

MINUTES – MONDAY – MARCH 1, 2021

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

President Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.
Roll Call taken: Present – President Nick Cost, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council Members Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Amy Bean, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Clinton & Secretary/Treas. Vannan. Solicitor McAndrew & Councilman Lesjack were unavailable.

KBA PRESENTATION: (Gary Wilding & Rene)

Gary Wilding & associate Rene provided council with information about Equalis Group who will be handling the bidding process for the installation of the roof on the Borough Building. Like CoStars, Equalis removes the burden of the bidding process and is involved in securing bids and the pre-construction required for the job at no cost to the borough. Mr. Wilding shared samples of the materials and a sketch/blueprint of the work to be done.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*specific to agenda items*)

President Cost opened the floor for public comment, none offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from 1.4.21. February Meeting was cancelled. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All replied aye, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the January & February Treasurer's Reports and approve all disbursements for January/February 2021. Councilman Bean seconded both. A roll call taken for each month – 6 to 0 in favor on both, motions carried, disbursements were approved.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

The Public Works reports for January & February were distributed. \$190 collected for recycling donations. Removal of snow, plowing, and the receipt of road salt dominated the report. Salt/Cinder mix purchased by Vandling totaled \$1,820 for January & February.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

The activity reports from Eastwick Solutions for October through January were distributed. The next zoom meeting will be Eastwick Solutions on March 11.

Councilwoman Bean announced that “Easter on Main” Celebration will be on March 31 from 5 to 7 p.m. A Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 31 with a 10:30 start and an 11:00 service to be held on the Wm Penn Apartments lawn.

Discussion is ongoing about a \$5K grant from LHVA with a \$5K match to be used for a marketing brochure or pamphlet. Forest City and Carbondale will coordinate this effort. Mayor Clinton will research the cost of a Grant Writer. Mayor Clinton wants to get someone involved in researching what is available and assist in the application process. The Mayor will seek the advice of the Carbondale Grant Writer.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier announced the return of the Kennedy Park Vendor Market set for April 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and every 3rd Sunday of the month through October 2021. Amanda Howells is the chairperson. More information and vendor applications are available on the borough’s website – www.forestcityborough.com or by contacting Amanda - ohsweetjosephine@gmail.com for more info!! The Salvation Army is requesting the use of the Kennedy Park building for food distribution on the 1st Thursday of each month. Council approved the request, President Cost reminded Councilwoman Lazier that the park is closed for the winter months, without water or bathrooms, so distribution would be limited to spring, summer & fall months. Residents ask why the park is not open for the winter and

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President Cost replied, “Parking is limited. Water is turned off and bathrooms are closed to prevent damage to pipes & pumps. Those people who want to use the park in the winter, do so at their own risk.”

Councilwoman Lazier reported that the handicap swing will be installed by McCabe’s Construction of Olyphant as soon as weather permits.

A reorganization meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 11 at the Borough Building in the 2nd floor Council chambers.

The Little League requested keys for the bathrooms since they are not always open on the weekends and this has been a problem in the past. Chairperson Kathy Kernoschak will have keys made. Mayor Clinton was asked to remind police that they are supposed to unlock the bathrooms in the morning and lock them up at night. Council approved the Parks & Rec Board to replenish supplies at the concession stand, what’s needed yet to be determined.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/SAFETY & HEALTH: (C. DeGonzague/B. Scalzo)

Councilman DeGonzague reported that letters were sent out to property owners that had not removed snow and/or ice from sidewalks. An ad was placed in the Forest City News reminding everyone of their responsibility to clean sidewalks. Thank you to everyone who kept up with the snow. Councilman Scalzo said, “Main Street snow needs to be removed but at the cost of \$3,400 each time has put a dent in the meter money collected over the past year.” President Cost added, “Cars must be moved so that plowing can be done safely, we could look at towing and impoundment.” Chief Rowan was quick to point out that the cost of that would fall on the borough and then the borough would have to try to collect from owners. Council needs to pass an Ordinance to restrict parking during snow events.”

Mayor Clinton added, “I’ve had complaints about snow removal as well. We need to look at odd/even parking for next year.” President Cost said, “That will be on the agenda for the committee planned to discuss the plowing issues.”

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Clinton)

January/February 2021 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for February & March patrols were distributed.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Melissa McAndrew, Esq.)

Solicitor McAndrew was unable to attend tonight’s meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

President Cost expressed concern about the condition of the sidewalk on Center Street running along the side of the Borough building and one section of sidewalk missing on South Main Street across from Furdock’s. He asked council to consider seeking bids for replacement of these sections.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to seek telephone bids. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comment:

Paul Daugevelo took the floor and thanked the borough for a job well done with snow removal on Main Street.

President Cost recognized Lisa Spangenberg, F.C. Librarian, who reported that the Library would be sponsoring several activities and summer programs in 2021. She asked council for permission to use the grassy area behind the borough building and occasionally in the event of inclement weather, the use of the third floor. President Cost asked if anyone was opposed to this and all council members replied in favor. They would just have to let the office know the dates & times if the 3rd floor was needed. Ms. Spangenberg continued, “A STEAM Project is planned for the end of March, we hope to

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get outdoors in May. Also hoping to expand the Library hours in the future, adding Thursday & Friday evenings.” She thanked council for their time and consideration.

Maintenance Supervisor Bob Tedesco took the floor, reporting that maintaining/plowing the borough’s alleys continue to take a toll on borough equipment and drivers, and it becomes more difficult every winter. “There is no where to push the snow. Residents have added bushes, sheds, etc. and it’s difficult to maneuver around vehicles that are left in the same place for days. There are seven alleyways that the borough continues to maintain. Our previous Solicitor Paul Smith looked into this in the past and said that the borough does not own these alleys and should not be responsible for them.” Mr. Tedesco asked council to form a committee to meet with him, the police and the Mayor to work out some of these issues. President Cost agreed and said “The Council will form a committee and work on this problem with you.”

Paul Kulasinsky asked if something could be done to improve the plowing on Dundaff Street. President Cost replied, “Dundaff Street is a state route and the responsibility of PennDot. Mr. Kulasinsky asked if someone from Council would contact the State Representative. President Cost agreed to do so.

Councilman DeGonzague asked residents to help uncover fire hydrants if they can and thanked those who have. Councilwoman Lazier thanked Bob & Wally for their diligence and great job with snow plowing. President Cost added a thanks as well.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

President Cost announced that there would be a free COVID-19 testing clinic on March 1st to the 5th from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Hartford Fairgrounds.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, April 5th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn at 7:17 p.m. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, the motion carried with all in favor, none opposed.