

Minutes of the Work Session of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at the council chambers of Borough Hall at 7:30 PM

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilwoman Uceta

Roll Call: Mayor McHale, Council members Uceta, Burdiez, Jackson, and Nunez were present and Councilman Konigsberg 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 1, 2011

Attorney Monaghan conferred oaths of office on Councilwoman Wanda Uceta to fulfill J. Noto's unexpired two-year term, and on Councilman Brophy who vacated his present seat from the J. Lyons' unexpired term at 7:30 PM at the start of the December 1, 2011, work session, and won Tara Sharp's one year unexpired seat in the general election of November 8, 2011.

Both candidates expressed their thanks to all who voted for them and they would try their best for the residents of the town.

For the unexpired one month term of John Lyons, from which Michael Brophy will vacate his present seat on December 1, 2011, at 7:30 PM, in order to be sworn into the unexpired one year term of Tara Sharp, which he won in the Nov. 8, 2011 election, the Bogota Democratic Municipal Committee recommended three names to consider, which are: Evaristo Burdiez, Jr.; Mazie A. Shuler and Robert V. Ferro. Council unanimously voted for Evaristo Burdiez, Jr. to fulfill the 31 day unexpired term of J. Lyons' seat.

Attorney Monaghan conferred the oath of office on Evaristo Burdiez who completed the unexpired term ending December 31, 2011, of J. Lyons. Councilman Burdiez thanked all for their confidence in his future duties.

Roll Call: Mayor McHale, and Council members Uceta, Burdiez, Jackson, Brophy, and Nunez were present; Councilman Konigsberg was absent.

A Public Hearing on ordinance took place for the following ordinance:

#1406 Rules, regulations, penalties, fines for dogs in public parks and recreation areas

Art Sopelsa, Recreation Commissioner, was present to voice a negative opinion of having dogs in the park – he was concerned about the health and welfare of children who are constantly frequenting the play areas. Councilman Jackson disagreed; Councilman Nunez felt an accommodation for “dogs only” could be established, but the ordinance was tabled.

The following items on the consent agenda were approved:

- Resolutions for voting: Consent Agenda
- 11-234 Appropriation transfers
 - 11-235 Appoint Yesenia Frias as part time crossing guard
 - 11-236 Emergency resolution for \$175,000 police and DPW s/w
 - 11-237 Hire Richard Donohue as a substitute hearing officer for R. Tasca matter
 - 11-238 Police Department's in-car surveillance equipment

PC 11-12 was approved separately

Discussion took place on the following issues:

The contract for solid waste, recycling, and vegetative waste collection and disposal was awarded to B & B Disposals – resolution 11-239 was then added to the agenda and then voted upon, after which all unanimously approved it.

Councilman Nunez presented samples of a “Pay to Play” ordinance for their review, and it will be revisited in the future.

Councilman Nunez wants to abolish the Recreation Commission in its present form and place that department under the umbrella of the municipality. Attorney Monaghan advised that, in such a case, the commissioners and employees at the Recreation department should be “riced” in order to comply with the law.

The decision to also “rice” the property maintenance employees was agreed upon.

A resolution will be placed on the next meeting agenda to become a member of the Middlesex Co-op for the purpose of purchasing cost-effective goods.

Councilman Jackson asked that an ordinance be crafted which mandates the volunteers' attendance at the safety training sessions in order for them to obtain their clothing allowance. Attorney Monaghan will prepare this ordinance.

Councilman Jackson reported the Kennedy building is in need of a boiler and hot water heater; the printer on the second floor is old; FEMA will be consulted regarding funding.

Councilman Brophy asked that we hire employees who live in Bogota; the Fire Department will host their annual chief's election agenda on Saturday at 7:00 PM at the Bogota Sr. Citizen Center.

Administrator Nicolosi reported that the DPW union wants to start negotiations.

Susan Harper suggested videotaping council meetings; Attorney Monaghan explained the procedure to follow and he'll prepare a resolution which can be adopted yearly.

At 9:05 PM, Councilman Konigsberg arrived for the meeting.

Mayor McHale advised that the VFW honored Carmen DeTitta as "Citizen of the Year" and honored Albert Gilbert as Student of the Year; lighting was established in Olsen Park and .

Citizen Remarks:

Susan Harper: her OPRA request is still missing; she felt discussion of dogs in the park took precedence over the new parking lot and public input for it and Attorney Monaghan explained if the public doesn't attend meetings, the Council moves on with the agenda.

Ken O'Donnell commended Council on what had been done for flooding, yet problems still exist at River Road and the park.

Barbara Salvano needs help in finding parking for her cars because of the location of her home at River Rd and W. Main Street; Administrator Nicolosi will help out with this issue.

Art Sopelsa agrees with the new parking lot because children cross River Road to gain access to the parking lot in front of the Recreation building.

Tina Trotta asked that minutes be placed on line and Councilman Nunez will handle that. She also said there was "no felling of trees" in the grant money.

Susan Harper asked that when meeting dates change, she be put on notice.

Mr. Stevens asked who manages traffic lights and Administrator Nicolosi said that Bogota has only one light to manage and the County handles all others; he wondered about the reverse 9-1-1 system and Police Chief Burke explained how one can sign up for it.

Peter Mazza requested Council to re-consider their fire fee ordinance so that only one fee is collected for 3 items.

The following resolution was adopted:

11-233A Closed Session

Motion to adjourn made by Councilman Jackson, seconded by Councilman Brophy; motion approved and carried; session ended at 11:15 PM