

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 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, Tracey Lazier, Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean, Joann Matarese, Bob Lesjack, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

MS4 PRESENTATION: (KBA Engineering)

President Cost introduced Dave Lamereaux of KBA Engineering to address the group on MS4 Permit requirements satisfying the public education part of the permit. He provided several handouts including the 2018 report that he prepared on behalf of the borough. Other handouts included a tip sheet on environmentally friendly snow and ice treatment. He also provided a handout from the LRCA (Lacka. River Corridor Assoc.) outlining volunteer opportunities and information about the Master Watershed Steward Program being offered at the Penn State Extension. Mr. Lamereaux reminded borough officials that mapping is required and that all of this is mandated to protect the Chesapeake Bay. Councilwoman Matarese pointed out that the completion of the Dog Park helps to reduce pollution. Councilman Scalzo asked how the borough measures up compared to other municipalities. Mr. Lamereaux noted that our main problem is sediment and that street sweeping helps to reduce that. He noted that paved vs. unpaved streets also work in our favor. The borough's stormwater outlets do not come in direct contact with the river so there is less concern about erosion. However, the borough needs to adopt a pollution reduction plan, plant vegetation to reduce erosion around storm drains and educate the public about rain gardens and rain barrels to reduce run-off.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments offered at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve minutes from November 5, 2018 Meeting. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried. November Treasurer's Report included Cash Receipts are \$91,106.05. Total disbursements are \$95,634.13, this includes Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3,292.59 and Sewer Account disbursements are \$12,558.01, the bulk of the Sewer Account Disbursement is a fund transfer to the General Fund account for garbage fees collected with Sewer payments in the amount of \$11,717.89.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt the 2019 General Fund Budget. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion to adopt the 2019 General Fund budget six council members voted "yes". Councilman DeGonzague voted "no". The 2019 G. F. Budget was adopted.

Councilwoman Matarese proposed a motion to adopt the 2019 Sewer Budget. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all seven members in favor. The 2019 Sewer Budget was accepted.

Treasurer Vannan requested council to consider terminating Highmark Coverage and the supplemental coverage with Morgan White (AMFirst) in favor of switching to a Geisinger Health plan. The Geisinger plan offered lower copays and a reduction in the deductible from \$2,000 (Highmark) to \$250 with Geisinger. Not only that but the change to Geisinger would result in a 2% increase as opposed to a 19% increase with Highmark. Councilwoman Matarese

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2018**

offered a motion to terminate Highmark and AmFirst effective 1/1/2019 and enroll employees in the Geisinger coverage. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in seven for, none opposed. Ms. Vannan would begin the enrollment process immediately.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to advertise the 2019 Tax Levy Ordinance #516. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted "aye". Ms. Vannan will submit the ad to the F. C. News.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

The Public Works Report for November 2018 included the following activities for the month. Scrap metal taken to Archbald Wrecking netted \$112. Recycling donations collected - \$191. Invoiced Vandling \$585 for cinder/salt mix. The report also covered purchases of salt and new brushes for the sweeper broom. Repairs done to storm drain on Erie Street with the costs billed to KBA & Leeward Construction. They worked on the Christmas lights & wreaths and made repairs where necessary; picked up two benches from the school for the Dog Park; repaired & replaced barriers on Maxey Street, costs billed to the driver who moved them; assisted a truck stuck on Lower Main Street, cost billed to the owner; and picked up 30 small trees and a 20' tree for Main Street.

Councilwoman Bean asked if the new plow was ready. Councilman Scalzo reported that it is still at Powell's waiting to be up-fitted with no delivery date yet.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that the chairs were delivered and he was under budget by \$1,065. He made a motion to purchase eight round bi-fold and four long tables for the third floor for a cost not to exceed \$1,600. Chris DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted yes, seven to zero roll-call vote. The motion carried. Ms. Vannan would follow-up and place the order.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that Sprint would not be pursuing the cell tower project at Kennedy Park.

Councilwoman Bean reported that the Christmas Festival was a great success. She offered thanks to First National Bank for co-sponsored the Elf School. She also thanked the Parks & Recreation Board members, Kathy Kernoschak, Kristian Short and Rich Priebe for their help. Dollar General, Weis Market, and McDonald's donated gift certificates for the coloring contest prizes and she extended her thanks to all.

The next Park & Recreation meeting will be on Tuesday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m. here in the Borough building. Volunteers are needed for a couple of future events that include a Fishing Derby and Ice Skating at Kennedy Park.

