

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

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**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.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Cost opened the floor for public comment. John Kameen asked whether the Borough would be adopting a fee for the new Stormwater Management Ordinance. President Cost responded, “This is not anticipated at this time. Borough Code required the establishment of a Stormwater Authority in order to collect a fee and more information is needed.” President Cost said, “If there are not further comments we will move on.”

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:** (President Nicholas Cost)

President Cost presented the resignation dated 6/8/2018 submitted by Tammy Rogalski. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to accept the resignation. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All members voted aye and the resignation was accepted effective July 2, 2018.

Robert Lesjack offered a motion to advertise the vacancy. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

President Cost suggested holding a “Special Meeting” on Thursday, July 19, 2018. No one opposed. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to hold the “Special Meeting” on 7/19/18 at 7:00 p.m. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted aye. Councilwoman Bean made a motion to advertise the “Special Meeting” in the F.C. News. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Secretary Vannan offered the Minutes from June 4, 2018 for review and asked for a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Council Member Chris DeGonzague offered a motion to accept the minutes. Council member Amy Bean seconded the motion. All responded “Aye”.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for June 2018. Council member Tracey Lazier offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize General Fund Disbursements \$92,107.22, Streetlights (Liq. Fuels) \$3,372.85, Impact Fees \$17,174.08, Zoning/Planning \$49.16 and Sewer Disbursements \$12,409.12. Total Receipts were \$90,694.72. Council Member Bob Lesjack seconded the motion. The motion carried with a six to zero roll call vote.

The Impact Fees check was received on July 1 for \$115,995.24 for the reporting year 2017, which is an unanticipated \$20,000 more than last year. Ms. Vannan noted the restrictions applied to the use of these funds, i.e. Police equipment, public safety/roads, P.W. Heavy equipment, storm drains/sewers, environmental programs/parks, and building improvements.

**B. PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo read the Public Works report for June 2018 into the record.

- Recycling donations for June - \$462.00;
- Finished painting the third floor;
- Flushed storm drains ;

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- Repaired storm drain at KW office – 500 lbs. Sakrete;
- Purchased pipes to install meters
- Accepted delivery of pedestrian crosswalk signs, placed 4 on Main Street;
- Request permission to remove 6x6 board from beach area at K.P. – council approved.

A bid from B. Kilpatrick Excavating for \$2,000 for repairs on Susquehanna Street was distributed. Councilman Scalzo reported that they were holding off on paving Susq. Street at this time.

Bob Lesjack offered a motion to approve \$1,900 for stone, pipe and labor for road repairs in 600 Block of Lacka. Street. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote, six in favor, none opposed. Prince Brothers will complete work.

Councilman Scalzo reported that donations for recycling were lower, but there has been less collected which means fewer trips to the recycling center. The garage will remain open for yard waste and will continue to schedule yard waste curbside pickups in spring & fall. Scalzo continued, “We will hold on to the recycling truck, can’t tell what may happen at the end of the County Waste Contract.”

Councilman Scalzo reported that the borough received an additional discount on the new dump truck, approved at last month’s meeting. The final cost of the truck would be \$43,623.30, an additional savings of \$2,041 from the original quote.

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Bob Lesjack)

Councilman Bob Lesjack thanked maintenance for completing the painting on the third floor. He reported that Labor & Industry is looking for the original permit issued for occupancy on the third floor. Bob added, “If it can’t be found, it will probably cost a lot to apply for a new one.”

**D. PARKS & RECREATION:** (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported the stone was finished and the fence will be finished by the end of next week. “If anyone has any plastic climbing toys that could be donated to the Dog Park, please contact us.”

Councilwoman Bean reported that she has nothing new to report on the Cell Tower at K.P. Email sent to the contact person, but no response received yet.

Rachel Habetler presented Council with a petition to keep the cell tower out of Kennedy Park, citing health & safety concerns. There were twenty-eight (28) signatures on the petition, some from surrounding communities.

**E. CODE ENFORCEMENT:** (Christopher DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague offered Stephanie Reisch’s monthly report detailing her activities for the month of June. Ms. Reisch plans to work together with Councilwoman Lazier and volunteers to raise funds to clean up the green area at the top of Center Street. She is looking for ideas on what to do with the metal staircase that has become dangerous. She continues to deal with grass complaints. Ms. Reisch represented the borough at a hearing at the Magistrate’s office in Clifford. Ms. Reisch hopes to get a budget increase in 2019 to be able to issue private criminal complaints in the future to “repeat offenders”.

