

MINUTES – MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 2020

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

President Nick Cost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. welcoming all those in attendance. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call taken: Present – President Nick Cost, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, council members Robert Lesjack, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor Marissa McAndrew & Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

PUBLIC COMMENT (*specific to agenda items*)

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a Motion to Approve Regular Meeting Minutes from July 6, 2020.

Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All replied in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for July, 2020. V.P. Scalzo seconded. Roll call vote – 7 to 0 in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

President Cost offered the July Public Works Report that included \$505 donations received, removal of graduation banners on Main St. Thank you to NEP for use of the pole ladder. Cut down trees at Kennedy Park, stump removal and seeding of the area. Repaired storm-drain on Higgins St. purchased pipe and elbow and used 1,400 lbs. of Sakrete. Responded to a call in Vandling for blocked storm drain, \$300 invoice submitted to Vandling.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack offered ideas for the use of the Kennedy Park Pavilion, free music nights, bring your own seats, etc. Maybe free movie nights on different nights. Find funding for these events through voluntary donations. He asked councilwoman Lazier to pass on some of his thoughts to the Parks & Rec Board.

The price for the air conditioning units on the third floor will be more than the limit required for advertised bidding. Same for the roof. Specs will be provided and Ms. Vannan will advertise for both projects.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean announced that \$10,000 DCNR Peer Grant was awarded through the efforts of Deb McNamara (Rails Trails). Ms. McNamara will administer the grant which will be used for consulting fees to offer advise on how to market the Borough to increase tourism and development. Councilwoman Bean reported that another "Drawn Together" Main Street Event will be held on August 19 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

One strand of the Victorian Holiday lights was received. \$1,663.03 paid out of the "Special Events" account which received over \$900 in donations so far. As more donations are received, additional lights will be ordered.

Councilwoman Bean noted that PPL is replacing the light poles along Main Street.

Councilwoman Bean then noted that she had received several private messages criticizing candid pictures on Facebook of the volunteers at the Chicken BBQ. They failed to wear masks and gloves while packaging the meals. She feels they need to be instructed to follow the governor's mandate for COVID safety protocol. Councilwoman Lazier defended the group citing her own private health related issues. President Cost thanked Amy for expressing her concerns and said he would pass the comments on to the Board and follow the recommended guidelines at future events.

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PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)

Upcoming events at Kennedy Park – Saturday, August 8 – Fishing Derby – registration 8:30, fishing starts at 9:00 – ages 2 to 15.

Sunday, August 16, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – 2nd monthly vendors market.

August 16 – Free Pandemic Family Picnic sponsored by Fitzsimmons, Erie Insurance, DG Do-Gooders and FC Parks & Recreation. Free Hamburgers & Hot dogs, games, prizes, music by Tony Maddi & friends, Polka hour with June from noon to 1 p.m.

President Cost reported an update on the swimming at Kennedy Park. The application to PA Dept. of Health is complete but waiting for pictures of signage, safety equipment & First Aid kit.

Submission includes a \$10 application fee.

Recognize sponsors for July/August events: – Rigatoni & Sausage Dinners on April 4, anonymous donor, Pork with Cabbage & noodles on April 26, sponsored by the F.C. Class of 1971. May 3 – 100 Take & Bake pizza sponsored by F.C. Parks & Rec. June 7 – Chicken & biscuit dinner, DG's Do-Gooders and 6/13 – venison dinner, sponsored by the Richmondale Hunting Club.

In July, Rigatoni & Sausage dinner sponsored by the American Legion Post #524. Thank you to all sponsors, donors & volunteers who made these meals possible.

NEP will be installing the WiFi this week, definitely by 8/16 for the next Vendor's Market.

Handicap swings are expected to be delivered in the next few weeks.

President Cost presented the contract for water sampling from Sekula Environmental Services for May thru September 2021 (specific dates TBD) at \$64.60 per week. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve the contract. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo. The roll call vote was 7 to 0 in favor.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - SAFETY & HEALTH (Bernie Scalzo & Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague provided the Code Enforcement Report for July 2020, noting several items.

Councilman DeGonzague distributed a list of questions that residents have been asking about the Borough's Pandemic preparedness. These will be addressed by EMC Paul Mihelc at a future meeting.

Councilman Scalzo reported that he and Solicitor McAndrew have been working on allowing the use of alcohol in the parks and the Borough building. He distributed a copy of suggested changes to the existing park rules. It is his opinion that personal alcohol consumption is not prohibited under the last ordinance and that it appears that this ordinance applies specifically to the Parks. Liability may still be at issue. More research needs to be done. It's tabled for now.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

July 2020 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for August patrols;

Approval to purchase 4 tires for 2017 Ford Explorer – 37,000 miles – Kost-\$967.80, Goodyear of Allentown \$642.88 (includes M&M mounting) – Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to purchase from Goodyear with M&M mounting at \$642.88. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. The roll-call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Ginton continues to be in contact with Lisa Mazarella from WVIA. A meeting is planned for next week.

Mayor Ginton is in touch with Johnson College, they had a meeting three weeks ago and toured the Franceski Lumber yard as a potential site. He continues to try to find a place where they can establish a campus in Forest City.

The Mayor also reported that he has an interview with the Phila. Enquirer to talk about what's going on in Forest City, the impact COVID has had on the local economy, etc.

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Mayor Glinton reports that he is working on finding financial support for a Community Center and that Councilwoman Bean will be working with him.

One strand of Holiday Victorian lights was received, paid for with “Special Event” account funds where donations are being deposited to cover part of the cost. He expects more donations at which time he will order more lights.

Police will be ticketing anyone parking on Center Street where the three police vehicles will be parked. Lee Rowan stated that the condition of the buildings on either side of the lot where they’ve been parking continues to deteriorate and he’s concerned that the police vehicles will be damaged by falling debris.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

Resolution 7_2020 was presented to allow the Disaster Proclamation to continue until COVID issues have resolved, this will be submitted to Susquehanna County Emergency Management in lieu of the weekly Proclamation. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adopt Res. #7_2020. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded aye to all in favor.

President Cost shared his disappointment over the vandalism recently reported at the new Basketball Court at Kennedy Park. Tens of thousands of dollars spent and three vandals broke the lock and damaged the mechanism that adjusts the height of the basket. They removed bolts and left the hoop hanging off the backboard. Restitution will be sought and criminal charges filed. The damages could be over \$2,000 plus installation.

Councilwoman Matarese added, “Sadly there has been damage done at the Dog Park as well to equipment just recently purchased, an agility seesaw was cracked.” Her husband has offered to try to repair the damage.

Prince Excavating provided a quote for road work on Higgins St. - \$550 and Roxy Road -\$600.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to accept the bids and approve the work. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll-call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Bean suggested that a Trail-cam be installed.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

Stephanie Reisch sent a letter asking the borough to maintain the Alley in the 500 block between Lackawanna & Susquehanna Sts. (from Depot St. to Center St.). President Cost reported that this complaint is already being looked at and repairs will be done. PA American Water is paving the road and the borough will request that a swale be added to divert run-off.

GFCBA sent a letter announcing that membership renewal is free for 2021, but hope that those who can will make a donation. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve \$50 in lieu of the membership fee to support the GFCBA. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

In response to the previous request by police to limit parking on Center Street, Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to order three “Police parking only” signs for Center Street. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

Due to the Labor Day Holiday on Monday, Sept. 7, the next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All replied “aye” in favor of the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.