitano reported that renovations are ongoing at Borough Hall, but the work on a new DPW building must be rebid. He said that the Parks are being cleaned, and Summer Recreation camp is a success with the "Bogota Residents Only" policy. The town trees are beautiful, and upkeep is being addressed. He reported that the town is undergoing its annual audit at the present time.

Mayor Kelemen addressed a letter he received from a resident concerning the tax bills that were lost in the mail. Since state law requires that interest must be paid on late taxes whether a bill was received or not, Mayor Kelemen wrote a letter to Senator Weinberg and requested that she look at that law to see what can be done about it.

Administrator Scarpa reported that four lists were compiled concerning tree takedowns, trims, PSE&G tree issues, and sidewalk repairs. There were nine pages in total. \$8,000 worth of sidewalk repairs have been done already on one street. He explained that for many years tree and sidewalk issues were not addressed, so there is much to do. He commented on the new window in the Senior Center and announced that the new conference room is under construction. He said that DPW Superintendent Kohles reported that the pot-

hole patrol is ongoing. He noted that the items addressed to the Recreation Director, Jim Moore, are a work in progress. He reported that changes were made to the bid specs for the new DPW building in order to re-bid the project. He commented on the Borough receiving two grants for charging stations, and announced that Bogota received the following grants from the County: Senior Bus Driver- \$12,000, Project Success - \$20,000, Road Resurfacing - \$100,000.

Borough Attorney Bossong noted that River Development LLC is requesting a PILOT.

Council President Mitchell asked everyone to rise for a moment of silence out of respect for Mayor Kelemen's recent loss and for the many tragedies the Kelemen family have encountered this year.

Motion was made by Council President Mitchell, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to open the meeting up for Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Nicholas Zampetti thanked the Mayor and Council for all the good work they have done for Bogota.

Zenobia Castro reported that the park on Leonia Avenue has one cracked swing and no safety cushions. She requested "Curb your dog" signs throughout the town and complained about pot-holes on Preston Street.

Motion to close Citizen Remarks was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried.

Councilman Miranda stated that grant money was approved for playground safety cushions and that new swing seats are on order. He reminded everyone that many improvements have been made and are continuing to be made. It takes time. He thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Administrator Scarpa explained that the tree service that has been working in town was sent by PSE&G, not the town. He said that he will look into "Curb your Dog" signs. Street cleaning does not have a set schedule.

Motion to go into closed session was made by Council President Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried and Resolution 16-137C was added to the agenda. The meeting went into closed session at 9:25pm.

Meeting reconvened at 9:45pm and motion was made and approved to add the following Resolution to the agenda:

16-138 Authorizing Defense and Indemnification to former Borough Officials in the GRC Complaints brought by Michael Doss.

Borough Attorney Bossong explained how taxes will be paid by the 297 Palisade Avenue property based on the Pilot. He also reported that the Borough Planner prepared a cost proposal for a Master Plan for the entire borough.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Miranda. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:55pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.