

# MINUTES – MONDAY – MAY 3, 2021

## FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

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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 Chris DeGonzague, Robert Lesjack, Amy Bean, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Ginton, Solicitor McAndrew & Secretary/Treas. Vannan. Councilwoman Joann Matarese was unable to attend.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT** (*specific to agenda items*)

President Cost opened the floor for public comment.

Gary Wilding from KBA Engineering reported on the roof project. Substantial price increases doubled the original cost of around \$200K to over \$400K. Recommended that for now, Council consider getting a price on just doing the necessary repairs to prevent further leaks that may damage the third- floor ceilings. Another alternative would be to piece out the specs. and remove some of the work planned for windows and trim or looking at alternatives for the materials. He noted that scaffolding on the Center Street side of the building would also require additional costs for PPL to move lines that service the bank. The project is tabled at this time for alternative options to be considered.

Linda Zefran reported on the Browndale Sidewalk to Forest City Project and the approval of the Multi-modal Grant for \$302K that would finance the completion of the Forest City section of the sidewalk. The waiver for matching funds had been approved, so there would be no cost to the Borough. She thanked Borough Council for their support for this project. Linda Zefran would act as liaison for the project since she had already worked with Kiley & Assoc., the engineers on record. President Cost thanked her for her efforts. John Kameen added that there was a lot of other exciting plans in store for the borough with the plans for the development of the Lacka. River Park in Yucca flats owned by Scott Linde. Money has been allocated for the project with excavation to begin in September.

No other public comments

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

#### **ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilman Chris DeGonzague covered for Councilwoman Matarese. He motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from April 2021. Councilman Scalzo seconded. All replied aye, motion carried.

Councilman DeGonzague motioned to approve the April 2021 Treasurer's Reports and approve all disbursements for April 2021. Councilwoman Bean seconded. Roll call vote taken - 6 to 0 in favor, motion carried, disbursements approved.

Reminder to council – Financial Statements and Guardian Life Insurance Beneficiary forms are due.

#### **PUBLIC WORKS:** (President Cost)

The Public Works reports for April 2021 was distributed. Recycling donations for April were \$223. Sweeping was completed on Main & Dundaff Streets. Aluminum scrap to Archbald Wrecking yielded \$45. A storm drain on the corner of Center & Lackawanna Streets was repaired with 800 lbs. of Sakrete. Parking meter damaged by a vehicle in front of the F.C. News was replaced and installed using 250 lbs. of Sakrete.

The quote from Barhites for the Western plow upfitting on the New 2021 pickup truck is \$6,136 complete. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve the bid for \$6,136. Councilman Lesjack seconded the bid. A roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Lesjack reported that he is still working on a rental agreement for the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. He has reviewed some of this with Solicitor McAndrew and expected additional input from council members Bean & Lazier. Councilman Lesjack said, "I'm planning an Open House in the hall and will seek

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donations from linen companies, florists, caterers & a DJ. Invite the public and start taking reservations soon.”

Solicitor McAndrew addressed Council explaining that there were still a lot of issues to consider before this event could be held. Most notably, insurance coverage, roof repairs that need to be done and several other things that may delay an “Open House event”.

Councilman Lesjack added, “Some delays occurred with the delivery of the Refrigerator, but I’m optimistic that everything will work out for my plans for the Hall and an event will be happening soon.”

### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that the Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony will be on May 31<sup>st</sup>. The parade will organize at Franceski’s Lumber at 10:30 a.m. and proceed to the William Penn Apts. for a Ceremony honoring our vets at 11:00 a.m. at the Doughboy Memorial. This Historical Society will speak at the ceremony.

There was a meeting for “Outdoor Towns on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Kennedy Park. A map of the Yucca Flats development project was shared with those in attendance and their vision shared. A Community Walkshop is planned for May 13 at 6 p.m. Tours of the area including the Trail & Trail Heads will be part of the walk-around. A survey prepared by Eastwick Solutions was launched and can also be accessed at [www.forestcityborough.com](http://www.forestcityborough.com). Please participate in this important survey.

### **PARKS & RECREATION:** (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that Parks & Rec Board appointed Deanna Flood as Financial Secretary and Michell Miller as Recording Secretary.

The April Vendor market was cancelled due to soggy conditions at the Park. 80 vendors are expected for the May 16<sup>th</sup> Vendor Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. A total of 104 vendors are expected for the season. Reminder that no cooking is allowed on the Basketball Court.

A chicken BBQ is planned for August 1<sup>st</sup> with take outs from 12 to 2 p.m. Tickets go on sale June 1<sup>st</sup>. There will also be a fishing derby that day sponsored by the F.C. Lions Club and supervised by Chief Lee Rowan.

