

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING

New elected Mayor Tammy L. Rogalski executed the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Members Tracey A. Lazier and Amy T. Bean and returning Council Members Christopher DeGonzague, and Robert Lesjack.

CALL TO ORDER: (Mayor Tammy Rogalski, presiding).

Mayor Rogalski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2018 and asked that all join her in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague, Joann Matarese, Nick Cost, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Robert Lesjack, Mayor Tammy Rogalski, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

NOMINATION & ELECTION – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mayor Rogalski asked for nominations for Council President. Councilwoman Matarese nominated Councilman Nick Cost to serve as council president. Mayor Rogalski asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. All members responded “aye” to the nomination. Mayor Rogalski presented the gavel to the new Council President, Nick Cost.

President Cost continued with the nominations.

Nominations for the Vice President – Councilman DeGonzague nominated Councilman Scalzo to the Vice President seat. No other nominations offered. All voted in favor of Councilman Scalzo’s appointment.

Nominations for the President Pro-Tem – V.P. Scalzo nominated Chris DeGonzague. With no other nominations, all voted in favor of Councilman DeGonzague to serve as President Pro-Tem.

Appointment to the Vacancy Board Chair: President Cost verified that Mr. Kameen agreed to continue to serve as Vacancy Board Chair. Bernie Scalzo nominated Mr. Kameen to serve. All voted in favor of the appointment.

Appointment of the Borough Solicitor: President Cost asked for a nomination to re-appoint Attorney Paul Smith as the Borough Solicitor. Council Member Matarese nominated Paul Smith to serve as Borough Solicitor. All voted in favor of the appointment.

Appointment of the Borough Secretary/Treasurer: Joann Matarese nominated Sharon Vannan to serve as Borough Secretary/Treasurer. All voted in favor of the appointment.

Appointment of the Zoning Officer: Vice President Scalzo nominated Cindy Stone to serve as Zoning Officer. All voted aye in favor of the appointment.

Appointment of the Code Enforcement Officer: Council Member Matarese nominated Stephanie Reisch to continue to serve as the Borough’s Code Enforcement Officer. All voted aye in favor of the appointment.

Appointment of Committee Members: President Cost asked that all council members continue to serve on their 2017 committees. He will announce any changes in the Committee Appointments at the February Meeting.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Cost welcomed everyone and opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Mark Novak of Hudson Street asked council to revisit the garbage issue, which he feels is “Taxation without Representation”, noting that he is very opposed to the decision that council made. President Cost advised Mr. Novak that there were public meetings and a choice was made. V.P. Scalzo added, “The decision had to be made, you can’t make everybody happy”. Solicitor Smith ended the discussion by reminding everyone that the deal was done, the borough had entered into a three-year contract, “It’s a done deal”.

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President Cost asked, "If there are no other comments, we'll move on with Committee Reports".

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered the Minutes from December 2017 for review & approval. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to accept the minutes. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded "Aye".

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for December 2017. Council Member Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize disbursements of \$146,841.41. Total Receipts were \$70,303.72. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. President Cost requested a roll-call vote – the motion carried with all seven council members in favor, none opposed.

Financial Statement forms were distributed – all Borough elected officials and employees are required to complete the forms for 2017 and return them at the February meeting.

Councilwoman Matarese presented Resolution #1_2018, Bank Signature Authorizations for all Forest City Borough Accounts held at Honesdale National Bank and offered a motion to approve the Resolution. V.P. Scalzo seconded the motion. All members voted aye in a roll-call vote adopting the Resolution identifying President Cost, V.P. Scalzo and Councilwoman Matarese as signors for all accounts held at HNB.

Councilwoman Matarese presented Resolution #2_2018 Bank Signature Authorizations for all Forest City Borough Accounts held at Landmark Bank and offered a motion to approve the Resolution. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All seven members voted aye in a roll-call vote adopting the Resolution identifying President Cost, V.P. Scalzo and Councilwoman Matarese as signors for all accounts held at Landmark Bank.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Vice President Scalzo read the Public Works report for December 2017 into the record. Tedesco reported the following:

- Cut down two trees at Kennedy Park hanging over the shed;
- Removed two trees from Center Street at the side of the Borough Building;
- Excavated & repaired the pipe & storm drain on Grand Ave., near the Legion;
- 12/8/17 – purchased four tires for the pick up at Furdock's, \$774 included inspection;
- Collected remaining garbage bags from the garage & borough building and delivered to Franceski Waste;
- Vandling Borough purchased ten bucket loads of cinder mix - \$650.

Councilman Scalzo reported that plowing and maintenance of private alleyways was still under review. He noted several that have been plowed in the past and that would not stop, at least for this year, but the borough will be looking at the practice and give property owners a reasonable amount of time to find alternative solutions. Other Council members commented that it should continue. Solicitor Smith recommended that each should be walked before making a decision. President Cost added, "For now, we'll continue to plow".

Councilman Scalzo reported that recycling at the Borough Garage on Saturday mornings will continue. Scalzo commented that it is bringing people into town and that yard waste and scrap metal is also accepted. Since the truck is still taking recycling to Throop on Monday morning, the dumpster may not be adequate for the amount of recycling being dropped off. Councilman Scalzo asked Ms. Stone to call County Waste to see if we could get a larger dumpster or weekly rather than bi-weekly pick-ups so that the truck could be retired.

B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Bob Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that due to safety concerns, the elevator required repairs to the sensors in the elevator door. The cost of repairs was \$1,200.

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The renovations to the ladies' room on the second floor are complete. Major issues occurred with the installation of the urinal in the men's room, so despite reordering another urinal because the first didn't fit, the second will also be returned and there will no urinal in the 2nd floor men's room.

