

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES – Special meeting
THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 – 11:00 A.M.**

CALL TO ORDER: (Robert Lesjack, President).

President Lesjack called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m., welcomed everyone and all stood for the “**Pledge of Allegiance**”.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Lesjack, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Amy Bean, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Glinton, and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Absent: Council member Nick Cost and Solicitor McAndrew.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kameen again questioned council about the sidewalk project extending into the 600 block of Main Street. President Lesjack said, “The borough is looking into some additional grants through the county and possibly reaching out for help from Northern Tier. As of now, it is not in the plans.”

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:

First item: The bids for the Rt. #247 sidewalks opened at the May 1st meeting, were reviewed by Kiley & Associates. Bids received were, in no particular order: Maiocco Excavating, Inc. - \$154,494., Pioneer Construction Co., Inc. - \$255,000. & Linde Corp. - \$293,773. Kiley & Associates, Engineers for the project, recommended Maiocco Excavating. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to accept the bid from Maiocco Excavating. Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague, a roll call found five in favor, and Councilwoman Lazier against. Ms. Vannan will notify Joe Hudak (Kiley & Assoc.) to proceed.

Second item: Resolution #5_2023 to authorize the Outdoor Town Action Team to apply for a Greenways, Trails & Recreation Program (GTRP) Grant on behalf of the Borough through the DCED for the Center Street Pocket Park Project. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Resolution #5_2023. Seconded by Councilwoman Matarese, the motion carried with a roll call vote of six in favor, none opposed.

Third item: Appointment of a part-time Code Enforcement Officer was next on the agenda. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to appoint Stephanie Sojka-Reisch to the part-time position at \$20/hour. Mileage reimbursement and office space will be formally acted upon at the June meeting. Councilman Degonzague seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. Four members voting yes, two (Matarese & Lesjack) voted no. The motion carried. Councilwoman Lazier volunteered to act as the CEO supervisor. Resolution #6_2023 appointing the new CEO will be on the June 5th Agenda and she will also be sworn in at that time. Note: This motion was offered and seconded at the May 1st meeting, unfortunately President Lesjack did not hear it due to a heated discussion and overlapping comments, so no action was taken at that time.

Mayor Glinton expressed his dissatisfaction with the way that the CEO was selected, he insisted that all of the candidates should have been re-interviewed. He felt it wasn't done fairly. Councilwoman Bean noted that multiple interviews were held for each candidate and the personnel committee did their job. Again, like the May 1st meeting, discussion became heated.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Not on the agenda, but brought up for discussion by Councilwoman Lazier was a safety issue with the discovery of deteriorating vaults under some of the sidewalks. Again, Mr. Kameen asked how the 400 & 500 blocks were chosen when the 600 block sees more pedestrian traffic. Councilman Scalzo responded (as explained at the May 1st meeting) that there would not be enough to do all three blocks and more permits would be required for the 600 block. Councilman DeGonzague brought the discussion back

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to the vaults under the sidewalks, one of the worst at 510 Main Street (Ros-Al Floral). He suggested that it be blocked off and/or ramps installed to get customers safely into the business. Councilman Scalzo said that KBA would be taking core samples to determine if this has to be done soon. Discussion about who would pay followed and a suggestion to contact Bobbi Jo Turner and April Hannon to determine if the grant money could be used for this.

REMINDER:

The Memorial Day parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. traveling from North Main Street, ending at the William Penn Apts. with a memorial service at 11:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Lazier offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Matarese. All responded “aye”. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.