

MINUTES – MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

President Nick Cost called the meeting to order. He welcomed everyone and announced that there was an Executive Session following the June meeting for personnel. He welcomed Solicitor McAndrew.

Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call vote: Present – President Nick Cost, V.P. Scalzo, Council Members Robert Lesjack, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treas. S. Vannan. Absent: Councilman DeGonzague.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jason Obelenus asked when the borough office staff would be returning to their regular schedules. President Cost responded, “Both office employees will return to the regular full-time schedule on Monday, July 13 and the office will be open but anyone entering the building will be required to wear a mask.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Council Member Matarese offered a motion to approve Regular Meeting Minutes from June 1, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Bean, all in favor.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve Treasurer’s Report for June, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Bean. Roll call vote – six to zero in favor, motion carried.

A check from the Commonwealth for the Act 13 Impact Fees was received - \$112,612.18 - \$28,504 less than amount received in 2019.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

President Cost presented the June Public Works Report – Recycling donations \$336. The men installed the graduation banners on Main Street. Thank you to NEP for the use of their Pole ladder. Collected yard waste on 6/8 & 6/11. Repaired storm drain on Delaware & Dundaff streets. Removed bushes at Miner’s Memorial.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack set up appointments later in the week to meet with Spall & Sons & Rockhill Plumbing to get a proposal on air conditioning for the third floor. Will have something at the next meeting. Councilman Lesjack commented on the wasps at Kennedy Park, asking the Park Board to look into it. President Cost reminded Mr. Lesjack that the roof still had to be done.

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase of a microwave for the 3rd floor kitchen from Walmart for \$159. Seconded by Councilwoman Bean, the motion was approved with a roll call vote six to zero. The information would be sent to Ms. Vannan to order.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean announced The Greater Forest City Business Alliance is sponsoring a Sidewalk Chalk Art event on Main Street. In celebration of their 2nd anniversary, Frugal Living will provide free ice cream to the first 200 people. There will be Market vendors, music & more! Wednesday, July 22, 2020 - 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that the handicap swing was ordered, due to arrive on or about August 18 at a cost of \$2,832.

MINUTES – MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Councilwoman Lazier asked if the officer on duty on weekends could unlock & lock the restrooms at Kennedy park. Mayor Ginton said he would talk to Chief Rowan.

The 3vs3 Basketball Tournament on 7/3/2020 was a great success and the new court is wonderful. It is greatly appreciated by the group of boys who use it regularly.

To reserve the pavilion, contact Board Chairperson Kathy Kernoschak or call the borough office.

Councilwoman Lazier asked for recycling bins for the park kitchen.

Councilwoman Lazier announced that the Winans in memory of their son, Aaron, (who recently lost his life in a swimming accident) were making a \$2,000 donation toward opening Kennedy Park lake to swimmers. Their donation will be used for the weekly water testing that is required by the state. Rockhill offered to purchase equipment, buoys, floating rope, lifesavers, first aid supplies, etc. Donations are being sought for 20 ton of sand for the beach area. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to open the beach to swimmers. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded aye and the motion carried.

Councilwoman Lazier reported that there has been some vandalism to the restrooms and the horseshoe pit area. NEP representatives Rick Kulasinsky and Brett Pekarski presented the NEP proposal for installation for WIFI equipment and security cameras. Total cost with cameras would be around \$1,600. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve the work and purchase of cameras not to exceed \$2,000. President Cost noted that ½ of that would come from the borough, the other ½ from the Parks & Recreation account. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all six members in favor, none opposed. Mr. Pekarski will email the camera information to Ms. Vannan to order from Amazon.

Councilwoman Lazier noted the following upcoming events – 7/12, from 11:30 to 1:00 a Free Rigatoni & Sausage give-away sponsored by American Legion Post #524 and D.G.'s Bar, a fishing derby on August 2nd, the Chicken BBQ is also on August 2nd, and the 1st Vendor's Market will be on July 19th. On August 16 there will be another Vendor's Market and a Free Family Picnic sponsored by Fitzsimons Insurance and Erie Insurance from noon to 3:00 p.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Chris DeGonzague)

Code Enforcement Report for June 2020 was offered by Councilman Scalzo. All complaints must be writing or emailed to fcceo41@gmail.com. Calls and letters have gone out to property owners for grass violations. 611 Main Street is in the process of having the façade repaired.

Councilman Scalzo distributed a draft of Ordinance #520 of 2020 for council's consideration. This ordinance would permit the personal use of alcohol at Kennedy Park and in Pentecost Hall. Some opposition was offered by Councilwoman Bean. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to advertise the Ordinance following a review and approval by Solicitor McAndrew. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. President Cost asked for a roll-call vote. Four members voted in favor, two (Bean & Lesjack) were opposed. The motion carried by a majority. Solicitor will be in touch with Councilman Scalzo.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

June 2020 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for July patrols were distributed. Mayor Ginton recommended that Council approve the hiring of part-time police officer – Daniel John Coulthard at \$14.50/hour. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to hire part-time officer Daniel John Coulthard. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all in favor – six to zero.

Chief Rowan reported that Lackawanna & Susquehanna Counties jointly sponsored a training taught by Jesse Vandeusen. Attended by EMS and police, the class taught the proper way to process a death scene.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

MINUTES – MONDAY, JULY 6, 2020 FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Bids for repairs to Plaque on the memorial have not been received yet, hopefully for the next meeting.

The Senior Center requested the use Pentecost Hall for lunches, due to inadequate space in Senior Center for “distancing”. Some concerns expressed that the lack of air conditioning may be a deterrent. President Cost said that would be up to the Seniors if Council approved. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to permit the use. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded in favor and the motion carried.

Resolution #6_2020 was presented establishing a \$10 Fee for the Zoning Officer to issue a “Certificate of Non-Conformance” as approved by the Zoning Hearing Board. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Resolution #6_2020. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scalzo. All replied aye in favor, motion carried.

Bids were sought for repairs to Roxy Road but were not received for the meeting. Will be revisited at the August meeting.

A contract from BUE for a fixed electric price for 42-month contract at \$.05517 with APG&E. The current price is \$.06485 with ENGIE - estimated annual savings -\$1,085.48 on 8 regular accounts, streetlights are not included in the savings estimate. This would begin when the ENGIE contract ends and locks in the rates at their lowest. Motion offered by Councilwoman Matarese. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. Roll call vote – six in favor, none opposed. Ms. Vannan will contact BUE to confirm acceptance.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

A letter was received from Cathryn Singer complaining about the disturbance caused by fireworks being shot off late at night for several nights leading up to the Fourth of July. She asked Council to do something about it, establish guidelines to reduce the noise level or enforce a cut-off. Solicitor McAndrew confirmed that police are able to enforce the state law. Chief Rowan confirmed that 10:00 p.m. is the cut-off, but that they need to receive complaints to which they will respond. There are restrictions in place, but the police need to know where it’s happening.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

No additional comments

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next scheduled Meeting will be held on Monday, August 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting concluded at 6:57 p.m.