Councilman DeGonzague reported that the floor in the Senior Center is complete and they are very happy with the results. He reports that he has also been talking with Councilwoman Lazier about bringing the Center Street “Green Area” up to code.

**F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Tracey Lazier reported that Main Street Coordinator, Art McLain, submitted his resignation dated 6/15/2018. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to accept the

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resignation. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted aye and the resignation was accepted.

Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #513-2018, an exception to recreational burning. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the ordinance and the motion carried.

**MAYOR REPORT:**

In the absence of a mayor, the following was reported on behalf of the Police Department: June 2018 police report and the Vanding invoice for patrols and call outs were presented to council.

Parking meter installation is complete and enforcement will begin on 7/16/18. Parking tickets for failing to use the meter are \$10.

A 3% wage increase was requested for Chief Jim Johnson's anniversary date of July 1, 2018. His current rate of \$22.54 would increase to \$23.22 per hour. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve the increase. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Council approved the motion by unanimous roll call vote, six to zero.

The second annual "National Night Out", sponsored by the Forest City Police Department will be at Kennedy Park on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. to (approx.) 8:00 p.m. "Hotdogs, hamburgers, and snacks will be served. Come join the fun."

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Solicitor Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith asked council for a motion to adopt the Stormwater Management Ordinance #511-2018. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #511-2018. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded "aye" and the ordinance was adopted.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (President Cost)

President Cost offered the following items:

A request from Rail-Trail Council of NEPA for a road closure on August 4, 2018 for Main Street activities for the Rail Town Festival and later for the "Light Parade" traveling up Rt. #247 to Main St., Rt. #171 and proceeding North to DG's Bar. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the road closure. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded "Aye" and the request was approved.

President Cost presented an invitation to the 2018 Equipment Show, sponsored by PennDot, in Tunkhannock on July 26, 2018.

President Cost also shared an invitation from Wayne Memorial Community Health for the groundbreaking ceremony on Thursday, July 12 at 10:00 a.m. This will be at the 100 Dundaff Street location, previously the American Legion post.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Cost opened the floor for a second round of public comment:

Rachel Habetler complained about the condition of the road on South and Delaware Streets. President Cost replied, "I'm working on that with the engineer." She then asked if the Rail-Trails would be ready for the activities on the August 4. John Kameen answered that the trail will be ready going south from the trailhead on Commerce Blvd. It will still not be ready going north.

John Kameen asked about the crosswalk signs. President Cost replied, "We are working on finding the best place to put them to avoid traffic issues." Councilman Scalzo added, "We realize that the streets are narrow and we will continue to see how it impacts on traffic."

Tim Madden thanked the borough for publishing the agenda on the website. He also commented, "The Code Enforcement page on the website needs to be "toned down" and that contrasting colors would make it easier to read." He asked, "Will the Main Street Coordinator

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position be advertised and if there is a job description available. President Cost said, "I'm working on that, no job description yet." Mr. Madden added that he hoped that council is looking at an increase for the part-time police officers. When he asked about snow plowing alleys, Vice-President Scalzo responded, "that meeting is planned for August/September. Alleys may not be borough owned and we may be plowing private property." Solicitor Smith recommended that property owners check their deeds, but most of these alleys are private. Some are a 10 ft. strip that leads nowhere. There may be liability issues, some are still owned by the old coal companies. When property is purchased, the purchaser should get a complete title search." This will all be a part of how the borough decides to proceed in September.

Barbara Mihelc asked if she could add something to the Susquehanna Street problem. "In the 70's there was a "ramp" project, drains were installed to divert water away from private property. It was left with no discharge point or ditch, so the wash out has caused the section of the road where the water was diverted beneath. The water is still flowing thru these drains and causing the problem." President Cost agreed and said, "We have to look at this further and decide what to do." Ms. Mihelc added, "This project was through the Dept. of Agriculture and it was called "RAMP", there may be something in the borough's files." President Cost thanked Ms. Mihelc for her input.

President Cost, "If there is nothing else, then the comments are closed."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, August 6, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a special meeting on Thursday, July 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. seeking nominations for the vacancy left by the Mayor's resignation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Bean made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Lazier seconded the motion. All members responded "aye". The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.