The swimming area will be ready for the summer season. Opening date to be announced. Councilwoman Lazier reported that there was discussion about a sidewalk from the road to the Gazebo. A suggestion was made to use engraved pavers available for donations to benefit the park. Thank you to everyone who continues to support F.C. Parks & Recreation.

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

Councilman Scalzo reminded everyone that high grass and garbage are code violations. Councilman DeGonzague added that after a warning, second offenses will be met with a fine, details are being worked out.

Councilman Degonzague offered a motion to purchase a water cooler for the Borough’s General office on the second floor. He found a 5-gal bottom-fed cooler with hot/cold taps for under \$200. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. Roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed. Motion carried. Ms. Vannan would follow through with the purchase and check out the prices for water delivery.

### **MAYOR’S REPORT:** (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

April 2021 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for May patrols were distributed. Mayor Ginton provided a quote for the purchase of a 2021 Dodge Charger police car on a 3-yr lease program. Resolution #3\_2021 was offered to authorize the purchase and appoint a signor(s) for the purchase agreement. The purchase price for the vehicle is \$41,258.95 on a three-year lease agreement with three annual payments. President Nicholas Cost was approved to sign on behalf of the Borough for the financing. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to authorize the purchase of the vehicle and

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approve financing. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Six members voted yes in a roll-call vote, none were opposed. The motion carried.

Council was presented with Resolution #2\_2021 to adopt the Police Policy and Procedures Manual. This item was tabled until Council members have an opportunity to review the Manual.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Melissa McAndrew, Esq.)

Solicitor McAndrew reported that she had reviewed the Police Manual and that 95% of it was already from the previous Manual. She would be happy to discuss it with council if they have any questions after their review.

Solicitor McAndrew also reported that she is working with Councilman Lesjack rental agreement for events in the third floor Hall as noted earlier.

### **CONTINUED BUSINESS:** (President Cost)

Gary Wilding from KBA reported earlier on the roof replacement. President Cost repeated that other options will have to be studied and no decision could be made at this time.

President Cost shared a letter from Brett Ennis of the DCED announcing that the Multi-Modal Grant for the Browndale Sidewalk Project was approved for \$302,879 with a waiver on matching funds. A letter to Mr. Ennis was required to confirm that the Borough had approved Kiley & Associates as Engineers on the project. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion authorizing President Cost to sign the approval to appoint Kiley & Associates as engineers. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Bids were sought for sidewalk replacement of lifted or missing sections on Center Street and on South Main Street from Colachino, Zembrzycki's and Mikloiche. Only Mikloiche submitted a bid. The total bid was \$6,250. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to accept Mikloiche's bid. Seconded by Councilwoman Bean, the motion carried with a six to zero roll-call vote.

### **NEW BUSINESS:** (President Cost)

A request from Jason Miller, Susq. County Treasurer for approval from Council to accept bids for the list of repository properties located in the Borough. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to authorize the sale. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier the motion carried with a roll-call vote six in favor, none opposed. Ms. Vannan would prepare the letter for the county and submit it to the county office, to be followed by the Minutes from this meeting upon completion.

Resolution #1\_2021 authorizing the closure of two Sewer bank accounts held at Landmark Bank and balances to be transferred to establish two new Sewer checking accounts in First National Bank, one a reserve account with the remainder of the Construction Account funds, the other for acceptance of Debit/Credit card payments for Sewer & Garbage fees. Two signatures required on checks. Authorized to sign: Nicholas Cost, Joann Matarese and Bernard Scalzo. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt Resolution #1\_2021. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Six members voted yes in a roll call vote. None opposed, the motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS:** (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comment:

Chief Rowan began discussion with a request to fix the garbage cans on Main Street to reduced access. Councilman Scalzo said that he has been working on it, looking for some kind of lid. Rowan suggested additional CCTV coverage and more police. Complaints about crosswalk enforcement, speeding and failure to stop at stop signs were also added to the discussion with residents asking for better police enforcement. Two letters from a concerned citizen with photos of multiple violations of the ATV activity were shared. Paul Kulasinsky and Stephanie Sojka-Reisch also reported damage at Kennedy Park. 911 was called, but by the time an officer arrived, the ATV was gone. Ms. Sojka-Reisch shared

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information from the state that said that ATVs must be transported by trailer and are not permitted on public streets any longer than it takes to cross. Mayor Glinton said, “Police will enforce the law and ticket offenders.” Chief Rowan said that ticketing is at the discretion of his officers who do not always have to ticket. Discussion got a little heated and Chief Rowan exited the meeting.

President Cost thanked everyone and said that the issue will be further investigated.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next Council Meeting will be held on Monday, June 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo, the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:45 p.m.