

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, August 15, 2013, in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:30 PM

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Robbins.

Roll Call: Mayor McHale, Council members Uceta, Jackson, Konigsberg, Burdiez and Robbins were present. Councilman Nunez was 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 3, 2013

Mayor McHale and Councilwoman Uceta presented a Proclamation to Councilman Tito Jackson in honor of 30 years of service to the First Aid Squad. The Mayor then called up members of the First Aid Squad who presented a plaque to Councilman Jackson. Councilman Jackson thanked everyone and spoke of volunteerism making Bogota a great town.

Motion was made to have a Public Hearing on matching grant of \$22,004 for an adult exercise/wellness station in Olsen Park. No one spoke. Public Hearing was closed

The following items on the consent agenda were approved:

Resolutions:

- 13-158 Endorsing resolution for Adult Exercise Station for Olsen park; obtain a matching Grant of \$22,004 from the County
- 13-159 Settle tax appeals for Sauter Management for six years
- 13-160 Resolution for 297 Palisade Ave
- 13-161 To support and participate in the Volunteer Tuition Credit Program

The following minutes were approved:

Minutes - July 18 - Councilwoman Uceta abstained

August 1 - Councilmembers Uceta and Robbins abstained.

The following resolution was adopted:

PC: 13-09

Introduction of the following ordinances took place:

#1432 Pilot for 297 Palisade Avenue – this was approved unanimously by all present.

#1433 Dogs in the parks – council voted on its introduction but made the following comments: Councilman Burdiez wanted to wait until a full council is present; Councilman Jackson was assured by the Police Chief that violations will be enforced; Councilman Robbins asked whether the dogs will be walked on the walking track only; Councilman Jackson confirmed that; Councilwoman Uceta wants to hear from the public.

Committee Reports:

Councilman Robbins – the ladder truck from the County died; our ladder truck should be back by mid-September; Teaneck loaned us their truck.

Councilman Konigsberg advised that the Library board has not met yet; he was amazed at the training of the Rescue Squad and the pool and water rescuers.

Councilman Jackson received 3 quotes for refurbishing the police department and the low quote was \$33,425. There was a network crash at the police department and they need new servers; the radios in the communications' center are having problems; the council's dais should be moved to the senior center and Administrator Greiner will speak to the architect. Councilman Konigsberg advised that one Library Board member complained that the Library has not been approached about this proposed move; Mayor McHale will speak to this member. Councilman Jackson will request that Ray Dwyer update the website; and the restored 1959 emergency truck will be on display soon.

Councilman Jackson advised that Gordon Kohles requested the purchase of a roll off truck at a cost of \$180,000; Councilman Burdies argued that taxes are rising and we have no money for equipment which is used occasionally, and he wants to know how much has been spent so far for this rental truck; Councilman Konigsberg said it is a good idea to see that number.

Administrator Greiner announced that the North Avenue Renovation project is completed. The town is moving at a steady pace to repair sidewalks and curbs. The Administrator met with Hess Corp. representatives concerning three parcels of land for sale. Mr. Waters, representing the owner of the former Sifford property would like to buy two of the parcels. The borough will look into purchasing those parcels. Program for personal protection gear has been capped at \$10,000 which will only buy three sets.

Borough Attorney Monaghan explained the reason for the pilot for 297 Palisade Avenue. The developer pays less and cannot file tax appeals; the government keeps more of the tax money. This pilot encourages developers.

Mayor McHale reported that on Shred Day, August 3rd, 3,000 pounds of paper were shredded. Three students earned credit for community service hours. The Mayor is anticipating a DOT grant to repave E. Fort Lee Road and Leonia Avenue as well as a Community Development grant for sidewalk repair.

Motion was made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Konigsberg, to open the meeting to the public. Motion passed.

Veronica of 229 Chestnut Avenue complained about large tax increases with no changes to her home. Borough Attorney Monaghan explained that expenses continue to increase.

She was advised to speak to the borough tax assessor, Patrick Wilkins about her excessive tax increase.

Cornelia Geraghty of 446 Larch Avenue spoke about overnight parking and the lack of parking spaces. She would like overnight parking be allowed since so many homeowners have many cars and small driveways. Councilman Robbins and Councilman Jackson said that the Council is looking into it.

Don Stofan of 316 Second Place asked about the Dogs in Park Ordinance and was told that the public hearing would be in September.

Francisca Becker of 136 Chestnut Avenue complained about unfair treatment of her children and their friends who were gathered for a surprise birthday party. They were questioned by the police and forced to show identification. The Mayor and Administrator agreed to look into it.

Don Stofan of 316 Second Place asked the Borough Attorney about an ordinance concerning a decent dress code. Attorney Monaghan has an ordinance from Wildwood that he will use as a guide to prepare one for Bogota.

Juan Leon of 249 Leonia Avenue complained about his taxes increasing even though he won two tax appeals. Borough Attorney Monaghan remembered Mr. Leon receiving a 5% tax break for living near the recycling center. Mr. Leon would like to see a breakdown, so he was directed to meet with the tax assessor, Patrick Wilkins.

Mayor McHale reported that the Recycling Center may be moving. He also reported that the town had many expenses because of the storm. Councilman Jackson confirmed that.

The following resolution was adopted:
13-157A Closed Session

The meeting reconvened and the following resolution was adopted:
13-162 Hiring a public advocate to assess damage of DPW building which was damaged during the Sandy hurricane.

Adjournment of this meeting took place at 8:45 PM

*