

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY JANUARY 7, 2019**

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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 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.

**FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

Councilwoman Joann Matarese read a brief statement rescinding her resignation letter, “I have decided to rescind my resignation without further action. I will complete my term in December 2019. One letter of interest was received from Mr. Laurence Caffery and we acknowledge receipt and thank him for his interest, however there is no vacancy at this time.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments offered at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve minutes from December 3, 2018 Meeting. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried. The December Treasurer’s Report included Cash Receipts are \$84,660.06. Total disbursements are \$97,157.11, this includes Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3390.80 and Sewer Account disbursements are \$28578.64, the bulk of the Sewer Account Disbursement is a fund transfer to the General Fund account for garbage fees collected with Sewer payments are \$20,641.30. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #516 – 2019 Tax Levy with no increase to the current 16.8 mils. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded “Aye”.

Councilwoman Matarese proposed two motions to approve annual wage increases for clerical staff Sharon Vannan and Lucinda Stone effective with the start of the current pay period. Councilman Lesjack seconded motions for both increases. A roll call vote was taken, both motions receiving unanimous approval. The rate increases were approved.

Statement of Financial Interest forms were included in everyone’s folder. Please complete and return to Ms. Vannan at the next meeting. These forms are mandatory.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bernie Scalzo)

The Public Works Report for December 2018 included the following activities for the month. Vandaling picked up eight bucket loads of cinder/salt mix and are invoiced for \$520. The maintenance crew received 125 new stack chairs and put them on the third floor. They cut down several trees from the 400 block of Lacka. damaged by an ice storm. New tables were delivered and taken to the third floor. Throughout the month of December, the men worked on holiday decorations. They also built shelves at the borough garage for future storage of holiday lights.

Councilman Scalzo reported that the recycling collections would continue to be on Saturday mornings at the borough garage from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. until further notice. Some drop-offs may be possible on weekdays up until 3:00 p.m. if the gates are unlocked.

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Crosswalks continue to be an area for concern. Councilman Scalzo reported that he is looking into several options that include vinyl materials on the crosswalks for better visibility and approvals needed from PennDot for flashing lights. He also said, "Stricter enforcement of vehicles parking too close to corners should be followed. State law requires that vehicles yield to people in the crosswalk, violators will be subject to fines".

Councilman Scalzo offered two motions to approve annual rate increases for public works employees Bob Tedesco and Wally Miller. Councilwoman Bean seconded Tedesco's increase. Councilwoman Lazier seconded Miller's increase. A roll call vote for each was approved unanimously. Rate increases approved effective with the start of the current Pay period.

Councilman Scalzo presented a job application from Eric Bennett seeking employment as a part-time public works employee to be available as needed for seasonal work (Plowing/mowing). Councilman Scalzo planned to put together a job description and a tentative schedule. He would contact Mr. Bennett to set up an interview for him with the Personnel Committee.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that the tables were received on 12/31/18. Four 8' long bi-fold tables and eight 72" round bi-fold tables. Councilman Lesjack commented on Mr. Tedesco's complaint about not receiving prior notification on the delivery of the chairs or the tables, "We had no control over the delivery and although a 24-hour notice was requested, both delivery trucks just showed up unannounced. We're sorry if this inconvenienced you." Councilman Lesjack went on to say he learned that people were under the mistaken impression that they could just go up and take the new chairs. The new furniture cannot be removed from the third floor without permission. He found several long scrapes in the new floor where it looked like the chairs had been dragged. He asked council's permission to install a double door at the entrance of the hall so that access would be limited to only those people with permission. This would not block the bathroom, kitchen or closet that the Senior Center occasionally uses. President Cost said council would certainly consider such a request, "please get a price on the job for next month's meeting."

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

Councilwoman Bean reported a quote from Taylor Structures for the gazebo – approximately \$13K for an octagon delivered in sections and depending on materials and rectangle 12x16 starting at \$6,575. CTC (Tom Bailey) said that the students could build it but not on site, the borough would be responsible for transporting it. Councilwoman Matarese asked if Johnson's College was contacted. Councilwoman Bean said she would look into that option. Tony Wilcox added, "My offer to paint is still available."

