

MINUTES – MONDAY, AUGUST 2, 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 Chris DeGonzague, Robert Lesjack, Amy Bean, and Secretary/Treasurer Vannan. Absent: Mayor Glington, Solicitor McAndrew and Councilwomen Matarese & Lazier.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*specific to agenda items*)

President Cost opened the floor for public comment. Nothing offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilman DeGonzague motioned to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from July 7. Councilwoman Bean seconded. All replied aye, motion carried. Councilman DeGonzague motioned to approve the July 2021 Treasurer’s Reports and approve all disbursements for July 2021. Councilman Scalzo seconded. Roll call vote taken - 5 to 0 in favor, motion carried. Total disbursements in the amount of \$100,160 approved.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

The Public Works report for July 2021 was shared by President Cost – The crew replaced pavers around several poles on Main Street, used 550 lbs. of Sakrete to repair storm drain on Grand & Susquehanna Streets. Used the jet truck to unplug storm drain on Maxey & Hudson, then repaired with 600 lbs. of Sakrete. Called out to Upper North Main Street due to flooding. Removed graduation banners and installed business banners. Cleaned around the gazebo flag pole and filled with white stone.

President Cost expressed concerns about excessive yard waste dumping at the Borough garage, “the area is filling up fast and Council has to decide how to curb dumping.”

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that work on the roof is completed and Bob & Wally will look into repairing the water damage to the Pentecost Hall ceiling. He thanked Bob & Wally for their work and said he would ask them to move the clock, no one seemed to like where it was hung. He also reported that he and Solicitor McAndrew continue to work on the 3rd floor event/rental agreement with a “rental price between \$500 & \$1,000.” Discussion followed with council recommending a price at or around \$500 and advised Councilman Lesjack to provide the completed agreement for Council’s review with a price included in the agreement before a vote could be taken.

Councilman Lesjack asked council to approve several miscellaneous purchases to include bathroom lights, decorative items, and pictures. He made a motion for up to a \$500 purchase allowance. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote of four in favor, one opposed (Councilman DeGonzague).

Councilman Lesjack asked council to consider hiring a part-time cleaning person for the 2nd & 3rd floors for \$15/hour to work 8 hours per month. He requested that an ad for the position be placed in the Forest City News and on the Borough website with applications available in the borough office. Lisa Spangenberg, F.C. Librarian, expressed an interest in the job and will submit an application.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Eastwick’s July report was distributed and is on the Borough website “Outdoor Towns” page at www.forestcityborough.com.

Councilwoman Bean reported that Kost Tire will be opening a bike shop in their Forest City location, “a nice addition to our Main Street”. This will be happening within the next four to six weeks. Tire/tube

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repairs will be available during their normal hours and an outside self service area will be available when the shop is closed.

Councilwoman Bean reported that there are some issues with County Waste collections and says that most of the problems are the result of understaffing and new people that need training. They are trying to recruit more drivers and hope to resolve these issues over the next few weeks.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Tracey Lazier)

Notes from the Parks & Rec meeting on July 21, 2021 were distributed. *Solicitor McAndrew spoke to the group at this meeting and repeated some of the issues to the Parks Board that were shared at the Special meeting with Council on July 6th. The cost and liability issues convinced Board members to vote against pursuing a 501C3 at this time. Solicitor McAndrew also recommended that the Board document their meetings, but not necessarily in a Minutes format.*

The meeting notes also noted that Chairperson Kathy Kernoschak reported that the handicap swing will be installed by the end of July by Colachino. She added that the borough will purchase benches, the dog stations have been received and will be installed by borough maintenance workers. The fishing derby is all set and preparation for the BBQ is moving along, 325 tickets sold. The winner of the Wedding Raffle sponsored by Forest City Arts (Paul Daugevelo & Mayor Glinton) was Amanda Kopach. Kids are participating in the Scavenger Hunt. A meeting is planned between the Park Board, Council members Lazier, Cost & Mayor Glinton to better understand the upkeep and park responsibilities. Board member Deanna Flood is working on holding the vendor market at the school and possibly holding a Christmas Holiday Event. Stitches & Strokes has offered to sponsor a "Touch-a-Truck" event at the end of August. "No parking on grass" signs have been ordered and will be installed at the Gazebo. The Board voted to stock the lake before the fishing derby, all voted yes but one.

Handicap signs for the new swing will be ordered and another Poop Station for the garbage area. It was noted that insurance would be needed for anyone to sponsor an event in the park who was not affiliated with a Council appointed Board or the Borough, i.e., "Touch-a-Truck event" sponsored by a third-party. Also, the board should check with the school to see if they require special event insurance from the Parks Board and/or Borough before council can approve the event.

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

Councilman Scalzo reported that he is still working on getting a price to replace the metal stairs on upper Center Street which will require engineer specs and advertised bidding. He reported that he is seeking bids for guiderails on the 500-600 blocks of Delaware Street. He has contacted some vendors recommended by Ed Sumski from PennDot.

