

MINUTES – MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2020
FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

At 6:00 p.m. President Nick Cost welcomed everyone. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance. Then he passed the meeting to Solicitor Marissa McAndrew to conduct a “Public Hearing” as follows:

PUBLIC HEARING

Solicitor Marissa McAndrew began the hearing by welcoming everyone and introducing herself. She then introduced the Council members and the applicants, Paul Debish, Jr. and Tiffany Debish, dba JTP Hospitality Corporation. The purpose of the Hearing is a request from the Debish’s for approval to transfer a Restaurant Liquor License from 716 Main St., Hallstead, PA to 1318 No. Main Street, Forest City, PA. previously known as the No. Main Street Grille, currently owned by Bill Woodward. Both sites are located are in Susquehanna County and so this type of transfer is permitted by the PA LCB.

Solicitor McAndrew asked the following questions of Council:

Does anyone on Council have any interest in the property or the application or owned property within 300 feet of the property subject to the application? All responded “No”.

Does anyone on Council stand to gain or lose any financial benefit as a result of the outcome of the Hearing? All responded “No”.

Can everyone hear & consider the application in a fair and objective manner? All responded “Yes”.

Has anyone engaged in any communications with either the proponents or opponents of the application? All responded “No”.

Does anyone in the audience wish to challenge the participation of any member of the Council and state the reason? No one present responded.

Solicitor McAndrew then administered the Oath to the Council and anyone who may wish to provide testimony. All responded “I do”.

The solicitor asked the applicants to comment on their application. Mr. Paul Debish, Jr. indicated that they hoped to open the establishment upon final approval from the PA LCB. “We will serve lunch and alcoholic beverages to be eaten on site or taken out.”

The solicitor explained that public testimony could be offered, “speak clearly, give you full name and address. Comments should be directed to Council, kept brief and relevant to the application. The time limit is 5 minutes, and avoid repetitive comments.” No one offered testimony.

Solicitor McAndrew asked for closing remarks from the applicant and/or the public. Then asked for additional comments from Council. A member of the audience, Iris Castellani from 50 Depot Street asked, “Will there be other alcoholic beverages, like wine?” Mr. Debish responded, “There will eventually be wine and probably slushies, we are starting out with beer and are open to suggestions.” President Cost asked what the hours would be. Mr. Debish responded, “11 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for now.”

Solicitor McAndrew stated, “Unless there is anything else, that concludes the Hearing and the application and Resolution will now be considered by Council.”

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Councilman Robert Lesjack offered a motion to adopt Resolution #10_2020, approval to transfer Restaurant Liquor License from Hallstead to Forest City Borough. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded in favor and the motion carried.

President Cost asked for a Roll Call.

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

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 the Regular Meeting Minutes from September 8 3, 2020. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All replied in favor, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and approve all disbursements for September 2020. Councilwoman Lazier seconded. Roll call vote – 7 to 0 in favor. Budget worksheets distributed, Special Budget Workshop Meeting scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Letter from PA Auditor General's office announcing the 2020 Pension System State Aid to be issued to the Borough will be \$9,157.45. Covers 2020 Non-uniform contribution \$8,143, the balance is deposited in the Uniform pension fund.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

President Cost offered the Public Works report. \$462 Recycling donations collected in August/September. Stripped down the 3rd floor kitchen. Cleaned pavers and removed concrete benches at K.P. Gazebo.

Announced a Yard Waste Pick-up to be held Monday, October 19 & Thursday, October 22. Ad will be placed in F.C. News. See website for additional information.

Water at K.P. will be shut off when the temperatures are expected to drop below freezing.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the bid from Tom's Carpet for replacement of the flooring in the 3rd floor kitchen, hallway and Ladies' room at a cost of \$3,257. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll-call vote of 5 in favor and 2 opposed (Councilwoman Lazier & Bean opposed).

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase of two (2) clocks, industrial pipe for shelving, shelves & paint for the 3rd floor kitchen for \$300. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. The roll-call vote carried with seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve the advertisement for sealed bids for the Borough Building upon receipt of bid specs from KBA. Councilman Scalzo seconded. All were in favor, motion carried.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reports that things are moving forward with the DCNR Peer Grant. She and Deb McNamara (Rails Trails) had a phone meeting with a couple from Eastwick Solutions who will be visiting the borough to tour the town. They will submit a proposal for their services for review at the

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November meeting. Volunteers are sought for a Steering Committee and an Action Team. Ms. The Borough's share is \$500 as previously approved.

Councilwoman Bean reported that "Trunk or Treat" will be held on Main Street on 10/28, sponsored by Frugal Living and GFCBA, donations are always welcome. December 5 will be the Tree Lighting, more details to come. There will also be a pumpkin painting event on 10/28, donations are welcome and will be directed toward the purchase of Holiday light strands for the Main Street.

PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that upcoming events at Kennedy Park include Halloween at K.P. on 10/31 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Parks & Rec hosted six free dinners during the pandemic. 885 dinners were distributed over the course of these events. Thank you to all the donors.

The last Vendor market will be on October 18, 80 vendors or more are expected for this event.

Next meeting for F.C. Parks & Recreation is Thursday, October 8 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough building.

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

Councilman DeGonzague provided the Code Enforcement Report for September 2020, noting several items. Reminder: All complaints must be in writing. Forms are available on the Borough website or in the borough office. Bids are going out for the demolition of a building at 517 Susquehanna Street. A special thanks to Stephanie Reisch for her efforts to get this project underway.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

September 2020 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for October patrols was distributed.

The Mayor announced that \$775 was recouped for ammunition costs from the sale of unusable ammo. The Mayor announced that door-to-door "Trick or Treating" would be permitted in the borough on Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and asked everyone to have fun but be safe and considerate of residents in the borough.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Atty. Marissa McAndrew)

Attorney McAndrew asked council members to remain after the conclusion of the Regular Meeting for an "Executive Session" regarding personnel issues and consultation on insurance liability risks)

NEW BUSINESS: (President Cost)

President Cost presented Resolution #11 to approve the application for a Multimodal Grant for sidewalk completion and a \$100 payment to submit with the application. This Resolution is for the completion of the Browndale Sidewalk from the F.C. Emergency Services building to the corner of Rte. #247 where it meets Rte. #171 on Main Street at the Turkey Hill. The application included a request for "waiver from the matching funds" and moving forward with this project will hinge on that waiver. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve Resolution #11 and authorize the payment of \$100 for the application. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed.

County Waste provided a bid for a three or five-year contract for garbage & recycling. The monthly cost of collections will increase over the next five years from \$14/month to 19.04 per month resulting in an annual increase to residents starting in 2021 from \$15.50 in 2020 to \$17/month in 2021. Ending in 2025 at \$19.75/month per unit. Taking the five-year contract will mean less increase in the 4th & 5th years of the contract. A resolution with a fee schedule with increase in collection fees to the residents will be created for the Special Budget Worksheet for review and will be voted on at that time.

Two sealed snow removal bids were received. The first from Aquaduro, LLC of Taylor, PA. The second from Mikloiche Timber & Construction. Only Aquaduro's bid was opened and with some

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confusion on how the bid was presented, President Cost tabled the process and pushed the opening to the “Special Budget Workshop” to get clarification on the bid as presented.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve Resolution #9-2020 to extend the service agreement with the LRBSA for an additional 10 years through 2050. This was requested from the LRBSA for continued financing options. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All responded “Aye” and the motion carried with none opposed.

Ms. Vannan submitted a copier lease proposal from Topp Copy that would reduce the monthly lease fee, provide a new copier for the general office and move the current copier from the general office to the police department, replacing their current copier with less expensive copies and a more dependable unit. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion approving the new agreement. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. The motion carried. Ms. Vannan would contact Topp Copy to move forward with the proposal.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

A letter from Davide Padfield, Pema and from Governor Wolfe were received supporting the re-appointment of Paul Mihelc as the Borough’s Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to appoint Paul Mihelc as Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Six members responded in favor of the appointment; one member (Councilman DeGonzague) was opposed. The motion carried.

A complaint letter was received from Ann Stefanov about the Mayor and the police department’s failure to curb ATV traffic on Borough streets. It listed multiple instances where the police failed to enforce the law. President Cost responded, “This matter has been discussed previously and I am asking the Mayor to look into these complaints and respond.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

Iris Castellani commented on the problems in town, she will send a letter to the Mayor & police department voicing her issues.

Anthony from Elegante Pizza asked if the Code Enforcement position was posted when Stephanie Reisch left. President Cost replied, “It was not, at the time, Chris DeGonzague stepped in without pay to respond to some ongoing complaints and follow-up on new ones.” Anthony complained that he was being treated unfairly. Councilman DeGonzague responded, “I treat everyone equally & fairly, responding to complaints as they are received.”

Iris Castellani asked about a tree that power lines are running through. President Cost recommended that she report it to the PPL rather than having anyone endanger themselves by trying to trim around power lines.

Steven Mikloiche asked about the snow bids and President Cost responded, “The bids will be dealt with at the Special Budget Meeting on October 19, please join us then.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

A Special Budget Workshop will be held on Monday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. to work on the budget and will also include the snow bids and the garbage collections proposal which both impact on the budget.

The next regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All replied “aye” in favor of the motion and the meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.