

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, February 18, 2016 in the Bogota Council Chambers at 7:45pm.

Salute to the flag was led by Councilman Miranda.

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

Discussion took place concerning PC16-04 Payment of Claims. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris requested that the Council by-laws be gender neutral. Borough Attorney Bossong suggested that gender neutrality be added to Resolution 16-040 and also explained the tax appeal settlements on the consent agenda.

The following Consent Agenda was approved:

PC16-04 Payment of Claims

16-040 Resolution to Amend Council By-Laws

16-041 Support for the Pascack Valley Mayors' opposition to the Pension & Health Benefit Study Commission Report Dated February 24, 2015

16-042 Tax Sale Redemption

16-043 Settlement of Tax Appeal – NAH Realty

16-044 Settlement of Tax Appeal – Fairmount Properties

16-045 Settlement of Tax Appeal – Laurel Associates

16-046 Authorizing the Preparation of Specifications for the 2016 Municipal Road Paving Program for the Pascack Valley Cooperative Pricing System #107-PVCPS

16-047 Appoint Genesis Liu as Webmaster

16-048 Change Order for Renovations and Improvements to DPW facility

16-049 Authorize the Bogota Police Department to apply and participate in the 1033 Program

16-050 Settlement of Tax Appeal – Bogota Royale Inv

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinances occurred: (Voting Record attached)

#1476 Bond Ordinance

#1477 An Ordinance Amending Schedule VI of Section 7-5 Entitled "One Way Street"

#1478 An Ordinance Amending Schedule XVII of Section 7-11 Entitled "Parking Reserved for Physically Handicapped Persons"

#1479 An Ordinance Amending Schedule IIC of Section 7-3,4 Entitled "Parking Prohibited During Certain Hours of the Day"

#1480 An Ordinance Repealing Ordinance 2-8 Et Seq. Entitled "A Board of Recreation Commissioners", and establishing a Recreation Committee

Approval: Minutes of 1/21/16, 1/28/16, and 2/4/16 were approved.

#### Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris did not meet with the First Aid Squad, but she met with Mr. Scarpa and saw that many First Aid bills were paid. Bogota Beautiful has a 5 year plan. There was one noise complaint on 1/26/16.

Councilman Miranda thanked the Mayor and Council for following through with his recommendation to establish a Recreation Committee. He would like to see the fields maintained more efficiently and cost effectively. He suggested better advertisement of the Recreation sports programs. Credit card machines should be used. The Recreation Center needs to be cleaned better, and a log should be kept to track the cleaning.

Councilwoman Fede reported that the Library Board amended the library by-laws including displaying a Code of conduct, rules for internet use, and the policy for unattended children. The Library Board discussed security measures in light of a stairwell incident and a computer incident. She recommended signing up for the Library Newsletter to learn of the scheduled events. The Rescue Squad is going to get County approval for the Boot Drive. They are having a barbeque in July. Incident reports need improvement. They may add a mailbox to the front of the building. Diane Mancini is the new Chairperson for the Environmental Commission. There will be a Green Fair on March 19 which will include a bee keeper and distribution of energy efficient light bulbs. The Community Forestry Plan will be updated.

Councilman Mitchell reported that the Senior Citizens will be having an executive meeting in March. He would like to see a new borough hall. He said that Captain Sepp did a great job helping a displaced family in town. Then he asked the Police Chief, Daniel Maye, to speak. Chief Maye reported that there were 2,201 police calls in January and over 529 summonses were issued. The 1033 program allows municipal law enforcement agencies to get federal supplies such as radios, first aid equipment, furniture, etc. He explained the Active Shooter Program. Bogota is behind and needs to update security at the schools. He is hoping to get a grant to have all the schools assessed and updated. He spoke about the Hero Campaign based on a West Point graduate who was killed by a drunk driver. He warned everyone about IRS scams and said that he will be giving a talk in the Senior Center soon about them. Councilman Mitchell suggested having "baseball" cards made of the Bogota police officers.

Councilman Connors agreed that "baseball" cards of the police officers is a good idea. He reported that Engine 1 received three commendations from the Bergen County Freeholders for their extraordinary work at the Avalon fire. Fireman Adam Schaeffer would like to start the Junior Fire Fighter program again. Inspections for 297 Palisade Avenue are done and March 1 is the expected occupancy date. Bergen County will continue to loan trucks to municipalities but will now charge a rental fee. He would like to see an ordinance drafted about residents cleaning off fire hydrants after snow storms. He spoke to the Superintendent of Schools about starting a youth club. He would be willing to organize it.

Councilman Napolitano reported that the bridge on Anderson Street is being renovated, and then work will begin on the Midtown Bridge. PSE&G are working on the Elm Avenue/River Road project and hopefully will work on road paving once that is done. Drainage problems on Queen Anne Road and Leonia Avenue have been corrected. The budget will be introduced soon. The Finance Committee is happy with the purchasing procedures that are now in place. The DPW building will be completed soon, and Borough Hall renovations will be bid on soon. This administration has invested more money in the DPW and the volunteer organizations than in anything else. Now that there will be a Recreation Committee, he and Councilman Mitchell are hoping to invest in the parks and the Recreation building to help the children of the community. The Planning and Zoning Board drafted a Developer's agreement and sent it to the attorney for review. The lease for the Swim Club is moving forward. The Borough Engineer will attend a meeting in March to discuss the latest developments.

Mayor's report: Mayor Kelemen spoke to Bogota Beautiful and said that everything will be fine. He is happy to see Eileen Karpoff on the library board, and he thanked the Police Chief for speaking. He said that there is a need for improvement to children's services and for buildings and grounds work. Police issues and First Aid issues need to be addressed. The Board of Education is ongoing and proactive. It is good to see three board of education members at this meeting because a good working relationship is necessary. Mr. Barese arranged a meeting with CSX railroad, and we discussed fixing crosswalks and signs. Mayor Kelemen suggested a crossing guard at the high school for the safety of the children. The swim club lease meeting will take place on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Scarpa reported that it would be beneficial to have a monitor in the main entrance area with employees' names, etc. The court was monitored and it went well. The Police did a survey of street lights that were out and sent the list to PSE&G. Aerosol cans, paint cans, and fluorescent lights must be disposed of properly. The DPW building should be completed soon.

Clerk's Report: The clerk reported that many positive comments have been received by residents concerning the DPW and the improved conditions of the town itself. Also, on February 14, the police, building, fire, and Board of Health all worked together to help a family in distress. She was proud of all the departments.

A motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Connors, to open the meeting to Citizen Remarks. Motion carried.

John Powner said that a street sign on Fairview Avenue needs repair. He spoke about his desire to improve the Recreation Center programs. He and his neighbors see improvements in the town and would like to see those improvements continue.

Rebecca O'Hagan said that she is new to town and would like to help out in any way she can to make the town better.

Amanda Montgomery is a Board of Education member and requested a crossing guard in front of the high school.

Michele Rugar would like a copy of the by-laws and asked if the Mayor and Council will be televising their meetings since the past administration began the installation of equipment.

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

Councilman Mitchell said that he would like to see a crossing guard in front of the high school. Councilman Connors asked if a police car could be there. Administrator Scarpa pointed out that his interest in the betterment of Bogota is the same as the Mayor and Council.

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Miranda to go into closed session at 10:00pm. Motion carried.

The following closed session resolution was adopted: 16-050A

The meeting reconvened and motion was made by Councilwoman Fede, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jeanne Cook, Borough Clerk.