

Minutes of Regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, March 17, 2016 in the Council Chambers at Borough Hall at 7:30PM.

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Napolitano.

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen was absent. Council members Gates-Ferris, Miranda, Mitchell, and Napolitano were present. Councilwoman Fede arrived a few minutes late due to traffic. Also present were Borough Administrator Joseph Scarpa and CFO Frank DiMaria. Borough Attorney Craig Bossong was absent, so Phil Morin III, Esq. was in attendance in his place. (Councilman Connors arrived at 8:07pm due to work conflict.) Council President Mitchell presided over the meeting.

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.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked when the 2016 Budget will be discussed. Councilman Napolitano explained that after the 2016 budget is introduced, a budget summary must be advertised with the date of the public hearing which by law must be at least 28 days after introduction. He noted that this budget is \$600,000 more than last year's budget which is \$400,000 under CAP. This will cause an increase in taxes of about \$90 for the year for the average taxpayer. Included in the increase is the settlement for the Tasca lawsuit, increased funding for Borough Hall, the Recreation Center, full year private Garbage service, street lighting, sidewalk repairs, Public Safety for the Police, Signage, Shared Services, Infrastructure, and increase in Sewer fees.

He reminded everyone that two years ago the Council requested a \$600,000 increase above CAP, and this year we are \$400,000 below CAP. He thanked the Administrator, the CFO, and all the staff.

The following Resolutions on the Consent Agenda were approved (Voting Record attached):

PC16-06 Payment of Claims

16-051 Introduction of 2016 Municipal Budget

16-055 Tax Sale Redemption

16-056 Hire Stewart Business Systems to handle copier leases and maintenance of copiers and printers

Approval of the Minutes for 2/18/16 and 3/3/16 was put off until the next Council Meeting.

Appointments:

Mayor Kelemen appoints the following people to the Planning and Zoning Board:

Tina Trotta will replace Joseph Kelly

Jessie Frias – First Alternate (to replace Tina Trotta)

Dermot O'Hagan - Second Alternate (to replace Jesse Frias)

The following Ordinances were Introduced and Approved:

#1481 Road Opening Repaving Requirements

#1482 No Cash Policy

(The Public Hearing on Ordinance #1481 and #1482 will take place at the 4/7/16 Council Meeting.)

Council Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris reported that there were no noise complaints. Also, the FAA is introducing a new flight pattern to cut down on the noise over Hackensack Medical Center. The First Aid squad did not have a meeting.

Councilwoman Fede reported that there have been rumblings on Facebook that supply requisitions for the First Aid Squad have not been processed. She asked if requisitions for medical supplies have been submitted.

Mr. Scarpa reminded everyone that he has not received a response yet to his request for an inventory of First Aid Supplies. The firemen said that e-Dispatches is a redundancy and is not necessary.

Councilman Miranda added that without pagers, the system does not work.

Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked Mr. Scarpa to send the request for inventory in writing again.

Councilman Miranda noted that he found a lot of equipment laying on the ground in the ambulance building and 7 bicycles with flat tires were present as well.

Mr. Scarpa reiterated that equipment had been stored in the ambulance that was to be auctioned as well.

Councilman Miranda reported that a big screen television was ordered for the Recreation Building. Jim Moore volunteered to mount the television on the wall. Councilman Miranda and Mr. Scarpa called the cleaning company and ordered the floors at the Recreation Center be buffed on or by April 15.

Councilwoman Fede reported very significant statistics at the Public Library. Library membership has increased greatly and circulation of books has increased as well. There is an excellent art exhibit at the library. The library is in need of new furniture, so they will be having a fundraiser. Bogota Beautiful would like to grow a Community Garden. The "Walk with the Mayor" should be interesting. March 19 will be the Green Fair. Earth Day Clean-up will be on April 23. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt in the fields by the Recreation Center. The Rescue Squad is having an issue with equipment not being returned. Members take devices and do not return them. Rescue did a great job taking down trees. There were four trees in need of removal.

Councilman Miranda asked if Bogota Beautiful could help to beautify the Recreation fields.

Councilwoman Fede reminded everyone that Bogota Beautiful is not a registered 501(c)(3).

Councilman Napolitano said that he and Councilman Miranda would donate plants.

Councilman Napolitano said that the Budget had been discussed enough at this meeting. He said that the Planning and Zoning Board has new members. PSE&G has not been doing the

work that was promised. They are doing directional drilling and need a discharge place for the water. The County just received plans this morning. Councilwoman Fede asked where the water will be discharged because it cannot be discharged back into the ditch.

Councilman Connors apologized for being late. He had parent/teacher conferences. He is working on a ceremony where the turnout gear can be displayed. Joe DeMauro and Principal Kennedy from the High School are trying to start up the fireman's youth group before the end of the school year. Battery packs are needed. Venders need to be paid. Audrey McDonald resigned from the Board of Education. The School Superintendent's salary increase was voted down at the last meeting. There are Teachers' fund issues at the Board of Education. Councilwoman Gates-Ferris asked when the water was last tested for lead.

Councilman Mitchell reported that the police had an Active Shooting Demonstration. The protocol is that police can go in right away. Police Youth Academy is moving forward. Councilman Connors had talked to them about community service for the high school students such as snow removal for the seniors. He also suggested having the students meet with the Senior Citizens and interview them. Teaching the Senior Citizens how to use the internet is also a suggestion. Maybe grants could be obtained or donations of i-Pads for the Senior Citizens. Councilman Mitchell said that the Senior Citizens need new tables and chairs.

Administrator's Report:

Mr. Scarpa reported that the new Police Chief's contract was finalized for thousands of dollars less than the former Police Chief's salary. Handicapped Parking sign was put up at 109 Fairview Avenue, and No Smoking signs were put up in the park. He is hoping that the state watch over Borough finances will end soon. The DPW building is almost complete. The DPW did a lot of snow removal.

Motion was made by Councilman Napolitano to open the meeting for Citizen Remarks, seconded by Councilman Connors. Motion carried.

Conchetta _____ said that many things have been neglected in town. Without the community, the Borough will die. Things should not be sitting around and not used.

Michelle Rugar asked the Council to keep in mind that as roads are dug up for utility work, other town roads are being used in excess and should be repaired by utility companies as well.

Nicholas Zampetti requested that resolutions and ordinances be put out for residents to see. He said that years ago the town had to spend a lot of money to get Conrail to participate in demolishing the underground walkway under Ft. Lee Road due to prostitution, drugs, etc.

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

Mr. Scarpa responded that there are things that need to be done for all the residents. We have been focusing on improving Quality of Life for all residents. The grant writer will only be paid if grant money is found. Last year most news coverage was negative.

Councilman Miranda said that we are on the right track to do the right thing.

Councilman Mitchell said that the VFW is also available.

Motion was made by Councilman Miranda, seconded by Councilman Connors to go into Closed Session for Contract Negotiations. Resolution 16-056A was approved.

Meeting reconvened and motion was made by Councilman Connors, seconded by Councilwoman Fede, to adjourn. Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

Minutes for March 17, 2016 respectfully submitted by Borough Clerk, Jeanne Cook