

# MINUTES – MONDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2021

## FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

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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, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague, Joann Matarese, Bob Lesjack, Amy Bean, Mayor Christopher Ginton, Solicitor Marissa McAndrew and Assistant Secretary Stone.

Absent: Councilwoman Lazier 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 October 4, 2021 minutes and Councilman Lesjack seconded, all replied in favor. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the minutes from the Special Budget Meeting held on October 18, 2021 a second was made by Councilman Lesjack, all replied in favor motion passed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for October, 2021 Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion, it carried with a roll call vote six to zero.

Distribution of the proposed 2022 budget and vote to advertise was introduced, Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to advertise and was seconded by Councilman Lesjack, it carried with a roll call vote six to zero.

Acceptance of the 2022 meeting schedule and approve to advertise. Joann Matarese made a motion to accept and advertise the 2022 meeting schedule followed by a second from Councilman Lesjack, all replied in favor. Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)**

Councilman Scalzo shared the Public Works report for October 2021. Bob And Wally picked up three loads of yard waste, did some miscellaneous work on the third floor, worked on flooding issues on Upper and Lower North Main Street due to heavy rains, repaired a storm drain on Center Street using 600 lbs. of Sakrete and a storm drain on Delaware Street using 300 lbs. of Sakrete. A Western Plow was installed on new pickup truck by Barhites of Clifford. Councilman Scalzo noted we received \$49 from Franceski Scrap from the old guardrail cables removed from Delaware Street.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Robert Lesjack)**

Reminder of the Pentecost Hall "Open House" on November 14, 2021 from noon – 4 pm. 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 made a motion to authorize the purchase of beverages and refreshments not to exceed \$300. This would include the cost to cover the DJ (\$100.00). Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded yes in a roll-call vote. The motion carried.

Mr. Lesjack stated a resolution will be presented at the December 2021 meeting for the fee schedule for the rental of Pentecost Hall. It will be added to December's agenda.

Risk management did an inspection last month of the third floor and the borough parks. Batteries were changed in one of the safety lights on the third floor as a result. The recommendation of having a check list at the park to be filled out and turned into the office when problems were found was discussed. It was decided that Council President Nick Cost would have the public works do various checks and

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---

Councilman DeGonzague as part of the safety committee would do some checks as well as the Parks & Recreation board.

Councilman Lesjack said Northeast Elevator, LL would be coming on Wednesday 11/3/2021 to evaluate the elevator and Paradigm Roofing Contractors, Inc. is coming to estimate the leak in the roof on 11/7/2021. He hopes to report on both at next month's meeting.

### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)**

Councilwoman Bean updated October events. "Halloween on Main" with "Trunk or Treat" event on Wednesday, October 27 from 4 to 6 p.m. was a huge success. \$1040 was raised by the pumpkin sponsors for the Christmas Light Fund. A big turn out and a fun time for all. Main Street coordinator Paul Daugevelo wanted to thank the police force for the great job they did controlling the large crowd for the Trunk or Treat event.

### **PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)**

Councilwoman Lazier was unavailable to attend the meeting. Parks and Recreation chairperson Kathy Kernoschak wanted to mention that the Toys for Kids drop off is being co-sponsored by the parks committee and DG's. Councilwoman Bean asked if council if the borough could donate \$100.00 to the Toys for Kids fund raiser, secretary Stone commented that it isn't allowed. Solicitor McAndrew said she would investigate what area we can fit in the donation so it would be permitted, will be added to next month's agenda. Our next event will be a Soup Cook-Off and Ice Fishing Derby on February 12, 2022. Councilman DeGonzague mentioned that a pledge form for Parks and Recreation will inserted with this month's sewer bills.

Contract renewal with Sekula Environmental Services for water sample testing at Kennedy Park for the 2022/2023 season at \$64.00 per sample. Councilman Scalzo made the motion and Councilman DeGonzague seconded. Roll call vote, motion passed 6-0.

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT - SAFETY & HEALTH (Chris DeGonzague)**

Councilman DeGonzague updated everyone on the Emergency Management meeting he attended on October 21, 2021 and reminded President Cost and Councilman Scalzo about forms to be submitted by 11/8/2021.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)**

October 2021 Police Report was distributed for council's review.

Mayor Christopher Ginton asked Council's approval for Resolution #6\_2021 for "October 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> - National Peace Officers' Memorial Week. A motion was offered by Councilman DeGonzague and seconded by councilwoman Bean. All members voted yes in a roll-call vote – six in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

Mayor Ginton updated on Drug Take Back held on Saturday October 23, 2021 and stated that 47 lbs. of drugs were collected.

A written resignation was received from David M Clark, Part-time officer, effective 11/4/2021. Asst. Chief Foley reported that Officer Clark is available for a telephone exit interview if council wishes.

Mayor Ginton reported on the Police Memorial held at the Emergency Services building on October 16, 2021. He was very impressed with the attendance of the residents of Forest City and surrounding towns.

### **SOLICITOR REPORT – (Marissa McAndrew, Esq.)**

Solicitor McAndrew requested an "Executive Session" following the regular meeting to discuss personnel issues.

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### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Opening bids for Main Street snow removal for 2021/2022 snow season. One bid received from Mikloiche Timber and Construction. Councilman Lesjack motioned to accept Mikloiche Timber and Constructions bid for \$3700 per storm with a second from Mr. Scalzo. Roll call vote, 6 to 0 motion carries. The cleanup would be from meter to meter on both the east and west sides of Main Street, Center Street by the borough building will also be included.

Request approval for an additional \$3,270 for work to be done at 1025 Upper N. Main Street due to storm damage/run-off, work to be done by Nick's Excavating. Councilman Scalzo made a motion and Councilwoman Bean seconded. Roll call vote, motion carries 6-0.

Councilwoman Bean visited the site for a handicap parking request at 606 Susquehanna Street. She met with the owner Kayla Gyle and her handicap son and strongly recommends approval of her request. Councilman DeGonzague motioned to approve the Handicap Parking request and was seconded by Councilman Lesjack. Roll call vote, motion carries 6-0.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (President Cost)

John Kameen stated an executive session was held last month and wanted to know if council planned on elaborating on what was discussed. He also noted council was having an executive session tonight, would they be reconvening Solicitor McAndrew said they were not elaborating or reconvening and would be further discussing the same personnel issues and possible litigation at tonight's session.

John Kameen commented on the parking in front of the McAndrew building at the handicap spot, tractor trailers turning onto Dundaff Street are hitting cars while turning. President Cost stated the only solution was to remove the handicap spot and eliminate parking in that area. This will be added to months agenda.

John Kalasinski asked what was being done about the four wheelers on North Street, Maple Street, Delaware Street and Grand Avenue. Councilman DeGonzague and Mayor Ginton responded the police were aware of the situation and are working on it.

Michele & Val Miller had several comments on the 3rd floor rental fee and the space and how the fee schedule was decided, Councilman Lesjack responded the resolution for the fee schedule would be presented at December's meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. President Cost urged everyone to get out and vote tomorrow noting this is a very special election.

**ADJOURNMENT:** President Cost requests motion to adjourn. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The meeting ended at 6:47 p.m.