

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
Monday September 30, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President DeGonzague, Councilman Lesjack, Councilwoman Lazier, Councilwoman Bean, Councilwoman Woody, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew, and Secretary Cindy Stone. Absent Councilman Bernie Scalzo.

President DeGonzague announced an executive was held on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (at start of meeting) about litigation. The Special Meeting resumed at 6:20. President DeGonzague announced that Councilman Lesjack had a personal emergency and had to leave.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** President DeGonzague opened the floor for public comment.

Paul Vendetti of Main Street asked if there was a copy of Ordinance #525, The 2018 Property Maintenance Code he could review. Solicitor McAndrew stated it was the same one that was available online.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING**

1. President DeGonzague asked for a motion to adopt Ordinance #525 The 2018 Property Maintenance Code. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Ordinance #525 and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. A roll call vote, all in favor 4-0, motion passed.
2. President DeGonzague asked for a motion to advertise the yard waste pickup on October 15<sup>th</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Councilwoman Woody made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. A roll call vote, all in favor 4-0, motion passed.
3. Solicitor McAndrew reported that (3) Letters of Interest were received, in no order were: Jason Obelenus, Eileen Lynch and Michael Norella. All were in attendance. Solicitor McAndrew instructed the three candidates to step out into the hall so that each could come in separately to answer pre-prepared questions – “What was their connection to the Borough? And, what did they plan to do to best serve the community as a Council Member? President DeGonzague had the applicants draw numbers wrote on paper to determine what order they would speak.
  - a. Applicant Jason Oblenus spoke first and explained the many years of experience he had serving the public in various roles; US Army veteran, Forest City Borough police officer, volunteer firefighter, Pennsylvania State Fire Inspector, and his primary job with Pennsylvania Department of Corrections before retiring which enabled him to serve on council. Mr. Oblenus stated he would like to serve the public in this role as a council member for Forest City Borough. President DeGonzague thanked Mr. Oblenus for his time and asked him to have the next applicant come in.
  - b. Applicant Eileen Lynch spoke to council stating I have lived in Forest City for 29 years and work at Community Bank, First National Bank for the past 20 years. Ms. Lynch then began speaking of the various organizations she volunteers time for and offices she held within them. Councilwoman Woody asked Ms. Lynch if she felt while working full time at the bank if she had the band width and could be flexible when needed for meeting and issues that turn up. Ms. Lynch explained that FNB Bank is very community orientated and promotes volunteering during working hours or not. Councilwoman Lazier asked a question of Ms. Lynch: As everyone is aware council is very split and

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torn, having their own agenda, and not getting along. What can you do to help unite us and start focusing on the town issues. Ms. Lynch responded that the council needs to work together as a team and not beat a dead horse. Find a common ground for everyone so you can reach an agreement and forge ahead to help the town. President DeGonzague thanked Ms. Lynch for her time and asked her to have the last applicant come in.

- c. Applicant Michael Norella stated he lived in Forest City for fifteen years. He talked of his many jobs in supervisory roles, dealings with contractors, subcontractors and how this experience could help the borough. He currently has his own business employing five people. He talked about Main Street diminishing and the council needs to find something that will thrive and bring them in. He mentioned Kennedy Park as being a huge asset for the town and the council needs to promote it more and bring people into town.

President DeGonzague thanked Mr. Norella for his time and asked him to have a seat. Solicitor McAndrew asked Council if anyone would like to make a motion to appoint one of the applicants. President DeGonzague asked for a second; there was no reply. Councilwoman Woody made a motion to appoint Eileen Lynch Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote 3-1 to appoint Ms. Lynch with Councilwoman Lazier being the one to vote no. Motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President DeGonzague announced the next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, all responded "aye," none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.