

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Wednesday, June 29, 2016, in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Connors, Fede, Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. 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 June 24, 2016.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC 16-12 Payment of Claims

- 16-105 Ratify Resolution to Support Submission of Application for NJ Dept of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program
- 16-106 Tax Court Judgment – Block 111, Lot 1.01
- 16-107 Tax Sale Redemption – Block 93, Lot 23
- 16-108 Tax Court Judgment- Block 40, Lot 8
- 16-109 Tax Court Judgment –Block 71, Lot 33
- 16-110 Liquor License Approvals
- 16-111 Appoint a representative and alternate to Community Development Committee
- 16-112 Hire Three Part-time Police Dispatchers
- 16-113 Change Orders for DPW Building
- 16-114 Honoring the Bergen Volunteers Center on its 50th Anniversary
- 16-115 Liquor License Transfer
- 16-116 Support to Deny Parole for Christopher Righetti
- 16-117 Authorize the Borough of Bogota to Apply for a BCCD Grant for Various Roadwork
- 16-118 Designating the Borough of Bogota as a Stigma-Free Zone
- 16-119 Endorse the Hackensack Regional Chamber of Commerce

The following Approvals were made by Council:

Waive permit fees for St. Joseph's Annual Carnival in September.

Minutes: 5/19/16 (Minutes for 6/2/16 were removed at Councilwoman Gates-Ferris request.)

Reports

Mayor Kelemen congratulated the public school administration for a job well done this year. He had presented a plaque to Cathy Allen, the elementary school music teacher, who retired after 35 years. He thanked Amaru and Isabel Bustamente for all their work on "Walking with the Mayor". He met with the Swim Club advisory committee, and all is well. The sink hole on 79 Walnut Avenue has been fixed as well as Elm Avenue. The Police Youth Academy Dinner was very nice, and he thanked Sgt. Lynch and Anna Geraghty for a great job. He is proud that Bogota is designated a Stigma-Free Zone.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris was unable to attend a meeting about the Route 4 Bridge that was held at the Riverside Square Mall, but she read in The Record that there are plans to rebuild the bridge and widen the lanes starting in 2018. An auxiliary lane will be added to ease the traffic flow. Work will be done to correct the traffic build-up on Route 4 East. She will be attending a Noise Abatement meeting on July 27 at Teterboro Airport.

Councilman Miranda thanked the DPW for the upkeep of the fields. The new machine is working well. He also thanked the Recreation Committee for updating the by-laws which were last updated in 1998. The new television at the Recreation Center has a new protective cover. Proper procedures need to be followed for the Recreation van for the safety of the children. He thanked Council President Mitchell and Officer Cole for providing free training to the Counselors. The Recreation Summer Camp Program has 56 students enrolled.

Councilwoman Fede said that the Community Forestry Grant has been approved. She attended a four hour meeting with the DEP about Storm water. The ditch clean-up and the poster contest helped to save the town from fines. Community Outreach is vital. The Rescue Squad obtained quotes for a new air conditioner. Michael Leone is now certified for Rescue. She thanked Councilman Connors and the Fire Department for providing water for the Community Garden. The library is looking for new computers and new furniture.

Council President Mitchell said that work is continuing to get a grant for I-pads for the Seniors. The Seniors would like the boxes removed from the Senior Center as soon as possible. The new window with the town logo will be installed soon. The "Brothers for Others" ceremony was very nice. The police will have new flooring and painting soon as well as new vests. The Youth Academy Dinner was a success. The Youth Academy has been in existence for six years, and it is requesting \$5,000.

Councilman Connors attended the June 20th meeting of the Board of Education. Steen School has a new principal. A new Special Ed teacher was hired. The Board of Education hired Bruno Associates for obtaining grants such as the Safe Routes to School grant. The Science Lab at the high school will be upgraded. All teachers are getting new laptops. He attended the awards ceremonies for sports and academics as well as the graduation ceremony. The schools are doing well. Joe DeMauro and Adam Schaefer of the Fire Department filled the rain barrels for the Community Garden.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the River Road/Elm Avenue Project will be coming to an end soon, and he gives credit to everyone for their patience. He met with the County and learned that Midtown Bridge will be closed for nine months to correct drainage problems on West Fort Lee Road. The County engineer will meet with the police. An alternate design presented by Bogota's engineer was rejected. The culvert will be done next year. A section of Palisade Avenue will be paved soon. \$155,000 in additional grant money was obtained for Leonia Avenue road resurfacing and drainage. West Shore Avenue improvements will begin soon as well. Safe Routes to School was a team effort with everyone working together. Ribbon cutting took place at the new DPW facility. DPW workers are happy to have a decent facility. Borough Hall renovations will begin soon. He thanked Councilwoman Fede for her diligence in reviewing the bill list. The Recreation Committee is working on a hand-out for the Recreation Camp.

Administrator Scarpa reported that the sidewalk program began on Oakwood Avenue at a cost of \$8,000. The new mason dump truck was delivered. The San Pro machine will be used all year round for the fields. Road resurfacing will begin soon. New bleachers were ordered for the fields. Issue with oil tanks from 1983 is moving forward. Soil test were done. The DEP meeting was very long because storm water reports had not been done for two years. The DEP sent four note takers with questions. The two new employees are working out well.

Borough Attorney Bossong had no report.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, Connors to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Janice Coniglio asked when the crosswalks and curbs will be painted. She said that the school crossing sign has been moved.

Raswana _____ asked about making payments for summer camp.

John Wolberg said that people are putting out garbage in plastic bags instead of cans. The ordinance for garbage should be reviewed. Pavers on the sidewalks are in disrepair. Overnight parking is still a problem. The new building on Palisade Avenue will need more parking. Can areas be designated as overnight parking for Bogota residents only?

The following people spoke about the volunteer ambulance squad: Daniel Sender, Yen Meyer, and Ray Dwyer.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Connors, to close Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Mr. Scarpa said that the crosswalks will be painted soon. He reported that the new ambulance cost \$223,000 while the average cost of an ambulance is \$150,000. The cost to taxpayers for an ambulance, supplies, and insurance must be considered. When the squad only answers 25% of calls, that is a safety issue.

Councilman Napolitano said that there was no politics involved in the decision to use Holy Name Hospital for ambulance services. It reduced response time and saved the town money. It also reduced safety risk. Information was requested from the ambulance squad and not received. The fire department came with a proposal, so the Council had something to work with. The Mayor and Council have both a financial and safety responsibility to the tax payer.

Councilman Miranda reported that two members of the volunteer ambulance squad charged \$65 and \$45 to provide CPR training for the counselors.

Councilwoman Fede said that clothing allowance request should be resubmitted by the volunteer first aid squad.

Mayor Kelemen said that he would like to see the Volunteer First Aid Squad come back. Membership is down everywhere. He requested a meeting with the Captain of the Ambulance Squad, but no one came. The Captain was told not to attend the meeting. The ambulance squad had great members many years ago, but most of them have died. Councilman Napolitano went to First Aid meetings last year with no quorum. We were told time and time again that the First Aid squad had no supplies, but we found three rooms full of supplies. Members of the squad took a trip costing \$7,000 for training paid for with contributions made to the squad. Those members could have received their training for free in New Jersey. One resident in Bogota had 8 ambulance calls and all were answered by Holy Name Hospital. Members of the Rescue Squad drove the ambulance many times. The residents' safety is the real issue. Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Connors. Motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2016