

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 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, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Bob Lesjack, Mayor Tammy Rogalski, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan. Absent: Councilman Bernie Scalzo.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Cost opened the floor for public comment.

Jason Obelenus was recognized and asked why another burn ordinance was being adopted. Other residents attending complained that they did not want further restrictions on burning. Councilwoman Lazier responded, "This is an amendment to the existing ordinance to "allow" units like fire pits, contained units, and safety recommendations. The restrictions still apply to garbage burning which the original ordinance already covered. This amendment will allow people to roast marshmallows and hot dogs, small contained burning for recreational purposes will be okay."

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Councilwoman Matarese offered the Minutes from May 7, 2018 for review and a motion to approve the Minutes as written. Council Member Lesjack seconded the motion to accept the minutes. All responded "Aye".

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for May 2018. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize General Fund Disbursements \$65,700.95, Streetlights (L.Q.) \$3,794.02 and Sewer Disbursements \$21,426.80. Total Receipts were \$298,995.85. Council Member Amy Bean seconded the motion. The motion carried with a six to zero roll call vote.

USDA Payment Request #61 – payable to PennDot for inspection services - \$2,113.89. Joann Matarese offered a motion to authorize payment. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote of six to zero.

The 2017 Audit and Financial Statements provided by Brian Kelly, CPA were distributed to council members for review.

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

Due to Councilman Scalzo's absence, President Cost read the Public Works report for May 2018 into the record. Bob Tedesco reported the following:

- Recycling donations for April/May - \$462.00;
- Painted crosswalks on Main and Dundaff Streets;
- Cleaned up the area where police cars will be stored;
- Repaired storm drains at 600 block of Susq. Street;
- Installed plastic sheeting in basement;
- Continued painting the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor as time permitted;
- Used backhoe to prep 100'x60' area at Babe Ruth Park for the Dog Park;
- Put up the flags on Main Street.

Prices are being sought on road repairs for the 900 block of Susquehanna Street, North Main Street, and the 600 Block of Lackawanna Street. More information is needed so this item is tabled until the July meeting. Councilman DeGonzague added, "There is a hole at 1031 Lower Main Street that needs to be filled, please add to list."

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Gibbons Ford and New Holland Auto provided bids for a Ford F550 dump truck with plow and spreader. Both are CoStar providers so advertised bids were not required. Gibbons priced a 2019 with up-fitting done locally by Powell's Equipment at \$45,664.30 (that included a \$32K trade-in for the 2011). New Holland offered a 2018 at \$48,594 (that included the trade-in at \$28,500). Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to purchase the truck from Gibbons at a total cost of \$45,664.30. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Truck purchase approved with a roll call vote of six in favor, none opposed.

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

Councilman Lesjack reported that he received a verbal confirmation from KBA that the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Occupancy allowance is 132, so he recommended the purchase of tables & chairs from Sam's Club. He asked to purchase 15 round tables, 3 rectangular tables and 120 chairs at a total cost of \$4,050. He said he contacted the fire department who sent him to BIU (our building inspectors), and they said to contact KBA. Barbara Mihelc interjected that the correct place to get the Occupancy Certificate is from Labor & Industry. Councilman Lesjack said he would contact them to proceed. The purchase was tabled until an Occupancy Certificate is obtained from Labor & Industry.

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

Councilwoman Bean reported that there is nothing new to report on the Cell tower proposal. The representative has not returned her call, she will follow up at the next meeting. Councilwoman Bean turned over the floor to Councilwoman Matarese to report on the Dog Park at Babe Ruth Park. Councilwoman Matarese reported that progress is being made at the Dog Park. Public works used the borough's equipment to dig down and take out the extra dirt to allow for the stone/gravel. Stone was delivered creating some confusion because the fence installer wanted to put in the posts first before the weed barrier and stone went in. Installation will be the week of June 25<sup>th</sup>. More stone will be delivered for the parking area. Poop stations have arrived and there is one for each area. Picnic tables and small children's play equipment will be added later. Signs are being prepared for each area and will clearly outline the rules. Wood dog bones are ordered and will be ready to hang when the fence is completed. Donations are coming in and thank you cards are being sent out.

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

Councilman DeGonzague offered Stephanie Reisch's monthly report. She is reminding residents not to blow grass clippings out into the road and into storm drains which is an environmental hazard. When blown on sidewalks and wet, they become a safety risk. Please collect your clippings and dispose of properly.

Councilman DeGonzague reported that he is working on forming an Emergency Management committee and will be working with the mayor, police and the fire department to gather information on available resources and will have more information at next month's meeting.

**F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Councilwoman Tracey Lazier reported that the Memorial Day services and parade were a success and thanked everyone for their participation. She then read a brief report from Main Street Coordinator McLain who was unavailable for tonight's meeting.

Councilman Lazier presented Ordinance #513, an amendment to #477 of 2008, adding an additional exception permitting residents to burn for recreational purposes with certain restrictions on the type of combustible materials and specific safety measures. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to advertise. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

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**MAYOR ROGALSKI'S REPORT:**

Mayor Rogalski provided the May 2018 police report and the June bill for the Vandling police patrols.

She reported that the 2014 Chevy has a bent rim and repairs would cost \$234.36. She asked for a motion to approve. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the repairs. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Six council members voted yes. None opposed, the motion carried.

The Mayor then asked for council's permission to place the Drug Take-back box in the borough building hallway. Councilman Lesjack expressed concerns about the safety of collecting drugs in an area not protected at all times by police. He noted concerns about the secretaries' safety. President Cost suggested that the box be installed in the police department offices with a slot in the wall. Mayor Rogalski agreed to table the request until more information was available.