Councilman Lesjack said that he is coming in under budget with the third floor. Thank you to Tony Wilcox for the beautiful paint job on the ceiling. Chandeliers were ordered, but turned out to be the wrong ones, so those were returned. Different ones were ordered at a cost of \$1,700 for eight. However, on Black Friday, Wayfair was having a sale, and a refund was negotiated on the new chandeliers resulting in a \$600 refund. Floors not done yet, but Rosengrant will be doing those soon. Once the floors are finished, tables and chairs will be ordered. The kitchen needs work as well, that's next on the list". Councilwoman Lazier added, "What about air conditioning, can you add that to the list?" Lesjack continued, "The Chandeliers require fifty-six light bulbs and dimmer switches". Councilman Lesjack would also like to look into cleaning services for one day a week, four times a month with maybe an additional day if needed. He proposed a motion to authorize advertising for a cleaning person for one day/week at \$25/hour. It would be an independent contractor. After some discussion, President Cost said, "This should be looked into further before making any decision." The motion was tabled until Councilman Lesjack gets more information.

C. PARKS & RECREATION:

A council member will be appointed to replace Mr. Pearsall at the next meeting, nothing else to report at this meeting.

D. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Christopher DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague offered a report provided by Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Reisch. Most notably the burned out bar on Maxey Street is demolished. Ms. Reisch issued Snow removal door-hangers to violators. Prince Excavating applied for the demo permit for the burned out structure at 746 Delaware Street. An article submitted to the Forest City News about "junk vehicles". Several complaints received about junk cars. Ms. Reisch is hoping that council will consider adopting the "Quality of Life" that is working well in other communities.

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve a training for Ms. Reisch on February 13, 2018 on the 2012 Property Maintenance Codes at a cost of \$125 plus mileage reimbursement. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all seven members in favor, attendance approved.

E. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

President Cost reported that he would be appointing one of the council members to Community & Econ. Develop. In the meantime, he asked Art McLain to report on his activity. Mr. McLain said, "With the addition of new council members, I'm waiting to see who I'll be working with." Mr. McLain reported that he's met with Pat O'Dell about her recent purchase of the building at 700 Main Street. He's also spoken with Paul and Chris at Roz-Al floral about plans for a light parade. He plans to attend an upcoming meeting on January 18 regarding the Trail Town Festival.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Rogalski provided the December 2017 police report and the bill for the Vandling police patrols. The Annual Reports for the Police Department and F. C. Fire Department were not available for this meeting, they will be distributed at the February meeting.

The Mayor presented a quote from Hornbeck for repairs to the 2014 Chevy Impala for \$1,046.80 for brakes, rotors and struts. Councilwoman Lazier asked, "Why does the Borough need three police vehicles?" Chief Johnson responded, "For example, tomorrow, I'll be attending a funeral, one officer is attending court and the third is on patrol. There are days when the third vehicle is needed." An estimate from Kost Tire was presented for front stabilizers and alignment on the 2010 SUV. Repairs for both vehicles totaled \$1,207. Mayor

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Rogalski asked council to approve both repairs. Chief Johnson added, "The price on the 2014 may be less or could be a little more, depending on what they find." With that in mind, Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the repairs on both vehicles not to exceed \$1,300. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. President Cost requested a roll call vote. The motion passed with seven ayes and none opposed.

Mayor Rogalski commented on snow removal in the borough, wondering why some people are not cleaning up the snow for the safety of their customers. President Cost responded, "If they don't shovel, we will be going after them."

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Smith presented Ordinance #511 – Parking ban on Commerce Blvd. for review. Discussion followed. Councilwoman Bean commented, "Lots of snowmobilers need to park their trailers there." Solicitor Smith reminded everyone that the road is only so wide and parking on the road impedes the flow of traffic and plowing. Councilman Scalzo expressed his concerns, "Will there be somewhere for people to park? Maybe designating areas rather than a "blanket ordinance" would make more sense. When asked, John Kameen replied, "The road belongs to the borough, council can designate no parking on the road. Areas are plowed where parking is permitted. Solicitor Smith added, "The Trailhead is currently inaccessible while the gas company is still working, the "no parking would apply only to the road to allow for plowing and maintenance, not the areas that are cleaned for that purpose." Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to advertise Ordinance #511. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion, all voted aye. The motion carried. The Ordinance will be advertised in the F.C. News and considered for adoption at the February meeting.

Solicitor Smith announced that an informational meeting, a combined effort of Forest City and Vandling Borough, is scheduled for January 10, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. KBA will present information about MS4 Stormwater permitting and mapping. This is an educational forum in anticipation of adopting a Stormwater Ordinance as required by the DEP. Council and the public are invited to attend and the meeting will satisfy some of the mandated education requirements.

Solicitor Smith shared a letter from Attorney Nick Barna advising the borough that the Yakely property is being sold and that the new owners want to know that the borough held insurance to cover the Disc Golf course that extends onto the Yakely property. The Disc Golf League is not under the borough, the group uses the park property. Ms. Vannan will contact Alan Mindas to ask about insurance.

NEW BUSINESS:

Code Inspections, Inc notified the borough that they are not providing building permits and inspection services to the borough effective January 3. President Cost and Councilman DeGonzague are gathering information and planning to meet with representatives from several firms in the area. This information was given to council for review. A recommendation is expected at the February meeting and a decision made at that time.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Adoption of the 2018 Real Estate Tax Levy Ordinance #510 as advertised was presented to council for adoption. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #510_2018 Tax Levy. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted aye.

The Police Contract renewal with Asst. Chief Rowan was set aside until it is finalized. It will be addressed at the February meeting for a retro-active approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 5, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Cost asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded "aye". The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.