

MINUTES – MONDAY – DECEMBER 7, 2020 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, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Mayor Ginton, & Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan. Solicitor McAndrew was unavailable.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*specific to agenda items*)

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 11/2/20.

Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All replied in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report and approve all disbursements for November 2020. Councilman Lesjack seconded. Roll call vote – 7 to 0 in favor.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve 2021 General Fund Budget; Councilman DeGonzague seconded. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve 2021 Sewer Budget; seconded by Councilwoman Bean, motion carried seven in favor, none opposed roll call vote.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to adopt Resolution #13_2020, 2021 Tax Levy. Councilman DeGonzague seconded. Roll call vote seven in favor, none opposed.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

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

\$1/hour rate change for all part-time police was presented. Vice President Scalzo offered a motion to approve the salary increases effective 1/1/2021. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

The Mayor announced that there would be "Free Parking" from Monday, December 21st through Sunday, January 3, 2021 for the Holidays. Meter collections resume, Monday January 4, 2021.

Mayor Ginton presented a New Hire request for Part-time police officer Charles Yarick at \$14.50/hour to begin pending completion of background checks and certification. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the hire, Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Roll call vote – six in favor, one opposed (C. Degonzague). The motion carried.

Mayor Ginton requested approval to participate in a KidCents program – placement of a Medication Disposal Box in the 2nd floor hallway of the Borough Building. It will be bolted to floor, secure and emptied by police daily, then secured in the Department's lock-up.

Councilwoman asked if the box would accept sharps containers. Mayor and Chief Rowan both responded "yes". The program is sponsored by the Rite Aid Foundation at no cost to the Borough.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded in favor of the request, the motion carried.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: (President Cost)

The Public Works report was distributed reporting \$250 collected for recycling donations for November. Seven (7) meter timers were sent for repairs, water was shut off at K.P., removed Main Street banners and helped put up wreaths, lights and Christmas Tree. A special thanks to Public Works (Bob & Wally), Steve Mikloiche, Jr., NEP, and Cicilioni's of Frugal Living for their part in putting up the Holiday decorations. Also, thanks to the F.C. Fire & Emergency Services for their participation in the Virtual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to authorize payment to Critelli Electric for installation of the remaining lamppost near 513 Main Street at a cost of \$1,975 plus an estimated additional charge

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for excavation at approx. \$200. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

Ordinance #520_2020 increasing the tax collection rate to 5%, beginning with the 2022 term was presented for consideration. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the Ordinance, Councilwoman Matarese seconded. A roll call vote found five members in favor, with two opposed (V.P. Scalzo & Councilwoman Bean, both citing concerns over the impact of doubling the rate) The Ordinance was adopted by majority – five to two.

The 2021 meeting schedule was presented for approval to advertise. Moving the time back to 7:00 p.m. was discussed but the majority of council preferred the earlier time. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve the schedule and publish in the F.C. News. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All responded in favor. The schedule will also be posted on the Borough's website.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

Mark A Novak of 510 Hudson Street submitted a request for a "Handicap parking spot" in front of his home. Councilman Degonzague offered the motion to approve, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. A roll call vote found five members in favor, with Council Members Matarese & Lesjack opposed. The request was approved and President Cost said he would meet with Public Works to determine the exact location and to install the sign. Mr. Novak will be reminded that this is not a private/personal spot, anyone with a handicap license plate or placard will also be permitted to park there.

Resolution #14_2020 for a PennDot Holiday Lights (Banner) permit was presented. Under PennDot "Banner Permit" application, anything that is strung across a state road (Main St., Rt.#171) requires a Resolution to be adopted by the Borough. As additional Holiday light strands are purchased the Resolution will have to be re-issued identifying the location of each string. Vice Pres. Scalzo proposed a motion to adopt Resolution #14-2020. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The Resolution will be forwarded to PennDot as required.

Councilman DeGonzague asked council to permit enforcement of the "Pooper Scooper" Ordinance. He requested permission to cite and ticket violators. If seen, violators will initially get a verbal warning, followed by a fine if they continue to disregard. Council all agreed to support enforcement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Lesjack motioned to adjourn. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All replied "aye". The meeting adjourned at 6:33 p.m.