

Minutes July 16, 2015

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held in the Council Chambers on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 7:30pm.

Flag Salute was led by Councilman Napolitano

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

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 8, 2015.

Freeholder Maura DeNicola was present to explain "Access for All" to the Mayor and Council. She spoke on behalf of the Bergen County Division of Disability Services which consists of an advisory committee that represents citizens with disabilities and their needs. The population of autistic children is growing and some autistic children have now become adults. There are many needs that can be addressed by local government with resolutions and ordinances. There are many needs in Northwest Bergen County now such as transportation. There is also a need for training programs for jobs etc. Law enforcement agencies are now being taught how to deal with people with disabilities rather than having incidents escalate. OEM, Fire, and Ambulance workers need to be trained as well. Lists need to be updated in order to know what individual town needs are. That is why a committee from each town would be helpful. Mayor Cosgrove of Fair Lawn has spoken in many towns to answer any questions. Councilwoman Fede commented that Bogota is a Stigma Free Zone and that Bogota supports mental health.

Councilman Napolitano said that awareness is the beginning of any successful program, and that the Mayor and Council are trying to support those in need. The railing in front of the building is an example of a small move forward.

Councilwoman Kohles requested that Resolutions 15-99 and 15-100 be pulled from the consent agenda. She requested a discussion about 15-100 in closed session.

The following Resolutions on the consent agenda were approved:

15-08 Payment of Claims

15-101 Award Bid 15-01 to New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless to Lease Real Property for construction, operation, and maintenance of wireless communications equipment

15-102 Authorize Escrow agreement with River Development Bogota LLC, the Contract Purchasers of 172 and 229 West Fort Lee Road and 250-300 West Fort Lee Road.

15-103 Renew Liquor Licenses for 2015-2016

15-104 Tax Check totaling \$13,318.14

The following Resolution was voted on and approved after it was explained to Councilwoman Kohles that this resolution was created due to a court order and is necessary to send to the PERS to put Tasca back in the pension system.

15-99 Resolution for back pay and Retirement Credit for Regina Tasca, in the matter Bogota vs. Tasca, et al docket #BER-L-9178-12

Minutes 7/16/15 continued:

Public Hearing and adoption of the following Ordinance took place (voting record is attached):
#1464 An Ordinance Amending Chapter III to add Section 3-10.7 entitled "Time Limits and Exemptions" of the Noise Ordinance Code of the Borough of Bogota

The following Approvals were made by the Mayor and Council:

Block party on August 22, 2015 at Beechwood Avenue from Queen Anne Road to Dunn Avenue from 12:00pm to 8:00pm.

St. Joseph Carnival including 50/50s, rides and games. Waive fee.

Committee Reports:

Councilwoman Fede thanked Bogota Beautiful for their recent event on Larch Avenue and Main Street. There were at least 20 volunteers. The Rescue Squad will be having a boot drive hopefully on September 12th. She is working with the DPW on tree lists, and reminded them that NO Smoking signs have to be put up – two in each playground, etc.

The Green Team would like to co-sponsor a fall event with another group. The town needs a community event about what emergency workers do with oil trains. Mr. Scarpa suggested setting up a meeting with the public.

Councilwoman Kohles reported that the Recreation Summer Camp is going well with a large enrollment. A child had a seizure in the pool, and she thanked the swim club for helping him. Recreation football is not getting enough participants. She had the high school coaches go to a meeting with the Recreation commissioners to help. Mr. Scarpa and Recreation Director Moore are working together to get the Recreation Center cleaned regularly. The old Senior bus may be in need of too much repair to be worth doing it.

Councilman Robbins reported that the Fire Departments had a mutual aid drill in Overpeck Park. They all connected hoses and took water from the river. He went on the walk-through at 297 Palisade Avenue as to fire safety. They are up to code. There are sprinklers in every room, etc. Firemen on Central Avenue do not have room to park their cars. Can anything be done about that? Bogota Beautiful did well on Main Street and Larch Avenue. They decided not to put a bench there. Maybe it can be placed in Fireman's Park.

Councilman Nunez reported that Mayor and Council were all invited to the walk-through at 297 Palisade Avenue, and he went. The construction is progressing nicely. The units are nice, and the view from the roof is spectacular. Overnight parking on Linwood Avenue and Walnut Avenue are not being ticketed. There are many properties with damaged sidewalks because of tree roots. The property on Queen Anne Road is in bad shape. Property Maintenance has been in touch with the bank, but if there is anything that can be done to speed up the process, it would be beneficial to the residents. Seniors will be looking at rug swatches soon.

