

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, May 7, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER: (President Nick Cost)

President Cost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to join him in the “Pledge of Allegiance. President Cost began the meeting with a brief explanation of the Borough’s Public Meeting Policy, provided to everyone at the meeting.

ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Cost opened the floor for public comment.

President Cost recognized Rachel Habetler of 428 Delaware St. who expressed her opposition to the cell tower at Kennedy Park. President Cost said that the letter she sent is covered in the correspondence section of the meeting.

President Cost then recognized Barbara Mihelc from 911 White St. who began with, “If someone is recording this meeting, please identify yourself.” Brian Karwowski of 1100 Lower N. Main Street replied, “Yes, and by the policy, is permitted to do so from the back of the room”. Ms. Mihelc agreed, but said, “He must announce to everyone that he is recording.” Ms. Mihelc then proceeded to offer her support of Ms. Habetler’s opposition to the cell tower at Kennedy Park saying, “It will absolutely be a health concern and take away from the natural beauty of the park.”

Christine Evans of 500 Delaware St. asked about the “Junk Car Ordinance”. President Cost said, “That item is not on the agenda, please save it for the second round of public comment at the end of the meeting”.

John Kameen questioned the rule about only residents or property owners in the borough could speak at public comment. He said he was asking on behalf of Abbey from the Barking Cupcake who was told that she would not be able to speak, and as a business owner, felt she should be given that opportunity. President Cost directed Mr. Kameen to read the meeting policy, which stated that is the general rule; however, the Presiding Officer could allow anyone to speak at his discretion.

Brian Karwowski from 1100 Lower N. Main asked to share a video with council and complaints about the police department. President Cost said again, “These are not agenda items, please wait until the second public comment section after regular business has been covered. Solicitor Smith added, “The purpose of having a Public Comment section at the beginning of the meeting is so citizens can address items on the agenda that may be voted on and offer opinions. Anything not on the agenda will be addressed at the end of the meeting.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered the Minutes from April 2, 2018 for review and a motion to accept the Minutes as written. Council Member DeGonzague seconded the motion to accept the minutes. All responded “Aye”.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for April 2018. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize disbursements of \$223,692.91, which included the semi-annual payment of \$131,010 to the DCED from the Sewer Account and a disbursement from the Fire Escrow Account for \$22,412.58. Total Receipts were \$150,642.06. Council Member Amy Bean seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote. All members voted in favor, none opposed.

B. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Vice President Scalzo read the Public Works report for April 2018 into the record. Bob Tedesco reported the following:

- Recycling donations turned in on 4/3/18 were \$297;

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- Painting continues on the third floor, any lights seen at night have been due to Bob Tedesco covering his hours due to his father's illness;
- Put 150 lbs. of Sakrete in the hole on Commerce Blvd. at the Vision Park at the recommendation of the borough's engineer and they will continue to watch the area;
- Received 22 ton of CoStar Road Salt from Cargill, last of the available salt for the 2017/2018 season;
- Used the sweeper broom on Dundaff and Main Streets, collected approximately 15 tons of cinders;
- Opened Kennedy Park, turned on the water, put out picnic tables & swings, opened the restrooms. Still need to decide what's to be done with the gazebo, will get a quote then decide what to do.

Met with the Princes about a solution to ice build-up in the 600 block of Lackawanna St. This has been an ongoing problem for the last couple of years and the crew has had to use extra salt and remove the ice with the backhoe several times during the winter. Recommendation: Dig a patch on the west side of the street approx. 200' long x 3' deep. Put in 1' of 2B, add drain tile pipe and cover with 2' of stone. Wally & Bob can do this part of it. Princes can deliver the stone for an approx. cost of \$1,900. Will eventually have to be paved, but don't has a price on that yet. President Cost asked Councilman Scalzo to get a price on the paving first before starting so it could all be done at once.

Councilman Scalzo said, "We're looking at purchasing a new plow truck. Wally and Bob are going to get out and see if they can find out what's available and what kind of trade-in we could expect from the F550 plow truck.

Still working on what will be done with the alleys in town that are not owned by the borough. Decisions will be made regarding the maintenance and plowing of these alleys later in the summer in anticipation of the 2018/2019 winter season.

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Bob Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that the painting on the third floor is almost completed, "I'm waiting for the occupancy approval and permit so putting purchase of tables and chairs on hold until the Senior Center renovations are complete."

Councilman Scalzo added, "There will be a "Yard Waste" pickup on Monday, 5/21 and Thursday, 5/24. Please do not use plastic bags. Bundle twigs and small branches. Put loose waste in a container or a biodegradable bag intended for yard waste."

D. PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that there is nothing new to report on the Cell tower proposal. The representative has not gotten back to her and their planned walk about has not happened.

Councilwoman Bean thanked Ms. Melanie Zevan, F.C. Science Teacher and her F.C. Watershed Team for their clean up at Kennedy Park. A picture of the group and the names of participants are on the Borough's website. She then turned the floor over to Councilwoman Matarese to present the Dog Park Proposal for Babe Ruth Park. The intent is to rejuvenate and find a productive use for the Babe Ruth Park. This will be a three-phase project beginning with the fenced in area 100'x60' that will be separated into a large dog and a small dog section. Weed barrier will be placed in the area and covered with a layer of 2b stone, then a layer of smaller gravel to eliminate the need to mow and cut weeds. The second and third phase of the project will include a picnic area with tables and benches and eventually the purchase of some small playground equipment. Two additional lights are being installed around the back of the park for a total of five lights surround the area. There will be a fund raiser that will entitle a \$25 donor to name a bone plaque in honor of their dog past or present. Signs will be created to let people know the rules and "poop" stations will be installed for pet parents to deposit pet waste. Eventually the hope is that access to the Rails Trails will give people from the trails a place to

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stop and let their dogs off leash or to take a break to picnic and play. The high end total cost is estimated at around \$12,000, however donations will help to offset the cost and discounts and contributions are being sought from local vets, pet supply stores, Walmart, etc. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the Dog Park Project at Babe Ruth Park. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members in favor and the motion carried with a seven to zero vote.

E. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Christopher DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague offered Stephanie Reisch's monthly report for review.

F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Councilwoman Tracey Lazier requested council consideration for the purchase of flags and pole sets for Main Street - 15 sets at \$56/set. Also needed – a 5x8 American flag at \$59 and a 5x8 PA flag for Kennedy Park. Total cost - \$1,034 which will be paid out of the Special Events account. Councilwoman Lazier offered the motion to authorize the purchase of flag pole sets and flags for Kennedy Park at a total cost of \$1034. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Seven members voted in favor of the purchase. None opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier reported that there will be a memorial service held at the Doughboy statue at Wm. Penn apartments on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. A luncheon will be held at the Forest City Emergency Services building following the Ceremony. All are welcome to attend.

Councilwoman Lazier read a report from Art McLain, Main Street Coordinator stating that he spoke to Jeff Swegel about the Memorial Day service and Cindy will be printing the program. Art attended the GFCBA meeting and all is progressing nicely for the Trail Town Festival on August 4th. Art has been in touch with Joan Troiani who is hoping to put a laundromat near the Subway and is working with Dave Calachino, the property owner. He will be asking property owners with storefronts to participate in an "open house" event on May 26 to coincide with the yard sales sponsored by the Historical Society. Someone has expressed an interest in opening a Comic book and Collectibles shop at the former Mavis Ice Cream shop. Art reported that he spoke to Repr. Fritz and Congressman Barletta, both former mayors, who helped spark a turn-around in their communities. He will continue to pursue anything that may bring back the Main Street.

President Cost asked everyone to try to attend the Memorial Day Service.

MAYOR ROGALSKI'S REPORT:

Mayor Rogalski provided the April 2018 police report and the May bill for the Vandling police patrols. Mayor Rogalski indicated that although the police department still wanted to purchase the guns and equipment that was requested previously they are holding off on it at this time. Instead, the Mayor presented a quote from Gentex for the purchase of three (3) Ballistic Helmets – 2 large and one XL. They were able to get a 45% discount, so the price for all three will be \$4,093. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to authorize the purchase. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. The roll-call vote was four to three, the motion carried. The three opposed were Councilmembers DeGonzague, Bean and Lazier.

Mayor Rogalski noted that the Crosswalks needed to be repainted and asked the borough to look into purchasing signs "yield to pedestrians in the crosswalk".

SOLICITOR SMITH'S REPORT:

Solicitor Smith presented Resolution #5-2018 to adopt a sidewalk permit fee of \$20. This will cover administrative costs associated with issuing the permit. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to authorize the fee. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted aye in favor and the motion carried.

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Solicitor Smith requested Council to consider Ordinance #512 – 2018, eliminating two parking spaces at 513 Main Street. In order for the owner of the property to get approval from PennDot for a driveway and parking area, he had to get something from the borough eliminating parking spaces in that area. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to advertise Ordinance #512. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion and Solicitor Smith would place the ad in the Forest City News. The ordinance will be considered for approval at the June meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Cost shared a letter from Rachel Habetler regarding her opposition to the Sprint Cell Tower at the Kennedy Park Little League field. Her letter provided information on the hazards to health and vegetation. President Cost thanked her and said Council would consider all of this if faced with a decision.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cost reported that following concerns at the previous meeting about possible mold in the basement, following an inspection no mold or foul smell was found in the basement as reported.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Cost opened the floor for public comment: Rachel Habetler asked about the pave cuts on South and Delaware Streets. Also, commented on the amount of dog poop on Delaware Street. President Cost advised her that the pave cuts will be looked into and to anyone who sees someone not cleaning up after their dog, please contact the police and if possible get pictures.

John Scepita of Delaware Street – “Thank you to Bob Lesjack for following through on seeking an Occupancy permit for the third floor before ordering tables”

Christine Evans, 500 Block of Delaware Street, reported that there are three vehicles in that block without inspection stickers.

Brian Karwowski, North Main Street, noted that there is already a path to the Trail below his house, alongside the park. He went on to say that he has videos and written complaints he’d like to share with the meeting, insisting that the borough needs to be accountable for their police officers. President Cost asked Mr. Karwowski if he had presented these complaints to the Mayor and advised him to follow the proper procedure. “Have they been given to the Mayor?” Another audience member identified himself as Joshua Iyoob, a marine veteran diagnosed with PTSD and panic attacks said, “I can’t drive through town with harassment from the police chief, I grew up here. My wife felt threatened as well when the officer leaned into her vehicle accusing her of speeding when there was a vehicle in front of her.” President Cost asked both men to please submit their complaints to the Mayor and the matter would be looked into.

President Cost recognized former councilwoman, Barbara Mihelc who introduced Kerry Henderson, one of the F.C. Emergency EMTs. Kerry talked about a kit provided by the state. “It’s not going to happen here” can’t be said anymore. The Emergency kit is for “shooter violence” events. The program is called “Stop the Bleed”. President Cost asked if these are in the schools yet. Kerry replied that F.C. Emergency services received three kits and hopefully more will be provided for schools, malls and other public gathering places where this could happen.

President Cost thanked everyone for their comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Council Member Lazier made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Matarese seconded the motion. All members responded “aye”. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.