Mayor Rogalski reported that the building siren will be included in the Emergency Management planning. One-minute blast to be on alert, followed by three short blasts to report that the danger has passed.

Mayor Rogalski had several items. She asked that trash cans be put back on Main Street. President Cost agreed to have one put in front of the Borough building and one across the street on a test basis. He'll check with maintenance to see if there were still some at the garage. The Mayor asked if the meters could be painted as a school project. All members agreed with the idea. She would follow up on it. The Mayor said that Narcan training is available, to contact her if anyone was interested in participating.

The Mayor asked for approval to purchase two extended life battery packs for the cameras at a cost of \$219.99 so they would not have to be changed so often. Councilman DeGonzague offered the motion to approve the purchase. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. It carried unopposed. The purchase was approved.

Mayor Rogalski again brought up a request to purchase eight 9 mil handguns. Discussion followed with several questions from council members. Chief Johnson responded that each officer would have to do a minimum of 40 hours of training and would have to qualify to use the weapons. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to purchase the guns for a total cost of \$5,200, with the stipulation that they would remain in the police department locked cabinet until each officer qualified and they would be for use while on duty for the borough. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found three members in favor (Matarese, DeGonzague & Cost) and three members opposed (Lesjack, Lazier & Bean). With a tie vote, the Mayor had the opportunity to cast the deciding vote. She voted "yes". The purchase was approved.

**SOLICITOR SMITH'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Smith presented Ordinance #512-2018, a ban on parking at 509/511 Main Street. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #512-2018. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded "aye". The motion carried.

Solicitor Smith presented the Stormwater Ordinance #511-2018 asking for a motion to authorize advertising the Ordinance. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to advertise. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried.

Solicitor Smith noted that the ad for the Zoning Hearing was incorrect. The meeting was moved to June 26, 2018. A correction will be sent to the Forest City News for publication.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

President Cost offered the following items:

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Thank you to Senator Lisa Baker and her representative Tom Yoniski for the donation of a U.S. Flag, thanked Bob & Wally for putting up the flags on Main Street and noted that the Borough made a \$75 donation to F. C. Emergency Services to provide refreshments following the Memorial Day Services.

He thanked Amy Bean and Joann Matarese for their work on the Dog Park and the fund raising efforts. President Cost thanked Dave Colachino for re-installing the benches on Main Street.

President Cost reminded council and Mayor Rogalski that they were invited to attend the Summer Mixer on Tuesday, June 5<sup>th</sup> at CPT from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Cost presented a quote from Critelli Electric for a new LED flood light at the Coal Miner's Memorial, parts & labor - \$412. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve the work. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote – six in favor, none opposed. The work was approved.

A quote for replacement of the Library door and side panels was presented. Mesko Glass offered a price of \$6,400 for the library and replacement of the Borough entrance front door at a cost of \$3,470. A motion was offered by Councilwoman Lazier and seconded by Councilman DeGonzague to accept the bid for the library entrance for \$6,400. A roll call vote was taken finding six members in favor, none opposed. The bid for the Borough Entrance was tabled for this year.

A price from Rice Signs for two portable pedestrian crosswalk signs and six pole signs for \$679 was presented. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the purchase of the signs. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Six members voted yes, none opposed. The purchase was approved.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Cost opened the floor for public comment:

Christine Evans commented on the need for enforcement of crosswalk laws. Several comments, both pro & con, were made about the Dog Park. Todd Marz said that these funds should be directed toward local events to bring people into town or used at Kennedy Park. Rachel Habetler asked if the leash law will be better enforced in Kennedy Park. She also expressed concerns about speeding on Delaware Street.

Pat McCabe suggested that signs should be put up directing people to the Dog Park. Comments were also made in support of the purchase of the handguns, applauding Chief Johnson for finally getting the firearms that the department needed.

Dusti Swegel, a Vandling resident, commented on the purchase of a \$45,000 truck was purchased without discussion of warranty or requirements for the people who would be driving it. She also saluted Chief Johnson for his record on getting drug offenders.

Tim Madden asked council to publish a tentative agenda the week before a meeting, so that residents who had an interest in a particular issue could plan to attend. Mr. Madden also asked about boro alleys and stated he is very interested in what the town plans to do to regulate their use.

Barbara Mihelc commented on Kennedy Park and stated that the determination of the number of people who can occupy the third floor is under the jurisdiction of the PA Dept. of Labor & Industry.

Paul Vendetti questioned some of the information on the borough's website regarding code enforcement, finding some of the statements displeasing. Secretary Vannan said she will review the material and is open to any suggestions.

John Scepita and Abby Rodriguez commented on the renting and use of the third floor and whether there would be sufficient parking.

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Donna Marz stated that council should show respect to citizens who attended the meeting. After an outburst calling President Cost a “Jerk” and in an attempt to take a defiant stand, she crossed her arms and said she would just stand there for the rest of her five minutes.

Jason Obelenus commented on the fire pit change to the burning Ordinance and also on the use of the third floor. He also said, “The town must do all it can to entice young police officers to come here including funding for clothing and equipment.

Another question on the cell phone tower at Kennedy Park came up and the response was that nothing new has been learned. That commenter also said that a cell tower would be a “cash cow” for the borough that would attract other providers.

Mayor Rogalski used the comment period to report that the rumor is false that the police are seeking a “side-by-side” utility vehicle and that the department is not targeting anyone.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, July 2, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Bean made a motion to adjourn. Council Member DeGonzague seconded the motion. All members responded “aye”. The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.