Councilman Mitchell reported that an officer was in a car crash, and the police car was totaled. He is okay. The VFW looks cleaner with plants. The Board of Education put up a fence. The property on East Fort Lee Road is an eye sore. What can be done to improve it? There is no reason why the Recreation Department, town, Board of Education, and BBO cannot pool their money together to help the children of the town.

Councilman Napolitano spoke about the audit in progress now. He questioned if the Senior bus and Ambulance will be auctioned. As for infrastructure, the Leonia Avenue project is being done; bids for resurfacing will be in tomorrow; pre-construction meeting was held with PSE&G;

Minutes 7/16/15 continued

Fairview Avenue sewer line is near completion; West Fort Lee Road flooding issue is a work in progress. Hess has agreed to do some work. Drainage on River Road and Elm Avenue involved Susquehanna Railroad and Ridgefield Park. Mr. Bossong contacted CSX to be involved as well. The escrow account is being set up so that Planner Paul Grygiel can work on plans for the Hess sight.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Kelemen said that he is thankful that the police officer was not badly hurt in the car accident, and he wished him well. July 4th was a very busy day in Bogota with a lot of traffic and people. The Mayor said that a great job was done by the Police, Fire, and all emergency responders. Bogota Beautiful did a great job on the corner of Larch Avenue and Main Street. He is very proud of the Bustamante's hard work. Councilman Robbins reminded that local artists have pictures in windows on Main Street. The Mayor asked if firemen are being measured for new turn out gear, and Councilman Robbins confirmed that they were.

Administrator's Report: Mr. Scarpa reported that the tree quotes are due by July 24th. Pascack Valley Road resurfacing bids are due tomorrow. He feels that a meeting is necessary on August 6th. The DPW is in need of one full time employee and two seasonal employees. Cleanup at the Recreation Center will begin Monday. The quarterly safety meeting was held as required. Drains were dropped where the Belgian block curbs were installed. Plans for the DPW facility are due on August 13. The Council needs to motion to approve the auction of vehicles.

Councilman Robbins reminded everyone that there is a man in Germany who would like to buy the ambulance. Councilman Mitchell asked if the construction official at 297 Palisade Avenue could trim the trees at that location.

Councilman Nunez motioned with Councilman Robbins seconding the motion to have a second meeting in August on August 6th. Motion carried.

The following Resolution was added to the agenda and approved:
15-105 Authorize Auctioning Various vehicles and equipment.

The Clerk explained that over 20 OPRA requests came in since the last meeting, many of which were very lengthy. Often these OPRA requests require the Clerk to request documents being held by Filebank. Discussion took place concerning Filebank. Mr. Scarpa said that it is very expensive to pay for file storage when we could store the files at Borough Hall. Mrs. Cook said that over 15 invoices came from Filebank since April. Councilwoman Kohles said that the police have no complaints about Filebank.

Citizens' Remarks:

William Valentinetti said that the Church of God has a rotted wall around the building that has been there for years. The fan runs from 10:00pm to 1:00am. Drainage is bad from the church. It runs through his garage. The parking issue has not been resolved. People are building retaining walls around trees and killing the trees. People put more pavers on their property than are allowed.

Rodney Bennett spoke about going to Recreation meetings and being suspended as a football coach. He is looking for clarity. There were three different football directors in three months. Mr. Moore is taking over the program. The league fee was raised from \$125 to \$150, and they are having fund raisers, but they have nothing set up for spending.

Minutes 7/16/15 continued:

Motion was made by Councilman Robbins, seconded by Councilman Mitchell, to end citizen remarks. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Kohles told Rodney Bennet that the Recreation Commission does not have a budget. The money they take in goes to sports, etc. She will itemize what the fees are and the cost of the equipment.

Motion was made by Councilman Mitchell, seconded by Councilman Napolitano, to go into closed session at 9:30pm. Motion carried.

Resolution 15-105A was added to the agenda and approved.

Meeting reconvened and the following Resolution was voted on and approved:

15-100 Authorizing Rubenstein, Meyerson, et.al.to investigate potential additional claims to be raised in the matter Bogota vs. Tasca, et al docket # BER-L-9178-12

The following Resolution was added to the agenda and approved:

15-106 Retirement of Police Chief Burke

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Napolitano, seconded by Councilman Mitchell.

Motion carried and meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.