President Cost extended his thanks as well to everyone who participated in the Christmas Festival.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

Code Enforcement Report (Stephanie Reisch) for November 2018 listed the projects that she's been working on.

Councilman DeGonzague presented Resolution #6-2018 – to update to the 2015 Edition of the UCC Building Codes and the Property Maintenance Codes as adopted by the PA Dept. of Labor and Industry in October 2018. BIU will be using the 2015 codes effective January 1, 2019. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to adopt Resolution #6-2018. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Resolution #6-2018 was approved.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2018**

Councilwoman Lazier reported that purse raffle tickets are available for \$5 each or three tickets for \$10. The winners will be drawn at the Parks & Rec. meeting on 12/18/18.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Mayor Ginton provided the November 2018 Police Report and Vandling's invoice for December 2018 patrols & November Calls, \$2,000.

Mayor Ginton thanked Public Works for picking up the trees. He reported that the Winter Festival was a great success. Children created 135 ornaments at the flower shop. He noted that the billboard ad was a cooperative effort with Carbondale Chamber. He thanked Chief Johnson and Officer Gabikian for their coverage of the event.

Mayor Ginton presented two purchase requests, ammunition at \$1,898 and Tactical Vests for \$1,898 to be purchased from Middlebrook Firearms. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to purchase the Ammo for \$1,898.16. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Five members voted yes, two (DeGonzague and Bean) voted no. The motion carried five to two. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to purchase tactical vests for \$1,680. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote. The motion carried.

Mayor Ginton recommended a new hire, David Clark, a fifteen-year police veteran, to start at \$14/hour part-time without benefits. President Cost added, "This is with a one-year probationary period." Councilman Scalzo made a motion to hire David Clark, part-time at \$15/hour. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted in favor and Mr. Clark was approved for employment. He was unavailable for tonight's meeting but would be sworn in by Mayor Ginton at a later date.

Anthony Telesco tendered his resignation effective 11/11/2018. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to accept the resignation. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted "aye" and the resignation was approved.

Mayor Ginton announced that there would be "free" meter parking for the holidays from Saturday 12/22/18 through Sunday, January 6, 2019.

On a final note, Mayor Ginton thanked Dorothy Cleary carriage rides and all the businesses who participated in the Winter Festival.

Chief Johnson added, "The Toy drive is still collecting unwrapped toys up until 12/21/18. Distribution will be through D.G.'s." Mayor Ginton thanked Hornbeck's for donating Turkeys for a give-away, 200 are available, stop in and get a voucher.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #515 supporting a rate increase for council members and the Mayor from the current \$50/month to \$75/month. He explained that this increase does not benefit any sitting members and will only change when newly elected or appointed officials take their "Oath of Office". Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #515 Rate Increase. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Six members voted "yes" in favor. Councilman DeGonzague voted "no". The motion carried with the roll call vote six to one.

Solicitor Smith asked Council to approve the Employment Agreement with Chief James Johnson. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve Chief Johnson's Employment Agreement. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Seven voted yes, none opposed. The Agreement was approved.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

"Snow removal Bids" were received from Steve Mikloiche, dba Mikloiche Timber & Construction LLC and B. Kilpatrick Excavating & Paving. Mikloiche's bid was split – 2' or less at \$2,350 or 2' or more at \$3,350. Kilpatrick's Bid was a flat \$3,640 based on 8 hours labor & equipment. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to accept Mikloiche's bid. Councilman

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY DECEMBER 3, 2018**

DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote and Mikloiche's bid was accepted.

President Cost also shared thanks to NEP, Steve & Ed Tourje and their staff for putting up the Christmas lights, also a huge thanks to the GFCBA and Mike Zack for their support.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

Rachel Habetler, Delaware Street, asked if next year's Christmas festival could be geared more toward adults, with additional vendors and evening hours. Ms. Habetler asked if the bench in front of Kellies' Salon is being replaced. President Cost responded, "There is one for Kellie's, the Historical Society and NEP. They will be installed in the spring."

Ms. Habetler reported that the streetlight over the white board at the south end of town is still out. President Cost said he would look into it. Comments about the problems on Depot Street with trucks taking wrong turns off the Main Street were discussed, and will be followed up.

Councilwoman Lazier asked about forming a committee for Holiday lights for the Main Street. President Cost asked Councilman Lesjack and Mayor Glinton to help with this. If there are questions about connections to the streetlights and sensors, Bill Orasin, Jr. may be able to answer some of those.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the 2019 meeting schedule and advertise it in the Forest City News. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, January 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All members responded "aye" and the meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.