

Minutes of the work session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 6:00pm in the Council Chambers.

Salute to the flag was led by Councilman Mitchell.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Fede, Mitchell, Napolitano, Nunez, and Robbins were present. Councilwoman Kohles 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 October 30, 2015.

Motion was made by Councilman Nunez, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to go into closed session to interview candidates for Police Chief. Motion carried.

Motion was made to go back into Open Session by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved unanimously.

15-140 Resolution accepting donation of firefighting foam and authorizing execution of agreement with the County of Bergen regarding the terms thereof

15-141 Cancelling small uncollectible tax balance

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Robbins, to add the following Resolution to the Agenda: (voting record attached.)

15-142 Nominate Candidate to Rank of Police Chief

Councilman Mitchell nominated Daniel Maye to be the new Police Chief, and Councilman Nunez seconded the nomination. Motion carried. Voting record attached.

Mr. Scarpa announced that Daniel Maye will be sworn in as Police Chief tomorrow morning, November 6, 2015 and ceremoniously sworn in on December 3, 2015 at the Work Session of the Mayor and Council.

Introduction and approval of the following Ordinances took place:

#1471 An ordinance amending the Rate of Reimbursement by Private Contractors for the Use of Members of the Bogota Police Department.

#1472 An Ordinance Amending the license Fees for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages

Public Hearing and Adoption of the following Ordinance took place:

#1469 An Ordinance of the Borough of Bogota Naming a Portion of West Broad Street, from Elm Avenue to Larch Avenue, in honor of former Police Chief Henry J. Smith

#1470 An Ordinance of the Borough of Bogota adopting the Redevelopment Plan Pursuant to the Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:12A-1, et seq., for property located at 172, 229 & 250 West Fort Lee Road.

Mr. Waters of the River Development Bogota, LLC said that his group is aware of the concerns of the Planning and Zoning Board and that they have a plan to take care of the financial obligations.

Motion was made and seconded to add the following Resolution to the agenda. Motion carried.
15-143 Designation of River Development Bogota LLC as Redeveloper for West Fort Lee Road
Redevelopment Area.

Discussion took place concerning advertising for RFQs to hire professionals for 2016. Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to approve the advertising of RFQs. Motion carried.

Councilman Mitchell reported a traffic problem at St. Joseph's School on East Fort Lee Road. At this time, there is no parking from 8:00am to 4:00pm. He feels that if the time of no parking was changed to 7:00am to 4:00pm, the traffic problem would be alleviated. Administrator Scarpa will have the Police Chief look into it.

Councilman Mitchell also feels that 4th Place should be made a one way street going west. He reported that the Leonia Avenue flooding problem has been resolved after many years. Borough Engineer Costa did a great job, and he is hoping for a grant to complete all of Leonia Avenue.

Councilman Nunez reported that a resident on Queen Anne Road had flooding issues, and the bid opening for the repair of this issue will be November 20th.

Councilman Napolitano reported that utility companies that open the streets are responsible for repairs from the center of the street to the curb.

Administrator Scarpa had no report.

Councilman Robbins gave a sealed letter to the Borough Clerk from Councilwoman Kohles to be distributed to the Mayor and Council.

Citizen Remarks:

Art Sopelsa, a Recreation Commissioner, commented on a letter sent to him by the CFO concerning the legality of playing cards at the Recreation Center. He said that the prosecutor should be addressing it. He volunteered in Bogota for many years and would like an apology from the CFO if nothing was illegal.

Zenovia Castro of Preston Street said that Bogota Demographics are changing. We have many liquor stores but no supermarkets. We need to have Bogota Day and involve store owners in the event. We need to bring life back to Bogota.

George Silos congratulated Mayor Kelemen and Councilwoman Fede on their election victory. He urged the Mayor and Council to make sure that Bogota businesses are part of the Hess Redevelopment Plan and not just residential.

Lois Mitchell congratulated Mayor Kelemen and Councilwoman Fede, Councilman-Elect Connors, and Councilman Elect-Miranda on their election victory.

Hector Rodriguez also congratulated the winners of the 2015 General Election and then read a letter from Councilwoman Kohles in which she resigned her position as Councilwoman effective immediately.

John Powner thanked Councilman Nunez for his service to the community because his heart and intent were with the people of Bogota. He congratulated Mayor Kelemen on his election victory.

Councilwoman Fede encouraged people to attend Planning and Zoning Board meetings in order to have a voice concerning the Hess Redevelopment plan. She also commented on Councilwoman Kohles letter.

She explained that mud-slinging is part of the game of politics, and she experienced it first hand when she decided to run for Council the first time. She is sorry that Councilwoman Kohles resigned, but she respects her decision.

Councilman Mitchell commented on the Hess Redevelopment plan saying that he wants Bogota to have life again and encouraged people to attend the Planning and Zoning meetings. One person cannot create change on his own. We need to work together.

Councilman Napolitano explained that the Redevelopment Plan was written by the Borough Planner and is available for the public to look at. The Master Plan was updated. Bogota downtown needs work, and this is the beginning.

Councilman Nunez spoke about the ribbon cutting at the Senior Center last Friday due to the improvements there. He said that new furniture would be included in a bond next year. He has been the liaison to the Senior Citizens and feels that every dollar spent on their behalf is worth it. The Senior population continues to grow, and it is our responsibility to care for them. He also commented on the Hess Redevelopment plan. A general guide was put in place tonight, and he does not anticipate a problem. Investors only invest where there is a return. He was outraged at the major tax abatement with the 297 Palisade Avenue project, and that the public did not become aware until after the shovels were in the ground. However it is quality construction. We need to be informed and support each other and not make being Democrat or Republican the label that defines us. He said that his time spent as a Councilman has not been easy. He had to move away from fellow Democrats to fight for what is right. There are many good people here who have the best interest of Bogota at heart, and, hopefully, we will all be able to work together now to do what is right.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano. Motion carried. The following Resolution was added to the agenda.
15-143A Closed Session – Litigation

Upon returning to Open Session, motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Mitchell, to adjourn at 9:40pm. Motion carried.