Councilman DeGonzague added that he has been working on getting property owners to cut the grass and following up on garbage bins left at the curb beyond the time limit.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

July 2021 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for July patrols were distributed.

A request for a new hire for the police department was tabled. Several council members think it is time for the personnel committee to get more involved in the interview process for the police department. Councilwoman Bean added that she believes that "exit interviews" by the committee should also be mandatory to try to find out why turn-over is so great. President Cost added that this will be done in the future so that Council has more information about who is being hired and/or why part-timers are leaving.

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

Solicitor McAndrew was unavailable for this meeting.

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NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #4-2021-“Fees resulting from private requests for adoption of a Resolution/Ordinance” was presented for Council approval. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to adopt Resolution #4-2021. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote taken, five in favor, none opposed – the motion carried.

A bid for emergency repairs to the damaged retaining wall on the East side of the 500 block of Delaware Street caused by recent storms and creating a subsidence under the street was presented. Mikloiche Timber & Construction offered a bid for \$18,750. Covid Relief Funds or Impact Fee funds may be used. Councilman Scalzo offered the motion to approve the repairs. Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague. Roll call vote was five in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

A request for “Handicap Parking” in front of the residence of Cathryn Singer, 716 Delaware St. was distributed. A review of the application would be done by Councilwoman Bean with recommendation to Council at the September meeting.

Attorney Walter Casper asked Council to advertise a public hearing to consider a Resolution #5_2021 to transfer a Restaurant Liquor License to David R. Trichilo, dba Rae & Hads Mkt (aka Zazzera’s Market). Councilman Scalzo offered the motion, Councilman DeGonzague seconded, all voted yes in a roll call vote, five to zero in favor. The ad will be placed in the Forest City News on 8/25 & 9/1. The public hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., prior to the next regular Council Meeting.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

Solicitor McAndrew followed up on her appointment as Borough Solicitor with a Letter of Engagement to Council. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to authorize President Cost to sign the agreement on behalf of Council. Vice-President Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote.

Park benches were originally order by Parks & Recreation, subsequently cancelled by Deanna Flood due to a delay in delivery. Two quotes were provided for the purchase of six (6) park benches for Kennedy Park, the cost to be covered by the Borough. Delivery estimated for 10 to 12 weeks. Economizer/\$2,761.72 or Monarque/\$3,544.62, shipping included. No motion offered, the purchase was tabled and will be revisited in the spring.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

President Cost reported that Impact Fees were received on July 9, 2021 in the amount of \$78,920.64, down from last year by \$33,692.

A letter of thanks from Mark & Catherine Wasileski, 1031 Upper North Main Street for the work done when Upper North Main Street flooded, commending the crew and the town’s leadership.

Distribute MS4 education brochure – will share MS4 info at the August Vendor Market at Kennedy Park as part of the Borough’s public education initiative. Brochures, information on storm water and coloring books about stormwater will be available. Stephanie Sojka-Reisch offered space on her vendor table with the Historical Society and the Neighborhood Watch.

A complaint letter from Ms. Janet Morgan at 1025 Main Street was received. President appointed a committee to contact her and review the problem.

Rail-Trail Council sent an invitation for municipal leaders, police & emergency services to attend a meeting on 8/4/21 for the upcoming 12th Annual D&H Distance Run to coordinate Emergency services and volunteers for the event.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comment:

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John Kameen, F.C. News, regarding the decision to use Covid Relief funds for Emergency Repairs to Delaware Street, “I read about three weeks ago that governmental bodies must hold a public meeting inviting residents to offer ideas on how COVID Relief funds should be used.” Ms. Vannan added, “The guidelines are still a little vague on how this money can be used, these funds are not being used until we get further guidance. I’ve seen nothing about public input, but will continue to research this. Impact Fees are also an available funding option for the Emergency Repairs to the retaining wall.”

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch talked about the “Neighborhood Watch Signs” and placement of them at the entrances to the Borough. Public Works will install them under her direction.

Councilman DeGonzague shared a request from Mrs. Chervanka on North Main Street to install another storm drain and/or curbing to help prevent flooding into her property. President Cost replied, “This is another area that we’re working on, there are already several storm drains in that section of Rt. 171. Curbs may be considered.”

Lisa Spangenberg, F.C. Public Library, thanked Council for the use of the 3rd floor and announced that the summer reading program was very successful, logging in 10,945 minutes, or 182 hours of reading. Story Walk and the Rail Trail programs were big hits. There are four summer reader winners each getting a \$75 gift card.

President Cost noted that he, Councilman Scalzo, Gary Wilding, KBA, met to discuss where the lampposts would be installed on the East side of Main Street for the Main Street sidewalk project. Conduits are already underground and specs were being prepared for the bidding process.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

Due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, September 6th, the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. There will be a “Public Hearing” prior to the Regular Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. for a request to transfer a Restaurant Liquor License into the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Bean, the motion carried with all in favor. The meeting ended at 7:22 p.m.