

MINUTES – MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 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:

James Wisekal expressed his gratitude and support for borough police and supported their pay increases.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION:

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the November 1, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Councilman Lesjack, all replied in favor. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for November, 2021 and approve General Disbursements for \$77,064.38, Liquid Fuels - \$3,182.03 and Sewer Disbursements - \$21,822.31. Revenues totaled \$102,937.86. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion and it carried with a roll call vote seven to zero.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve the 2022 General Fund Budget and proposed Capital projects. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven (7) in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the 2022 Sewer Fund Budget. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed – 7 to 0.

Resolution #7_2021 – 2022 Tax Levy – 16.8 mills with no increase was offered. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve Resolution #7_2021. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All responded yes in a roll call vote, seven in favor, none opposed, Resolution #7 adopted.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve 2022 salary rate increases for all non-uniform full-time staff. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll-call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve buyout in lieu of insurance coverage for spouse of Lucinda Stone at a rate of \$500/month. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo, all voted yes in roll-call vote, none opposed.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the public works report for November, 2021. Vandling was billed \$195 for three bucket loads of salt/cinder mix.

Councilman Scalzo provided guiderail bids for Welsh Street (above Elegante Restaurant) from Chemung Supply - \$8,250 and Minichi Contracting - \$10,700 (used) & \$16,500 (new); PennLine opted out of the bidding. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to accept the low bid from Chemung at \$8,250. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll-call vote found all members in favor, none opposed. Councilman Scalzo will contact Chemung to confirm.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported on the success of the “Open House” held for Pentecost Hall held 11/14/21. He thanked everyone who participated.

Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve Resolution #8, adopting the Pentecost Hall Rental Agreement and fee schedule. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack reported that problems with the sump pump in the elevator required it to be shut down. Rockhill Plumbing has been contacted to look at the problem and give a price on repairs or replacement.

MINUTES – MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean thanked the school and the vendors who participated in the recent Christmas on Main Street. Mayor Ginton added his thanks to the school and the carolers as well as the police department for their coverage of the event.

Councilwoman Bean introduced Susie Atcavage (president of the GFCBA). Ms. Atcavage reported on the success of the 12-month Peer Grant program. “Kim & Steve of Eastwick Solutions provided the group with guidance and the formation of the “Action Committee” who are looking for support from Borough Council as they move forward with plans to invigorate the borough’s economy. Resolution #9 was presented for Council approval. Although the Resolution was not on the agenda, Solicitor McAndrew researched whether or not council could vote on it. She noted that it is a “De Minimis” request, that does not involve committing any monetary support, Council could vote. An amended agenda will be prepared, posted on the borough building as well as on the Borough website following the meeting. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Resolution #9-2021 to support the Outdoor Towns Action Plan. Councilwoman Bean seconded, all responded “aye” to all in favor and the motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported the “Soup Cook-off” is planned at K.P. for February 12, 2022 from noon to 2:00 p.m. Christmas on Main was a great success, Parks & Rec passed out 200 lighted headbands.

Councilwoman Lazier stated that she is seeking bids for bathroom restoration at Kennedy Park. Grants will be sought to help with the cost. Specifications will have to be prepared.

Brian Fitzsimmons addressed council about the problems at the Little League field with drainage. He reported that they were forced to use other fields during the recent season due to these drainage issues. He also stated that the fence is not regulation and needs to be moved in order for the league to sponsor playoff games in the future. President Cost said that Council will be on top of this and will look at some options. Councilman Degonzague noted that EPA permits would be needed. He asked Mr. Fitzsimmons to begin drafting a plan and get some cost estimates.

CODE ENFORCEMENT - SAFETY & HEALTH (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague met with Mikloiche Construction and Nick’s Excavating for bids on work to be done on 901 Susquehanna Street. Bids were - Mikloiche \$19,500 and Nick’s - \$26,120. However, the bids were not according to the same specifications which was the reason for the spread. Mikloiche’s did not include paving, which would be necessary to do the job properly. New specifications needed to be provided so that the bids would cover all the same items. This job was tabled at this time until specifications could be prepared for the purposes of advertising for bids which will likely surpass the cap for telephonic bids and will require advertising.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

November 2021 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for December 2021 patrols were distributed.

A “Memo of Understanding” between the Police Department and F.C. Regional School District was presented increasing the per event charge to \$100 per officer per event. The fee had not been increased since 2017 when it was set at \$85/event. Councilwoman Bean expressed her concerns about our police covering events at the school and questioned why the school district doesn’t use their Resource Officer to cover these events. She expressed her dissatisfaction with the school’s support of the BLM movement. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the MOU and the increase to \$100. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll-call vote resulted in five in favor, two opposed (Councilwoman Bean & Lazier opposed). The motion carried.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to increase the part-time officers’ rates by \$2/hour, the clerical support person by \$1/hour and Officer-in-Charge Foley by 2% per his contract. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. Roll call vote, seven in favor, none opposed.

MINUTES – MONDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2021

FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

A quote from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for the purchase of Taser cartridges was presented. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to authorize the purchase at a cost of \$1,998. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. Roll-call vote taken, seven in favor, none opposed.

A request to purchase a 5-hour block of IT Services from Topp Business Solutions for the police department computers was presented. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the contract. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote. 7 in favor, 0 opposed.

Mayor Glinton noted that a vest was ordered from Starr uniform for Officer Diaz, the cost of which would be shared with a 2019 Vest Grant. Officer Coulthard will be fitted for a vest, ½ of the cost for his vest will be reimbursed to the borough through the 2021 Vest Grant.

Mayor Glinton announced that there will be free parking from December 13 thru January 1st for the holiday season.

SOLICITOR REPORT – (Marissa McAndrew, Esq.)

Solicitor McAndrew announced that an “Executive Session” will be held immediately following this meeting to discuss potential litigation issues and an impending employee separation.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vandling accepted the increase for salt/cinder mix from \$65 to \$70 per bucket-load effective December 1, 2021.

The bids for the Susquehanna Street pipe project were opened earlier in the meeting and tabled due to inaccuracy of the specs.

The membership for the GFCBA was considered for renewal for two years at a cost of \$125 with inclusion in the brochure & map. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve the membership renewal for \$125. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote, none opposed.

The Forest City News requested council’s consideration for a 5”x5” Holiday Greeting in the Annual paper at a cost of \$60. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to participate. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

John Kameen asked if any decision had been made on Vandling police patrols. President Cost said negotiations were still on-going. Mr. Kameen added a suggestion that when the work begins on the East side of Main Street, it would be great to eliminate a foot off the sidewalk to widen Main Street. Brian Fitzsimmons commented, “Should have been on both sides”.

Mr. Kameen questioned the money spent on sewer problems on Center Street, requiring All American Rooter and Prince Excavating. President Cost replied, “We are addressing issues as they come up with sewer lines and storm drains that were part of the Sewer project. Dawn Pentecost reminded Council that there are drainage issues on Railroad Street as well. Councilman Scalzo said this is on the list for spring.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next Council meeting will be the Re-Organization meeting for 2022 on Monday January 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: President Cost requests motion to adjourn. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All were in favor, none opposed. The meeting ended at 7:50 p.m.