

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 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."

Roll Call:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Cost opened the floor for comment specific to the agenda items: Robert Matos offered his opinion on the possibility of using the basketball courts for "pickle ball". He stated that he is not opposed to any sport, but that defacing the courts for lines for another sport was distracting to his players and he wanted to know who gave them permission. He continued, "If it's because the park is a public place and anyone could do whatever they want, then he would set up archery targets up by the children's playground equipment. As for the cost, is it here to stay or just a fad, like Disc Golf, that didn't last either." Mr. Matos also had concerns about "no parking" signs. He didn't think they were needed and would prevent people from parking in areas that didn't need to be protected. President Cost explained that they would only be in the areas on the upper side of the road to keep cars out of the ditches. Council Scalzo added, "This complaint came from another citizen who observed ruts and damage to the grass. It's being looked into."

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve minutes from July 2, 2018 Meeting. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the minutes from the Special Meeting held July 19, 2018 for the selection & appointment of Mayor Christopher Ginton. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted aye, with none opposed, the motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2018, noting that the total Cash Receipts are \$207,541.51, which includes the annual Impact Fee received - \$115,995.24. Total G.F. disbursements are \$73,547.04, Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3,312.69 and Sewer Account disbursements - \$14,885.71. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in seven for, none opposed. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese issued a motion to approve the USDA payment Req. #62 for Leeward Construction App. #25 - \$116,470.80. President Cost noted that this invoice is for work completed on the piping. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven members in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the Public Works Report for July 2018 noting the following:

- Assisted contractors to finish work at Dog Park;
- Finished painting parking lines on Main Street;
- Installed replacement meters on Main Street;
- Used 800 lbs. Sakrete in storm drain on Maxey Street;
- Wally called in 7/21/18 to use backhoe to remove tree that fell on road near Babe Ruth park;
- Turned in June recycling donations - \$293 and July recycling donations - \$352.

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Councilman Scalzo went on to report on the dip in the road on Susquehanna St. Paving has not been done yet because the spot continues to sink and now a hole has opened up about 8 ft off the road and we are continuing to try to find out what is causing this to happen.

Regarding the plowing of alleys in the borough, there will be a special public meeting in September to discuss the borough's position. Most appear to be private property and that's the problem, however, Councilman Scalzo stated, "The borough will continue to take care of plowing these alleys until a definitive decision is made."

Councilwoman Lazier asked, "Can we do another E-cycling event?" Councilman Scalzo responded, "Due to the cost of taking this material to Lackawanna County, none is planned at this time." It was suggested that people could call TEB in the Sugerman's plaza in Eynon. They are still taking many electronic items. Old TV's and monitors are still a major problem.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Pictures of new council members are in. Still need to get the Mayor's taken. Councilman Lesjack reported that he is still working on getting the Occupancy permit from the Dept. of Labor & Industry. He hopes to have more information for the next meeting.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that she met with the Sprint Representative about the Cell phone tower and reviewed the map to determine what the borough owns and where any other viable site might be considered. They toured the area and went back into the woods at the Upper Field. They also went past the playground over 100 ft. back into the woods. Placing it near the Little League Field will not be considered, however it will still take two to three months to get a definitive answer from Sprint. Sprint will cover the cost of anything related to the installation including surveying the property to verify the boundaries of the park before proceeding.

Complaint received from a concerned resident regarding parking on the grass at Kennedy Park, "Can the borough post signs?" The request for "No Parking" signs in the grassy areas to the left of the park is being studied. It would not be all grassy areas, only those that are being damaged when very wet. Item tabled for now.

Councilwoman Matarese reported that all the work is complete on the Dog Park. Public Works brought down one picnic table painted green. The "Smooch your pooch" booth was a great photo-op. Thank you to Jennifer Matarese, Amy Bean, Cindy & Sharon for volunteering their time for the grand opening.

Councilwoman Bean noted that there have been many comments, "some love it, some hate it, what else is new?" She reminded everyone that funding for K.P. and Babe Ruth is separate and nothing was taken away from Kennedy Park. The Bids for the Basketball & Tennis courts will be opened later in the meeting.

Councilwoman Bean added, "We are looking for Board Members for the "Parks & Recreation Board" (formerly Kennedy Park Board). Meeting is planned for Thursday August 9 at 7:00 p.m. at the pavilion at K.P. or in the borough building if it's raining. Councilwoman Lazier commented on the state of the gazebo and hoped this would be on the board's list of projects. President Cost asked Amy Bean to work on getting prices for repairs vs. replacement.

Work is need in the volleyball court. Councilman Scalzo will get the P.W. crew to dig it out for sand and get the net up.

Deb McNamara offered a presentation on a "Pickle Ball" proposal for K.P. Permission to use the Tennis court and possibly the basketball courts. She gave a presentation on "Pickle Ball" and how it's played. She noted the benefits to the park and borough if this takes off as an alternative sport. Chalk or water paint was used to create the lines. She included a drawing of what the court looks like, what kind of equipment is used and how the game is played.

