

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, September 17, 2015 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers.

Salute to the flag was led by Councilwoman Fede.

Mayor Kelemen requested a moment of silence for Steve Quinn who was an integral part of the Bogota community volunteering as a Coach and as a planning board member. He was a great man.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, and Council members Fede, Mitchell, Napolitano, and Nunez were present. Council members Kohles and Robbins were absent.

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 presented a plaque to Nick Barese on behalf of the governing body for thirty two (32) years with the Bogota Baseball Organization where he served for 27 years as president. He led the BBO and the Buc Boosters while raising a family with his beautiful wife, Linda.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to open the public hearing on 2015 Budget Amendment (Resolution #15-119). There were no public comments, so motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilwoman Fede to close the public hearing.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

- 15-10 Payment of Claims
- 15-124 Refund Security Deposit to 123 Homestead Place
- 15-125 Refund Escrow to Riviera Maya Restaurant
- 15-126 Tax Check
- 15-127 Refer Redevelopment plan for the West Fort Lee Road property to Planning/Zoning Board for Review
- 15-128 Adopt 2015 Budget
- 15-129 Referral of Complaint

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

#1467 Refunding Bond Ordinance for \$415,000 –Expenses for Reinstatement of Officer Tasca

The following Approval took place with unanimous consent:

Social Affair Permit for the VFW for October 10, 2015 for an "Oldies but Goodies" concert

The following Minutes were approved with Councilman Mitchell abstaining from the September 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes because he was absent: August 20, 2015 and September 3, 2015

Old Business: Liquor License Fees were discussed. It was decided that the ordinance should be amended to freeze the 2015 rate or go back to the 2013 rate. It was decided to freeze the 2015 rate. An amendment ordinance will be prepared.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Kelemen announced that a letter will be going out soon to the residents concerning the revised garbage pick-up schedule which will begin in October. There will be two day a week garbage pick-up (Tuesday and Friday) for the whole town all year round. A private company will be used to allow Bogota DPW to repair pot holes, pick up leaves, and clean the parks. The DPW building, which has been in disrepair since 2012 will be repaired by the winter. The Mediator for the Police Contract put a policy in writing, and it will be submitted to the State.

A cleaning company was hired to clean all of Borough Hall and the Recreation Center. The turn-out gear for the Fire Department and Rescue will be delivered soon. Road work will take place September 24 and September 25. He spoke to the School Superintendent about it. The Recreation Department did a great job with the Summer Camp, and the Swim Club had a successful season. Last year there were a lot of problems at the crosswalks at Steen School. The second grade students wrote letters to Mayor and Council with some great ideas. There will be new signs by Steen School thanks to the students suggestions and the work of Administrator Scarpa and the Police. St. Joseph's Church is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There will be a special Mass on October 4<sup>th</sup> celebrated by Archbishop Hepta.

#### Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Environmental Commission met with the tree expert who will be doing tree inventory of the town and putting it on-line so it will be easy accessible. He will do half of the town this year and half next year. There is a scrap metal facility that takes old lights. Containers will be placed in front of Borough Hall, the library, the high school, and the DPW for people to drop off old lights. Money received will go to Bogota Beautiful for the spring planting. The DPW Superintendent will be putting up "No Smoking" signs in the appropriate areas. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, Bogota Beautiful is hoping to begin construction of the Community Garden. The Rescue Squad had a boot drive that she attended. She said they all had fun raising money for the Rescue Squad. Nickie Spiegel will be retiring October 30 and Thomas Schrinich will step up to take her place. The library will be closing for a week in October for renovations. Councilwoman Fede belongs to Rebuilding Together Bergen County which will be providing 10 year smoke detectors for residents in need to honor October as Fire Safety Month. For seniors there will be fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors available. She will bring applications next month.

