

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, June 2, 2016, in the Bogota Senior Center at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Miranda.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Connors, Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Councilwoman Fede was absent. Also present were Administrator Scarpa, Borough Attorney Bossong, and CFO DiMaria.

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.

Representatives from the Bogota Fire Department, Mr. Radburn and Mr. DeMauro presented the new turn-out gear which was purchased through bond money. The old turn out gear was 20 years old and unsafe. Sixty five sets of new gear were purchased including helmets, coats, gloves, hoods, bunker pads, bunker boots, suspenders, and scot paks. The firefighters' names are now on the coats. Inspections are done every year by outside chiefs (Jersey City and Sparkhill). The Bogota Fire Department was proud to be well equipped this year and are grateful to this year's council and last year's council.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

PC 16-11 Payment of Claims

- 16-099 Authorizing Tax Collector to Prepare and Mail Estimated Tax Bills
- 16-100 Overpayment of Taxes – Block 111, Lot 3
- 16-101 Tax Sale Redemption – Block 73, Lot 21
- 16-102 Liquor License Approval
- 16-103 Adopt the 2016 Municipal Budget
- 16-104 Approving the hiring of new Computer/IT firm for Borough Offices and the Police Department

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances was held:

- #1484 Amending Chapter XIX Entitled "International Property Maintenance Code" to Reflect 2015 Version
- #1485 Requiring the Owner of any Real Property Abutting any Fire Hydrant to Clear such Fire Hydrant of Snow

The following Approvals were made by Council:

Hose Company #3 accepts John (Jack) Dunn as a full member.
Minutes: 4/21/16, 5/7/16

Old Business discussed : Res 16-098A Authorizing the Entering of an Agreement with Holy Name EMS for Basic Life Services. Resolution was approved 5-0 in open session of the May 19, 2016 meeting

Reports

Mayor Kelemen discussed the Michael Granquist Awards Dinner. He thanked the American Legion, the VFW, the Police Chief, the Fire Department, the Rescue Squad, Gordon Kohles and the DPW for all their on Memorial Day. It was nice to see pastors and ministers who attended the Memorial Day Service at

11:00am in front of Borough Hall. All the inspections went well. He apologized for the protesting done during the Memorial Day parade by some of the First Aid Squad members. A Memorial Day parade is no place for a protest.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported one noise complaint. She said that the First Aid Squad provided 70 years of service to the town. She felt that Mayor and Council did not try to work with First Aid to correct the problems with response time. Holy Name was not discussed at the meetings except in closed session, nor with any First Aid Squad officers. Teaneck Volunteer Ambulance recently offered to respond to calls at no charge to the Borough. She would like to know what Holy Name Ambulance Services will cost the town. She supports the First Aid Squad's actions during the Memorial Day parade. Her daughter Anna and Sgt. Lynch founded the Junior Police Academy over 5 years ago, donated many hours to this program, and should not be defamed.

Councilman Miranda reported that new equipment was being purchased for the Recreation Center including a new television. The floors have been well cleaned. The fields are being leveled for the safety of the children. The DPW is doing a great job in town. Tomorrow they will be training on the new machine.

Councilman Mitchell reported that the police have been working around the clock with PSE&G. Brothers for Others painting was donated. June 18th will be the dedication ceremony. The Youth Academy dinner will take place on Friday night from 7pm till 10pm. The police are working on getting a drug box. He appreciated the police marching in the Memorial Day parade. The Senior Citizens cancelled their meeting this month.

Councilman Connors reported on the Fire Inspections that took place. They went to each Fire House, and the men and women did a great job. He thanked all the volunteers for doing a fantastic job. Board of Education projects are still being decided. Surveys are still being done on the parking lot. He spoke to Chief Maye about the overnight parking problem and is hoping to have some kind of solution in the fall.

Councilman Napolitano reported on infrastructure. The Palisade Avenue project will start after school is done for the summer. Mr. Scarpa entered the town into the Pascack Valley shared services project which saved the town so much money on roadwork. The DPW building is in good shape. Pre-construction on Borough Hall will take place this month. Work will begin next month. The grant writer left the firm. The new grant writer will try to get a "Safe Routes to School" grant.

Administrator Scarpa reported that Computer and IT services were handled by Detective Loriano and the Police Department. The company they chose was vetted by the State Police. San Pro and a new television were purchased for the Recreation Center. New safer bleachers were purchased. June 9th will be the grand opening of the DPW building on Leonia Avenue. Stormwater reports were not done for 2013 and 2014. The town was cited by the DEP. The reports are being done now. The town is participating in an auction in Paramus for the old ambulance and truck. The recent Moody's report shows Bogota in a favorable financial condition.

Motion to open up to Citizen Remarks was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Connors. Motion carried.

The following individuals offered comments about the First Aid Squad: Tito Jackson, Karen Fusco, Rona Gil de Leon, Dan Lauber, Lillian Luck, George Shalhoub, Pat Kearns, Ann O'Sullivan, Rosemary Gasevich,

Pat Garrison Lanard, Ray Dwyer, Pamela Dirr, Gabrielle Carpenter, Daniel Senter, Rebecca O'Hagan, George Silos, Lisa Kohles, Lynn Demetrakis, Connie Carpenter and Denise Brunner.

Rosemary Gasevich, President of the Senior Citizens Club, requested that chairs that are borrowed from the Senior Center be returned to the Senior Center. She also asked when the Filebank boxes will be removed from the Senior Center.

Shirath Abraham requested that agendas and minutes be updated on the website.

Katie Ferris thanked the Mayor and Council for not cancelling the Memorial Day Parade as some towns cancelled it due to impending rain. She thanked Councilwoman Gates-Ferris for her public and private sector work. She thanked the First Aid Squad, the Police, and the Mayor and Council for their work.

Michele Rugar felt that "Real Estate" was not a valid topic for closed session.

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

Councilman Napolitano said that he has asked for an Active Roster from the First Aid Squad for a year and has not received one. Using Holy Name Hospital saves the town money, saves lives, and reduces response time. Police Dispatchers said that 65% of calls are answered by hospitals now. Former Councilman Robbins said that when the new ambulance was purchased, the Mayor and Council at the time wanted to do third party billing.

Mayor Kelemen said that the First Aid Squad is not being disbanded at this time. The Holy Name contract is for one year. Response time under 10 minutes is important. He is proud of the accomplishments of the active members. Last year, Mr. Napolitano went to meetings that had no quorum. Mayor Kelemen requested a meeting last summer, but the squad did not meet with him. Hiring part-time EMT people to be on call would be expensive. Squad money was used last year to go to a convention in Delaware, while classes are available in New Jersey. The First Aid Squad members from years ago were the best. They gave so much of their time and would do anything for anyone. The manpower is not there now. The Rescue Squad members are used as First Aid drivers. Mayor Kelemen made a public apology to all who were offended by the First Aid Squad on Memorial Day. He then explained that right now, when a hospital ambulance has to be used, people with insurance use their insurance, and people without insurance are covered by the town. There is no difference. The old ambulance is being auctioned.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda to go into closed session. Motion carried and Resolution 16-104 A was added to the agenda.

When meeting reconvened, motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Connors, to change the date of the next meeting from 6/23/16 to 6/22/16 since 6/23/16 is Bogota High School graduation. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Connors to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:42PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk Jeanne Cook.