

# MINUTES – MONDAY – JUNE 7, 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, Joann Matarese, Robert Lesjack, Amy Bean, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Clinton, Solicitor McAndrew & Secretary/Treas. Vannan.

### **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 May. Councilman Lesjack seconded. All replied aye, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Reports and approve all disbursements for May 2021. Councilman Scalzo seconded. Roll call vote taken - 7 to 0 in favor, motion carried, disbursements approved.

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

The Public Works reports for May 2021 reported that a storm drain on Delaware St. was repaired with 700 lbs. of Sakrete. A ditch on Susquehanna Street was cleaned. Parking lines & crosswalks were painted. Removed grass and prepared the beach area at Kennedy Park for Sand.

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

Councilman Lesjack reported the refrigerator for Pentecost Hall was delivered and that he is working with Solicitor McAndrew on the rental agreement for the Hall. Repairs to the roof are pending. Councilman Lesjack shared several ideas on other uses for the Hall – Different activities for age groups, Fun Day, Team Day, Square Dancing night, Dancing to the Oldies, Paint & Sip, etc. Hopes these activities will bring interest from the community who will get involved in the Borough.

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

Councilwoman Bean reported that the Eastwick group received 177 responses to their survey and their working to tabulate and they conducted the Community Walkshop through the Borough. Upcoming events include recognition of the Forest City Police for their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of service to the borough, planned for Friday, July 2. Vendors will be on hand from 4 to 9 and a Light Parade will kick off at 9:00 p.m. Contact Paul Daugevelo to register your float.

Councilwoman Bean offered thanks to Paul Daugevelo and the Clifford Garden Club for their work on planters on the Main Street and to Blueberry Hill for their donation of plants. She also reported that she and Paul Daugevelo had met with Jean Ruhf from the Endless Mountain Visitor's Bureau and Gus Fahey regarding a grant application. They have offered their services to anyone needing help with grant applications.

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

Councilwoman Lazier reported that there were 73 vendors at the May Vendor Market bring in \$525 in donations and the Concession stand made around \$726. 82 Vendors are expected at the June Market. In addition to work at Kennedy Park, plans are coming together for work on the green space at the top of Center Street. The beach is open, signs have been posted, and the water has tested safe. Activities are planned with the Forest City Library that include a Scavenger Hunt and a Story Walk, dates to be announced. Wedding Raffle Tickets are still available. A 500 Main Street Block Party is planned for June 9.

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Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve \$3,500 for purchases to include park benches, sand for the beach, poop stations, and several items for the kitchen at K.P. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. The motion was approved.

The chicken BBQ is August 1<sup>st</sup> with take outs from 12 to 2 p.m. Tickets are available. There will also be a fishing derby that day sponsored by the F.C. Lions Club.

Volunteers are needed for clean-up in the green space at the top of Center Street behind the Borough building. People are needed for painting. The Board is moving forward with their plans to become a separate Non-Profit organization.

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

Councilman Scalzo had nothing to report. Councilman DeGonzague reminded everyone about firework's safety He added that he's receiving complaints about animal waste and asked people to please clean up after their animals. No pets are allowed in the fenced in area (Little League field) at Kennedy Park, signs have been posted.

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

May 2021 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for June patrols were distributed. Mayor Glinton extended a thank you to Bob & Wally for installing the banners of the Forest City Graduates.

Mayor Glinton said he would review the Police Manual further before requesting council approval. Resolution #2\_2021 was tabled.

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

Solicitor McAndrew reported that she had purchased a property from Dr. Tomazic at 630 Main Street to open her own Law offices and was leaving Briechele Law. Congratulations followed from everyone. She expressed her interest in continuing her appointment as Borough Solicitor. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to re-appoint Attorney McAndrew as Borough Solicitor. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

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

Resolution #3\_2021 was presented for approval. Previously council had approved a 3-yr lease agreement with Fulton Bank for the purchase of a 2021 Police car. Subsequently FNB had offered another lease option saving the borough \$1,127 over the life of the lease. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve Res.#3-2021 for a lease through First National Bank. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Based on the increase to the cost of roof replacement, bids were sought for emergency repairs to prevent further damage to the third-floor ceilings. Paradigm Roofing Contractors, Inc. offered a bid for \$19,300. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the repairs not to exceed \$20,000 in anticipation of any unanticipated additional problems discovered as work progresses. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. Paradigm will be paid ½ the money as a down payment and the balance upon completion.

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

Ms. Vannan presented a request to purchase a bundled Life, STD and LTD insurance package that would reduce the cost of the existing coverages. Information was sought for a life policy that would be guaranteed as opposed to the existing policy that had a declining payout as participants aged. Currently LTD is with Unum and Life Insurance is with Guardian and Nationwide. STD was not offered. Life covers the Mayor, Council and non-uniform full-time employees. STD/LTD covers full-time Uniform & non-uniform employees. All three bundled would be purchased through Mutual of Omaha for less than the current cost of LTD, resulting in an annual savings of over \$1,900. Councilman Scalzo offered a

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motion to approve the change. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All vote yes in a roll-call vote, none opposed. The change was approved. Beneficiary forms would be distributed as soon as available.

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

President Cost opened the floor for comment:

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch shared information about House Bill 542 – Fireworks – rules. Complaints have come in about the nuisance caused by fireworks in the borough, open burning, smoldering cardboard, etc. It's affecting property values. The police need to enforce the existing ordinances in Borough that already prohibit these activities. Residents are afraid to call, fearing that they will be retaliated against by the perpetrators. Councilman DeGonzague agreed, noting that a group of people had left a mess up at K.P. from burning. The mayor said, "Police will respond if they're called, but people need to get involved."

Other complaints resulted from the lack of permits for some home projects in town, Councilman DeGonzague is working with NEIC to determine if permits are needed for the installation of a deck and a pool. Ms. Sojka-Reisch shared some information about the definition of "condemned structures". Adding that if repairs are completed and the property is brought up to code as determined by inspection, then the condemnation post would be removed.

Joshua Faatz complained about the lack of inclusion of some of the Main Street businesses when an event planned by the Main Street Coordinator is limited to the 500 block of Main Street, specifically most conveniently located on the Coordinator's property. Councilwoman Bean responded that all the businesses in town are contacted and anyone can participate. Mr. Faatz suggested that these events be moved to other locations in town. Councilwoman Lazier commented, "In the future, we should look at having events in different locations." Mayor Glinton said that having it in the lot meant that a street closure wasn't needed.

Councilman DeGonzague re-opened the discussion about condemnation quoting UCC manual 108.4.1 – "A Code Official will remove the sign after repairs are completed. It is a misdemeanor if the sign is removed without inspection. Council could choose to hire a structural engineer." Ms. Sojka-Reisch responded, "Let's let it go and move on."

Paul Daugevelo noted that one of the Senior banners is missing – across from Hornbeck's. President Cost answered, "We'll look into it, thank you."

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

Thank you again to Bob & Wally for putting up the banners throughout town. Thank you to the Forest City Area Rotary Club for their generation \$3,000 donation for the purchase of basketball hoops for the Basketball Court Project at Kennedy Park.

Ms. Vannan submitted the State's Single Application for COVID Recovery Funds on June 3, 2021. The Borough will receive \$182,229.10 over two-years. The 1<sup>st</sup> half (\$91,114.55) is scheduled to be released the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, the balance in 2022.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday, the borough office will be closed on Monday, July 5, 2021.

Mayor Glinton added, "Thank you to Paul Daugevelo for his work planning the Memorial Day services, the turn out was a little smaller than other years, but the band did a great job. Thank you to all who participated."

#### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilwoman Bean made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Matarese, the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.