Councilman Nunez reported that he and Administrator Scarpa met with the Senior Advisory Committee. The Senior room was painted and the new carpeting was ordered. Seniors are having problems getting on and off the Senior Bus, so he would like to look into a way to solve that problem. The Library is growing into the Senior Center. There was a Resolution passed in 1986 that talks about the Seniors and Library personnel working together. The Seniors asked Radwa Ali to meet with them. They asked for large print books and for some programs for

Seniors during the day. Ms. Ali said that she will work on that. Councilman Nunez wanted to explain Resolution 15-129 on the Consent Agenda. He said that he wished Councilwoman Kohles could be at this meeting since the resolution concerns her. He was very disappointed to read Councilwoman Kohles comments on the garbage pick-up. This has been an ongoing problem since she became a Council member. No member of council is allowed to have any involvement on anything concerning a family member. (Her husband is the DPW Superintendent.) She commented to the Bergen Record that the town could provide DPW service for 1/6 of the cost of the private company just hired. That is ludicrous. There is no way that we could do that. Everyone agreed that is a conflict of interest for her to comment on DPW matters. He said that he would be prohibited from being involved in anything concerning his wife. State ethics laws and borough ordinances address this. An independent agency should weigh in on this. Resolution 15-129 addresses that specifically.

Councilman Mitchell mentioned the VFW Social Affair to be held on October 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a wrestling match tomorrow night. He congratulated Bogota High School for being recognized as one of the best high schools in NJ News and World Report. A new gym teacher and a new football coach were hired. Bixby School has a new principal. All the schools look good with new painting etc. The Police Department caught two people trying to pass bad checks. Property maintenance is working with the bank, etc. for the building on Fort Lee Road. We are working on getting lights under the train trestle. St. Joseph's Carnival starts next week.

Councilman Napolitano said the whole paint job in the Senior Center was done for free by an Eagle Scout and his group, and a donation of \$700 was given to the Seniors. The Planning/Zoning Board is moving forward with the Redevelopment Plan. As for infrastructure, the Leonia Avenue job is going well and should be done by the end of September. Milling and paving will be done soon on some roads. He wanted to compliment the Mayor because meetings are civil, productive, professional and move along well.

Administrator's Report: Administrator Scarpa reported for Councilman Robbins that Engine Company 3 is holding the second annual Circus in Olsen Park with two shows at 5:00pm and 7:00pm on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. The annual blood drive will be held by Engine 1 at the Larch Avenue Firehouse on September 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00pm to 8:00pm. On October 6<sup>th</sup> from 6:30pm to 8:00pm will be Bogota Emergency Services Night. Mr. Scarpa reported that four candidates were interviewed for the DPW position and Tim Kueck was considered the best candidate for the job. Five candidates were interviewed for the Purchasing Control Agent position and Christopher Hasselkus was considered the best candidate for the job.

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell and seconded by Councilwoman Fede to hire Tim Kueck and Christopher Hasselkus. Motion carried.

Mr. Scarpa reported that Captain Sepp posted the notice for Police Chief position. Applications and supporting documents are due September 25<sup>th</sup>. Captain Sepp prepared a new Salary guide for the Crossing guard salaries as an increase was necessary. New salary ordinance will

go into effect on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Cleaning services have started for borough buildings. A new sound system will be installed in the Council Chambers. A big screen tv will be installed in the Senior Center. The Road Program will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>. One of the firehouses have rats that must be exterminated.

The Clerk reminded everyone that registration to vote in the upcoming election ends on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

Citizen Remarks:

Nick Zampetti remarked that it is hard to hear the Mayor and Council. He would like to hear the address again of the property mentioned. He is still concerned with the property at Linwood and Queen Anne Road where a 4 unit building was proposed, the property on the east side of Leonia Avenue, and the wall at the corner of Larch Avenue and West Fort Lee Road where there is some progress, but not adequate.

Hector Rodriguez is embarrassed that a member of the governing body attacked another member when she is not here to defend herself.

Nancy Sierra said that the fire horns are loud and bothersome in this town. It seems more than necessary. Can it be changed somehow?

George Silos said that we have had the technology for 30 years to change the horns. There is an alternative to horns. He also wanted to thank Councilman Nunez for his comments. It is impossible that the town is paying 6 times more to a private company for garbage pick-up. The DPW workers will be doing other necessary things.

Councilwoman Fede responded to Mr. Zampetti's question about the address discussed. It was Leonia Avenue and E. Fort Lee Road. She said she has stared at that wall. She also commented on the fire horns. They make her jump, so she would like for them to figure out a way to eliminate them.

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to adjourn at 8:45pm. Motion carried.