

MINUTES – MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

President Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All present stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Nick Cost, councilmembers Bernie Scalzo, Chris Degonzague, Joann Matarese, Bob Lesjack, Amy Bean, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Marissa McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer Vannan.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Cost opens the floor for public comment: Nothing offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION:

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the September 7, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo, all replied in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for September, 2021 and approve General Disbursements for \$57,343.76, Liquid Fuels - \$3095.32 and Sewer Disbursements - \$25,430.56. Revenues totaled \$97,582. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion and it carried with a roll call vote seven to zero.

The 3-year budget vs. actual worksheets and individual department worksheets for 2022 were distributed. Council and the Mayor will offer their input at a "Special Budget Meeting" to be held on Monday, October 18, 2021. Ms. Vannan asked everyone to note that the previous #455 accounts were moved into the respective departments at the Auditors recommendation and these disbursements are open to Council and the Mayor for their suggested uses toward Capital projects for 2022. COVID ARP (American Rescue Plan) funds also need to be considered. John Kameen said that he has learned that funds can be used for anything that is not specifically excluded. Further research required. All agreed they are available for the special Budget work session meeting on 10/18, it is open to the public.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

President Cost announced that Councilman Scalzo will be overseeing Public Works. Councilman Scalzo shared the Public Works report for September 2021. \$208 collected in donations, repaired a storm drain on Depot Street and drainage issue on Higgins Street. The 2022 Ford pickup truck was received from Gibbons Ford and taken to Powell's for a strobe light and rack. Will be delivered to Barhite's in the about two weeks for plow up-fitting. Installed a storm drain base & top on South Street.

Councilman Scalzo added that he is still waiting for KBA to provide specs for the steps in the Center Street Park. Guiderails will be installed in the next two weeks or so. Bids will also be sought for guiderails above the Elegante Restaurant on Welsch Street.

A fall yard waste collection will be Monday, October 25 & Thursday, October 28, 2021. Please refer to the borough website www.forestcityborough.com and the Forest City News for additional information.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Robert Lesjack)

The Rental Agreement for Pentecost Hall was reviewed. Mr. Kameen asked if there would be a sliding fee scale and if alcohol is permitted. Councilman Lesjack responded, "These things are all being considered". Solicitor McAndrew suggested that a Resolution could be prepared and presented at the next meeting to set a fee. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the rental agreement. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo, the motion carried. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to create the resolution setting fees. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion, six responded in favor, Councilman DeGonzague opposed. Solicitor McAndrew will work on the Resolution for the November meeting.

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Councilman Lesjack reported that only one person applied for the cleaning position. He offered a motion to hire Juliann Doyle for the part-time position at \$15/hour for 8 to 10 hours per month as previously approved. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to authorize the purchase of cleaning supplies and a step-ladder not to exceed \$200. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded yes in a roll-call vote. The motion carried.

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase of rods and curtain panels for approximately \$350 for Pentecost Hall windows. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote was six in favor, Councilman DeGonzague opposed. The motion carried.

Councilman Lesjack announced an “Open House” for Sunday, November 14 from noon to 4 p.m. He hopes everyone will participate, help to decorate, provide baked goods, etc. Councilman Lesjack will be seeking donations from area businesses and residents to help make this event a success. Hopes to see everyone there!

Councilman Lesjack asked Parks & Rec. if they would post the event on the white board at Kennedy Park. Michele Miller and Tracey Lazier replied that they would.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean announced upcoming events. “Halloween on Main” will be a “Trunk or Treat” event on Wednesday, October 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. There is a letter going around soliciting local support to sponsor a pumpkin, proceeds will go toward the Holiday Lights. The Police Memorial will be held at Kennedy Park on Saturday, October 16 at noon. This event is sponsored by the FOP and refreshments will be served.

Councilwoman Bean received an invitation from candidate Stephanie Sojka-Reisch to participate in a debate at the F.C. Historical Society, to be moderated by John Kameen. She declined the invitation saying, “There is nothing to debate, all the council members have been appointed to specific committees and work together to get projects they support done.”

Susie Atcavage & Juliann Doyle presented an update on the “Outdoor Town” Committee meeting held on Sept. 9th. Ms. Atcavage summarized the groups activities and goals. Their next step is to get the community involved, narrow down the goals, determine what is short-term and what will be long-term. They need to find out what resources are available. Their next meeting is October 14th and when the action plan is finalized, it will be brought back to council. The Team is very optimistic about support with more than 50 people at the Sept. 9th meeting and 150 responses to their survey. President Cost offered his support saying, “Council will help in any way we can”. Ms. Doyle is working on grants and posters are being created to promote the “Outdoor Town” initiative.

PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier provided a report for the Parks & Recreation Board. \$600.40 was collected for the September Vendor Market, included donations & concession stand sales. Starting in October, Vendor market proceeds will go toward playground equipment. Seventy vendors are expected for the October market. Last market, October 17 – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In November a Toy Drive will be held at Kennedy Park on November 6 from 11 to 2 p.m. to benefit Toys for Kids at F.C. Regional School. Next big event will be our Winterfest, date to be announced later, January or February. Weather permitting, an ice fishing derby is also planned. All proceeds are earmarked for playground equipment. Parks & Rec. will participate in the “Trunk or Treat” on Main Street.

Councilwoman Lazier is still seeking bids for bathroom renovations at Kennedy Park. Two contractors mentioned – Red Rooster Construction and Flynn Construction.

Reminder – Pledge forms are available on the Borough website, in the borough office and from Parks and Rec Board members.

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Councilwoman Lazier added that she is also unavailable for the Public Debate at the F.C. Historical Society on October 21st

CODE ENFORCEMENT - SAFETY & HEALTH (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague reminded everyone to “Please get your COVID Vaccines, protect yourself and those around you, wear masks and practice social distancing, the numbers are going up again, please be considerate of others who may be at risk.” This is “Fire Safety Month”, check your smoke alarms, be prepared.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

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

Mayor Glinton asked Council approval for shades for police department windows in the front of the building to match those in the Borough offices at a cost of \$340. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the purchase, Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All members voted yes in a roll-call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

A copy of a text message resignation was received from Charles Yarick, Part-time officer, effective immediately. Asst. Chief Foley made several attempts to get a written resignation, but finally printed out the text. Councilwoman Bean expressed dissatisfaction and reminded everyone that she had requested that “Exit interviews” be conducted going forward. Asst. Chief Foley said that he is working on it.

Mayor Glinton requested approval for purchase of (4) goodyear tires for 2019 Dodge Charger from Kost for \$537.76. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the purchase, Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed. The purchase was approved.

A request to approve Resolution #5_2021, recognizing National Police Week October 13th to October 17, 2021 did not make it onto the agenda, so it was tabled and will be submitted to council at the November 1st meeting. A memorial service honoring fallen Officers and their families will be celebrated on October 16 at Kennedy Park at Noon.

Mayor Glinton asked Borough Council to designate Assistant Chief John Foley “Officer in Charge” so that the department could continue to operate seamlessly following the recent retirement of the current chief. Councilman DeGonzague offered the motion to recognize Asst. Chief Foley as “Officer in Charge”. The motion was seconded by Council member Scalzo. All responded in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR REPORT – (Marissa McAndrew, Esq.)

As reported earlier, the rental agreement for the 3rd floor has been accepted by Council and she would be working on a Resolution with the rates for council’s future approval. Rental will be \$500 per event with a \$50 refund if everything is left in good order.

Solicitor McAndrew reported that Chief Rowan has announced his retirement. She and Council are working with him on the details. Council was asked to remain after adjournment to have an “Executive Session” regarding personnel issues.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reviewed the ad for Main Street snow removal for 2021/2022 snow season. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve the ad and submit it to the Forest City news for publication.

CORRESPONDENCE:

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Council Candidate Stephanie Sojka-Reisch submitted an “Invitation to a Public Debate” to the Council members up for re-election on Thursday, October 21 at 6 p.m. at the F.C. Historical Society. John Kameen would act as moderator. Councilwomen Bean and Lazier indicated earlier that they would not be attending. The other candidates did not respond.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

Ms. Dawn Pentecost, 629 Railroad Street, commented on the problems with stormwater backing up in front of her house and failing to reach the storm drain in front of 628 Railroad Street. It appears that the road is settling and water is pooling. Mr. James Wisekal, 628 Railroad St. also voiced concern, adding that the problem is coming from Grand Avenue. Councilman Scalzo said he would be taking a look at it and determine if it can be corrected. Several other drainage issues are being looked into and this will be added to the list.

Ms. Michelle Miller asked about the proceeds from the 3rd floor rental, how will they be used? Councilman Lesjack responded, “Any proceeds will be kept in a separate fund and used to continue to upgrade the facility and for maintenance and repairs.”

Mr. Mike Norella, Dundaff Street, asked if the borough is following the rules with respect to the bathroom renovations at Kennedy Park. “Are specs being provided and permits obtained as required?” He also noted that the culvert is plugged at Kennedy Park and water overflows the culvert between his and Brett Pelick’s property. He asked if this could also be looked at to find a solution for the problem. President Cost replied, “We’ll follow up on this and let you know. Councilman Scalzo will be taking over Public Works supervision and will check it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. As mentioned earlier, a “Special Public Meeting” for the 2022 Budget workshop, will be held on Monday, October 18, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. here.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cost requests motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The meeting ended at 7:11 p.m.