The Ice Fishing Derby is still a go. Parks & Rec are helping. Lee Rowan is running the derby with the help of two students from F.C. High School working on their senior project. There will be many other activities, weather permitting, Corn Hole and basketball tournament, maybe Disc Golf, a "soup cook-off" with prizes. Brochure coming soon, the students are putting it together. Food and beverages will be available. It's all planned for Saturday, February 23, from 11:00 a.m. to around 2:00 p.m. Local businesses and other organizations are being contacted to seek participants in the soup cook-off. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve spending \$500 on the event. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll-call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Sweatshirts are available for \$30. Council did not approve authorization for the \$750 purchase in advance. President Cost reminded Parks & Rec that they must present a plan of what they need with prices and ask for approval for any future purchases.

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**CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY:** (Chris DeGonzague)

Code Enforcement Report (Stephanie Reisch) for December 2018 listed the projects that she's been working on. Seasonal items included snow removal and several complaints that she received about abandoned buildings and junk cars. She also put out door hangers for residents who left out garbage cans.

Councilman DeGonzague presented Resolution #1\_2019 to adopt the Susquehanna County Emergency Management Operations Plan as required. Council member DeGonzague offered a motion to adopt the Resolution, Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried. A copy of the signed Resolution will be sent to Susq. Co. EMA.

Councilman DeGonzague announced that he would attend an Emergency Management Training on 1/30/19 in Montrose at 6:30 p.m. This training is recommended for all Elected & Appointed officials. President Cost and Ms. Vannan will also attend.

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion for an annual rate increase for Code Enforcement Officer Stephanie Reisch to \$14/hour. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, seven approved, none opposed. The rate increase is approved.

Councilman DeGonzague announced he would be attending a UGI Training on Tuesday, January 8, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

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

Councilwoman Lazier reported on the purse raffle, winners of the prizes were J. Martin and Brenda Jordan, and a third person, all employees of N.E. Telephone. After expenses, the net proceeds were \$769.80.

Councilwoman Lazier provide a job description and an ad for the Main Street Coordinator position. Hopefully there will be a candidate for the February meeting.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

Mayor Glinton provided the December 2018 Police Report and Vandling's invoice for January 2019 patrols & December 2018 Calls, \$2,000.

Mayor Glinton read Chief James Johnson's resignation into the record. A motion to accept the resignation was made by Councilman DeGonzague and seconded by Councilwoman Amy Bean. A call for "all in favor" found five members in favor and two opposed (Councilman Lesjack and Councilwoman Matarese opposed). The motion carried.

Mayor Glinton recommended Officer John Foley for appointment to full-time position with benefits. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to reclassify Mr. Foley to a full-time position with a rate increase to \$16/hour. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll-call vote was seven in favor, none opposed. President Cost noted that he would be subject to a one-year probationary period. All agreed.

The annual 2018 Police Report and 2018 Fire Department Report were distributed.

Mayor Glinton requested an annual rate increase for Assistant Chief Rowan. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the rate increase. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, none opposed. The rate increase is approved.

Lastly Mayor Glinton requested a across the board rate increase of 50 cents per hour for each of the part-time police officers and approval for a \$50 bonus for part-time officers covering a holiday shift. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the rate increase and the holiday bonus. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all seven members in favor of the motion, none opposed. The rate increases were approved.

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

Solicitor Smith asked Council to make a motion to adopt Resolution #2\_2019 - An Agility Agreement with PennDot for the borough to take over the plowing of that section of a State Route that is Hudson Street from the F.C. border at Richmondale to the intersection of Hudson

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and Dundaff Street. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt Res. #2-2019. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (President Cost)

President Cost distributed the 2019 bidding thresholds.

President Cost read a letter from Kevin Lesjack announcing an "Open House" at the newest addition to the Main Street. "Please join him and his family on Sunday, January 27, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. to tour the new facility. He also thanked Council and the Mayor for all of the help given during the rebuilding period.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:** (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

John Scepita offered comments on the crosswalks. Pat McCabe offered a Thank you to Chief Johnson for all his good efforts. Tony Wilcox asked if there was any progress with the basketball courts. Mr. West from the F.O.P. offered his opinion on what the borough should do with respect to the appointment of a new Chief. Solicitor Smith responded, "This is all being discussed with a labor lawyer and nothing has been decided yet." Robert Selinsky of Olyphant offered his opinion about the gun purchases.

Rachel Habetler commented on the gun policy of the borough. Jason Obelenus offered his opinion about the gazebo and the borough "should just spend the \$13K, don't understand how you spend \$6K on a council desk and can't rebuild the gazebo. President Cost said, "We'll be looking into an on-site built gazebo. We're looking at all our options."

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, February 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

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