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Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to permit the use of the courts for Pickle Ball. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the motion carried. Ms. McNamara said that they would offer instructions on Wednesdays at 9:00 a.m. and Sundays at 1:00 p.m. to see what kind of interest there is. Clifford Twp. offered to loan their Equipment. She offered to come to the September meeting to report on how it’s going.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

Code Enforcement Report (Stephanie Reisch) for July 2018 included complaints received about a pool at 631 Susquehanna St. as well as many grass complaints. She is taking care of both. She’s received several complaints about bushes, chickens, and pit bulls running loose. She is dealing with each situation as reported.

Councilman DeGonzague reported that the Area Agency on Aging has reimbursed the borough for the new floor in the Senior Center. Check received today for \$5,367.15.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that she is working on a job description for a “Main Street Coordinator”. She will have it ready for the September meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

Mayor Glinton provided the July 2018 Police Report and Vandling’s invoice for July 2018 patrols & June Calls, \$2,000;

Parking Meter installation is complete; enforcement began on July 16, 2018.

The Fishing Derby organized by Assistant Chief Rowan and held Sunday, August 5, 2018 was very successful. Seventy-three kids participated and 86 fish were caught & released. Many thanks to everyone who participated;

Don’t forget that our 2nd Annual “National Night Out”, sponsored by the Forest City Police Department, will be held at Kennedy Park on Tuesday, August 7, 2018 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is asked to come out and participate. It’s a great opportunity for the community and especially the kids to get comfortable with the police and emergency responders. In addition, there are some great prizes, bikes & helmets, that will be raffled off and plenty of “free” food and games.

Mayor Glinton asked for approval to salvage (2) police vehicles stored at Borough Garage for scrap, no offers were received when they were recently advertised. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to approve the request. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion and all voted “aye”. Councilwoman Lazier said she might know someone who wanted them, she would check with him, and if he was no longer interested, they could be salvaged with G&G towing.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith reported that he had some requests to look into an ordinance regulating chickens (and other animals) in the borough. Some of the complaints have been about the number of chickens, how they are contained and whether or not roosters can be prohibited. Solicitor Smith offered to put together a “draft” of an ordinance and get it out to council members for review before the next meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

Request from Pamela DeRose, Susq. Co Senior Center to use the third floor for senior exercise classes – chair yoga and Zumba Gold. This would be once or twice a week with 20 or less participants. Lenox Twp. may also join in. Councilman Lesjack voiced his opposition, concerned about potential damage to the floors. He also asked how they would use the area once tables & chairs are purchased and set up. Councilwoman Bean commented, “There’s no

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room downstairs for this kind of activity and thought this was a good idea. Councilman DeGonzague agreed and offered a motion to permit the use of the third floor at no additional charge for the seniors to use for exercise programs. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Six members voted yes, Councilman Lesjack voted “no”. The motion carried.

President Cost read a communication from the Rail-Trail Council of NEPA announcing their 10th Annual D&H Distance Run – Sunday, September 9, 2018. An “Emergency Services Coordination” meeting will be on Tuesday, August 21, 6:30 p.m. at Cable’s Store, Union Dale.

NEW BUSINESS:

Opening sealed bids for Kennedy Park Basketball/Tennis Court project – Received only one (1) from Andrew Baldan Construction of Mayfield. The bid is \$86,600. Gary Wilding will review this and recommend changes so that it can go out for bids again. This price is \$26K higher than what was originally estimated.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments. Rachel Habetler, 428 Delaware St., began with a thank you for fixing the road. She then commented that she didn’t feel that the lines on the courts would be distracting. “Most athletic courts are multi-use courts and this shouldn’t cause a problem for Mr. Matos.” She noted that she is still opposed to the cell tower in the park.

Sally Fischbeck from Clifford Twp. offered to help with the establishment of the F.C. Parks & Recreation Board. She noted that their bi-laws are available on the Clifford Twp. website. She would also be participating with Deb McNamara at K.P. with the Pickle Ball instructions.

Councilwoman Bean responded to concerns about the cell tower. Before council decides anything, an expert will come to the meeting to answer everyone’s questions about radiation and any potential danger. Councilman Scalzo added, “This tower could very well end up very close to the park if any property owners around the park are approached, the council would have no say.”

Barbara Mihelc suggested that concerns about the tables & chairs on the third floor would be solved with the purchase of racks to store them. She added, “It’s not likely that they would be set up all the time, only if an event is planned, otherwise the floor would be used for other things.”

Councilwoman Lazier added, “Thank you to Mayor Ginton, Deb Giddings and everyone who made the Trail Town Festival a success. It was a great event and everyone seemed very happy with everything.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

A “Special Public Meeting will be on September 18, 2018, to discuss snow removal and maintenance of alleyways in the borough.

Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next regularly scheduled Meeting will be on Tuesday, September 4, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All members responded “aye” and the meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.