

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan. Absent: Councilmen Bernie Scalzo and Bob Lesjack

PUBLIC COMMENT and PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL MEETING:

President Cost opened the floor for comment specific to the agenda items and indicated he was going to run the meeting informally reading from existing ordinances reminding the audience about the ban on the use of rock salt on Borough sidewalks. There is a 48-hour window to remove snow from sidewalks to the curb and if the sidewalks are ice covered, please use calcium chloride.

Anthony Dell’ Aquila and Paul Daugavelo, both Main Street business owners commented on a number of issues that included bills from a local contractor who removed snow from the curbs without their authorization and they refuse to pay the bills. Both felt the borough should be paying for snow removal from curbs on Main Street. Further discussion included the ban on parking on Main Street from Nov. 1 thru Mar. 1 from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m. The question was asked about who was actually enforcing this parking ban since police are off duty at 2:00 a.m. and do not return until 7 or 8 a.m. Chief Johnson responded, “When there is snow, officers often stay later or come in earlier to enforce. They usually offer warnings the first couple of times, then ticket if it continues. An officer is always on call and will respond to a 911 dispatch from the Comm. Center.”

President Cost reminded everyone, “Do not throw snow out into the streets, this is illegal and violators will be prosecuted.” He also read sections of Ordinance #469 relating to the property owner’s responsibility to remove snow to the curb and not pile it on the curbs. “It’s up to the property owner to get rid of it”. Mr. Dell’ Aquila asked why the public works crew is not doing this. Councilwoman Tracey Lazier suggested that PennDot be contacted to get them to plow closer to the curbs, but then complained that often this snow is thrown back onto sidewalks. President Cost said he would contact PennDot “again”, but you cannot have it both ways. This is everywhere that they plow. Barbara Mihelc added, “The plows used now are not straight plows and they are not able to get as close to curbs as they once could.” Solicitor Smith reminded everyone, “The sidewalk is from the building to the curb, doesn’t end at the brick.” Solicitor Smith said that the Business Alliance used to contract for snow removal but the businesses were not kicking in when the bill came so this practice ended. This will be discussed with public works, but the borough does not have the workers or equipment to do all of Main Street, which is a state road. Council will work on this, budget time is coming up and numbers are needed. Business owners need to provide the numbers and copies of paid invoices for snow removal from last winter. It is impossible to estimate the cost of snow removal without some kind of input, even then now way to know what kind of winter it will be. Much of this meeting was in an “open format”. Many ideas including the use of tax money, impact fees, and purchasing more equipment were offered. President Cost said, “All of this will be discussed further when more information is available”.

Tim Madden asked about Dundaff Street and those sidewalks, “Who is enforcing snow removal?” President Cost replied, “Code Enforcement Officer, Stephanie Reisch will be following up on that. As for Dundaff Street sidewalks, President Cost noted that there is no parking on that street and people are not fighting to open car doors against snow banks. It’s not

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the same on Main Street where people park and then have to climb over frozen piles just to get to a sidewalk.

President Cost told those in attendance that all of this would be considered as council continues to work on a solution that will work for everyone.

President Cost then asked the audience to move onto the next topic, continued plowing and maintenance of the alleys in the borough. Comments from Stephanie Reisch started the discussion. Support for continuing to plow the alleys came from Tim Madden and a couple with two small children whose home is located on the alley with no other access. They were very concerned about emergency access and argued that they had been told they could not block the alley by police because it is a public right of way. Support from Councilman Chris DeGonzague regarding safety issues and emergency access was offered. President Cost agreed that if “we plow one, we plow all”. Councilwoman Amy Bean offered a motion to continue to plow those alleys that the borough had plowed in the past and consider any future requests on a case by case basis”. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, the five members present voted aye, with none opposed, the motion carried.

More information is needed before a decision can be made about snow removal from the Main Street curbs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, October 1, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilwoman Bean made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All members responded “aye” and the meeting ended at 8:15 p.m.