

MINUTES – MONDAY – JANUARY 4, 2021

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

President Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call taken: Present – President Nick Cost, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council Members Robert Lesjack, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague (arriving a few minutes late), Amy Bean, Mayor Ginton, Solicitor McAndrew & Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan. Tracey Lazier was unavailable.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*specific to agenda items*)

President Cost opened the floor for public comment, none offered.

President Cost presented a letter from PennDot received too late for the agenda: Several engineering firms, contracted by PennDot will be collecting traffic data between January 2021 & April 2021 with traffic counters.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 12.7.2020.

Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All replied in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the December Treasurer's Report and approve all disbursements for December 2020. Councilman Lesjack seconded. Roll call vote – 6 to 0 in favor.

Councilman DeGonzague was delayed and joined the meeting after this vote.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Engagement Letter for the 2020 Audit from Brian Kelley, CPA. This is the 3rd of a five-year contract with the price remaining at \$8,000.

Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All members present were in favor. President Cost will sign the Engagement Letter on behalf of the Borough.

The Annual wage rate changes for full-time non-uniform employees were presented for approval.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the rate changes. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken, six in favor, none opposed. Rate changes approved.

An "Intent to Hire" was presented for Joseph Tedesco as a back-up snow plow driver at a rate of \$15/hour. Joe has a CDL and is a Union Dale resident who will fill in as needed. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, six to zero in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

The Public Works report was distributed reporting \$403 collected for recycling donations for December 2020. \$104 was received for Aluminum cans from Archbald Wrecking. Called out on Christmas morning at 4:00 a.m. for a washout from Upper No. Main Street to North Main Street. Unclogged drainpipe and used backhoe to clean up gravel. Delivered 4 ton of gravel on 12/28 to fill in washout area.

No reports for Buildings & Grounds, Community Econ. Development or Parks & Recreation.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/SAFETY & HEALTH: (C. DeGonzague/B. Scalzo)

Councilman DeGonzague investigated a complaint about structural issues of a building on Upper North Main Street. He contacted NEIC to inspect. Councilman Scalzo had nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

December 2020 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for January patrols was distributed.

The Mayor sought approval for the Annual 2% rate increase for Full-time police officers per their contract. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the raises. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All agreed in a roll call vote – six to zero.

The 2020 Annual Fire/Emergency and the 2020 Police Department Reports were distributed.

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SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Melissa McAndrew, Esq.)

Solicitor McAndrew distributed a letter she had prepared in response to a complaint from a former employee. Atty. McAndrew’s letter addressed several concerns voiced by the complainant and assured the writer that the complaints were unfounded. A motion to re-appoint this person as Code Enforcement Officer did not carry the votes needed to continue employment. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve Atty. McAndrew’s response. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

Concerns about the flooding at Upper North Main Street were expressed. President Cost suggested that Impact Fee Funding may be considered to make some repairs in the area. It will be looked into for the future.

Councilwoman Matarese commented that she had seen kids on the Kennedy Park pond with bicycles and expressed her concerns that the ice was not safe. She asked that the police monitor the situation and warn them off the ice before someone is injured or worse.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, February 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

President Cost reminded everyone that this is an election year. There are four council seats open for election in 2021, as well as the Mayor’s seat and the Tax Collector. All are four-year terms.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Scalzo motioned to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All replied “aye”. The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.