

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council held on May 4, 2017 in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:30pm.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Macfarlane.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen and Council members Fede, Gates-Ferris, Macfarlane, Miranda, Murphy and Napolitano were present. Also present were Borough Administrator Scarpa and substitute Borough Attorney Morin.

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 30, 2016.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Gates-Ferris, seconded by Councilwoman Murphy, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

Michele Rugar requested that the Mayor and Council members speak louder. She asked why the minutes are not available to the public. She was concerned about the rice issue with Mr. DiMaria and wanted to know why it was not on the agenda.

Martin McCart, the union representative for the United Public Service employees union, said that there has been some progress with correcting the pensions for DPW employees, but there are still problems that need to be resolved. There have been fines imposed on town for employees not being added to the pension system.

Tim Kueck, and Phil Greco, DPW employees, expressed concern about their pension issues.

Connie Carpenter said that Councilman Napolitano reported that taxes were raised 5% in 2014 which is incorrect. The increase was 1.08% and 3.63% total. She asked if revenue was received from the developer and said that the 2014 budget is illegible on the website. Tax rates have not been updated since 2012. Annual Debt Statements has not been updated since 2013 and Annual Financial Statements had not been updated since 2012.

Lisa Kohles asked who is taking the responsibility for the fines imposed by the state for the pension problems.

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

Councilwoman Murphy said that she was disappointed that the rice notice was not on the agenda. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris apologized to the DPW workers and said that many employees in town were suffering from incompetence on the part of the...She could not say what the real reason was, but that it is going to be addressed.

The Borough Clerk pointed out that the rice notice request was put on the agenda under "Closed Session – Personnel" as soon as she received the third Council member's request for the rice notice.

Attorney Morin said that he understands questions on by-laws procedures. The whole concept of the RICE notices is for the protection of employees and the Borough. The Labor Attorney provided a path to follow on Rice Notices, and the Council should follow the advice of the Borough's labor counsel.

Councilman Napolitano said that the proper procedures should be followed to avoid unnecessary litigation against the Borough.

Mayor Kelemen said that the DPW workers work very hard, and he is sorry for any malfunctions that caused injury to them. He said that the issues will be settled.

The Following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved:

17-087 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption for Block 71, Lot 9

17-088 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption for Block 69, Lot 6

17-089 Tax Sale Certificate Redemption for Block 45, Lot 5

17-090 Renew Participation in the BCUA Solid Waste Cooperative Marketing Program

17-091 Authorizing Granting of License for Fence at 344 River Road

The following Ordinance was Introduced and Approved:

#1498 Amending Chapter VII Section 9 Entitled "Bus Stops" and Schedule XII to Relocate an Existing Bus Stop

Motion was made by Councilwoman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Napolitano to approve the Minutes of 4/6/17 and 4/27/17 with an amendment to the 4/6/17 minutes to include discussion that took place on the two resolutions added after the "Noon on the Tuesday before the meeting" deadline.

Mayor Kelemen requested that approval be granted for St. Joseph's Tricky Tray Raffle and to waive the fees although this approval did not make it on the agenda by the deadline. Councilwoman Fede motioned to approve the raffle, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried with the stipulation that a letter be sent to all parties that run raffles to turn in applications a month in advance. It should also be put on the website.

Discussion: Administrator Scarpa requested that an advertisement be made to hire three summer help employees for field maintenance, etc. at \$15 per hour. Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to advertise for DPW summer help. Motion carried.

Mayor Kelemen spoke about letters he has been receiving from angry residents about property maintenance issues. He said that proper protocol should be used in those cases. People should contact the Property Maintenance official who will send a notice to the homeowner to correct the conditions. By law, time must be given to residents to correct conditions, and a summons will be issued if nothing is done.

Mayor Kelemen wanted it to be known that he signs the checks generated from the payment of claims every month after the meeting. He also reminded everyone that tree and sidewalk complaints should be sent to the clerk to be recorded. He wanted to thank the VFW for putting flags on the bridge over Route 80 on Queen Anne Road for Memorial Day. He said that he is bringing back the Volunteers' Dinner to honor all the volunteers who work hard for the town including auxiliary police, firefighters, and rescue workers.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris had no report.

Councilman Miranda: Recreation Committee – He went to the Recreation Committee meeting and found that the Committee and Coaches are concerned with not enough volunteering. The Committee requested offering free fingerprinting for parents. The Committee

also requested 3 day programs for day care. Since the football program is diminishing, the committee suggested adding flag football which is less likely to cause injury. Discussion on 3 day program for day care took place. It was decided that the Recreation Director should attend a Council meeting to discuss it.)

Police Department: He reported that the Police have issued 137 violation notices, 124 motor vehicle summonses, and made 4 arrests. He asked about an employee receiving a salary increase for extra work, and was advised that the Department Head must make the recommendation.

Councilwoman Fede: Environmental Commission: She said that Arbor Day was the last Friday in April. She went to Steen School and Bixby School where she gave out douglas firs. The poster contest took place in the schools, and the winning posters will be displayed in the library. A grant application was sent to the state for approval. On Sunday, the Community Garden expansion will take place.

Rescue Squad: She reported that the Boot Drive was a great success.

Councilman Napolitano: Senior Citizens: He announced that there was no senior meeting since last week and the Senior Advisory meeting will be held on May 8th.

Infrastructure: He reported that the Pre-Construction meeting for Palisade Avenue took place, and a change order is called for due to the flooding issue on Palisade Avenue. The West Shore Avenue project has Notice to Proceed for May 8th. The DPW building project is on schedule. The Mid-town bridge work is moving along well, and people are adjusting to the closure.

Finance: He reported that the Budget hearing will take place May 18th. There is a 0% tax increase. For the Bergen County Open Space Grant, the letter of intent was sent requesting \$210,377. The request includes repair of basketball courts at Olsen Park which have a drainage issue.

Councilwoman Murphy - Fire Department: She reported that there was a Fire Chief's meeting last Night, but she was not able to attend.

Councilman Macfarlane – Library Board: He reported that the Dedication Ceremony for Nikki Spiegel will take place this Saturday, May 6th.

Administrator Scarpa announced that the grants person delivered the Letter of Intent for the Open Space Grant. The Palisade Avenue work will begin in July. The storage building at the Recreation Center has been unused for a long time. The Recreation Director had it repaired, so the dumpster can be removed. The Recreation building will be power-washed. There will be new signage and the electronic sign will be installed soon. Woodwork at Borough Hall needs to be repaired, and there is a broken window to repair. Landscaping is done. Two fire department vehicles and a new sweeper need to be on the agenda for the next meeting. On May 8th at 6:00pm he will attend a County meeting for last year's grant requests including mulch and playground equipment.

Motion to go into closed session was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilwoman Fede. Motion carried, and the closed session began at 8:45pm.

After the meeting reconvened, Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Miranda, to adjourn. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Cook, Borough Clerk.