Revised
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bogota held on Thursday, December 18, 2014, in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall at 7:35 PM

Salute to the Flag was led by Councilman Burdiez

Roll Call: Mayor Kelemen, Council members Nunez, Burdiez, Kohles, Fede and Mitchell were present. Councilman Robbins 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 8, 2014

The following item on the consent agenda was approved:
14-215 Appointments to the Bergen County Community Development Committee.
The executive appointments: The Mayor and Councilman Mitchell.
The governing Body appointments: Borough Administrator and the DPW Superintendent.

The Minutes of the November 13 Council meeting were approved.

Bond Counsel, Christopher Langhart, reported that Bogota has good financial standing.

Discussion took place concerning the bill list from the last meeting. Councilman Nunez questioned a bill for legal fees for Former Mayor Tito Jackson which should not have been on the bill list. Councilwoman Fede explained that legal bills for criminal matters are processed differently than legal bills for civil matters as per Borough Ordinance 2-25.8. Bills for criminal proceedings cannot be paid until matter is dismissed or found in favor of the Borough. The Burdiez case has not ended yet. Also, the Ordinance states that legal costs should be reasonable, and Tito Jackson's attorney charged $350 per hour which is $200 higher than fee determined to be reasonable by former Mayor Jackson and the governing body during his term as mayor.
Councilwoman Kohles requested that the $17,000 check paid to Borough Attorney Bern for services rendered also be returned. It was explained to her that the $17,000 was for services rendered, was put on the bill list, removed, reviewed, and released.
Councilwoman Fede suggested putting discussion of indemnification for legal fees paid to Tito Jackson's attorney on the agenda for the next meeting.

The following resolution was adopted with a 3-2-vote after discussion took place as to the policy in place to prepare a bill list:
PC14-12

Discussion:
Councilwoman Kohles requested Renovations for the Police Department. It was decided to determine the needs and get quotes for the work.

Councilwoman Fede asked if RFQs had been requested for 297 Engineer. Administrator Greiner said that the RFQ was advertised a long time ago with no responses. The new Borough Engineer for 2015 can oversee the 297 project.

Mayor Kelemen congratulated Councilwoman Fede for all her work on Planet Earth and the Green Team. He presented the sustainable Jersey Bronze Award to her.
Councilwoman Fede thanked all the members of the Green Team for successful work and distributed lapel pins to Nick Zampetti and Tito Jackson.
Mayor Kelemen thanked all the members of various volunteer departments who responded to the December 12th fire on Central Avenue and did a wonderful job.
The mayor also thanked Jim Moore, the DPW, Administrator Greiner, the Girl Scouts, the Ladies Auxiliary and everyone who helped make the Christmas tree lighting a great success.
The mayor thanked Borough resident Linda Murphy for donating lights for the poles on Main Street and small, real Christmas trees that are now in front of the community board.
The mayor congratulated Jeanne Cook on passing the Municipal Clerk's exam.

Councilman Mitchell announced that the new ambulance arrived last month, and now the town should pursue third party payments. He commented that all volunteer organizations are doing a great job.

Administrator Greiner announced that new z-tron units were obtained for the Police Department at a reduced price from Holy Name Hospital.

Councilwoman Kohles congratulated police officers and Tito Jackson for their assistance to a borough resident who suffered a heart attack. Mayor Kelemen read a facebook message which commented on the professionalism of the police officers involved.

Councilman Nunez reported that the Seniors have not met. He then complimented Councilman Burdiez for all the hard work he did for the Borough including repairing ball fields and fighting for the tax payers. John Mitchell echoed Councilman's compliments about repairing the fields.
Mayor Kelemen thanked Councilman Burdiez for all the work he did for the town and for his friendship.

Councilwoman Fede thanked Councilman Burdiez for all the time he gave to the Borough. She then explained that she found a consultant who is versed in i-trees. A web-based tree inventory would be a great help to the town. She admitted that she dressed up as Mrs. Claus for the tree lighting and reminded everyone that Santa would be back one day soon to hand out lollipops.

Mayor Kelemen announced that leaves would be picked up over the weekend. He said the the Board of Education audit showed a surplus of $375,000 which will go back to the taxpayer.

Citizen Remarks:
Bill Brennan complained that the bill list does not explain enough. He felt that Tito Jackson must repay the money for the legal fees. It was State vs. Jackson, not State vs. Borough of Bogota. (He advised that an individual council person should not be allowed to pull a bill. $17000 for Borough Attorney was for services rendered to the Borough. $9500 for Tito Jackson's private attorney was not for services rendered to or on behalf of the Borough.) He suggested that the Police chief be included in deciding how to renovate the police station.

Nick Zampetti commented that money should be spent where it was needed. He commented on a police officer standing outside the council chambers. Councilwoman Kohles said that she will ask the Police Chief why a police officer was there. He also mentioned improper payment of personal bills with taxpayer money. You need to act on getting the money back tonight. Councilman Nunez said that he will motion for that tonight. Nick also reminded that he had questioned who was paying the Council members and OEM coordinator's hotel bills on the Atlantic City trip. Last meeting, hotel bills were on the bill list.

Charlie Cook suggested making the bill list landscape instead of portrait. There would then be room to explain each bill.

Rodney Bennet said that new equipment can be purchased for the Recreation football program with fundraisers, etc.

Dan Creange complimented Councilman Burdiez' work on the ball fields. He said to be careful with police station because narrow hallway just fits a wheelchair. He said that laws are there for a reason, and Tito Jackson was acting in a civilian capacity, not as mayor. He must return the money.

Don Stofan and Hector Rodriguez said that the Jackson legal bills should be examined. If he was acting as mayor, then town pays. If he was acting as a civilian, the money must be returned.

George Silos felt that there is corruption in the Borough. Cronies Lisa Kohles, Chip Greiner, and Connie Carpenter determine payments made out. Also, he could not understand why Superintendent Kohles' clothing allowance was on for discussion if it was in his contract. Mayor Jackson said that the clothing allowance was in Gordon Kohles' contract. He also agreed that Tito Jackson was acting in his civilian capacity with the legal matters, and he should return the money.

James Irwin suggested moving age for cigarette smoking from 18 to 21.

Michelle Rupar questioned the process for requesting RFQs for the Planning and Zoning Board Attorney and Engineer.

George Shaloub questioned the reason for the ambulance being on display in Atlantic City.

Councilman Nunez made a motion to request for reimbursement of legal fees from Tito Jackson pursuant to Ordinance 2-25.8. Councilman Burdiez seconded the motion.

Resolution 14-216 was approved.

A closed session resolution was adopted. (Resolution 14-216A)

After the closed session, the meeting reconvened and adjournment took place at 11:20pm.