

MONDAY – DECEMBER 18, 2023 - 1:00 P.M.
FOREST CITY BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

President Lesjack explained the purpose the Special Meeting and thanked everyone for attending. Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: President Lesjack, Vice President Cost, Council members: Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Chris DeGonzague, Bernie Scalzo, Mayor Ginton, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Unable to attend: Councilwoman Matarese.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Kameen, Forest City News, noted that President Lesjack should have reported that an Executive Session was held prior to the Special Meeting and what it was about. President Lesjack responded that it was for Personnel issues and that there would be another immediately following this public meeting.

There were no additional comments.

Agenda items were as follows:

Councilwoman Lazier motioned to approve Resolution #15-2023, for 2024 Tax Levy with no increase. Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague, it carried with a six in favor, zero opposed in a roll call vote.

Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to adopt the 2024 General Fund Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scalzo. The 2024 Budget was approved by roll call with five members in favor and one opposed, V.P. Cost.

Rate changes were next on the agenda. V. P. Cost made a motion to approve a 2% pay increase for clerical staff. Councilman Scalzo seconded it. All voted yes in a roll call vote.

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve a 2% pay increase for public works & janitorial staff. Seconded by V.P. Cost, the motion carried in a roll call vote, six in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve a 2% pay increase for part-time police officers. Seconded by Councilman Cost, a roll call vote found four in favor and Council Members C. DeGonzague and A. Bean opposed. The increase was approved four to two.

MONDAY – DECEMBER 18, 2023 - 1:00 P.M.
FOREST CITY BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Discussion followed about the selection of an Auditor for the 2023 Audit. An engagement letter had not been received yet from Brian Kelly & Associates with his verbal price of \$6,500. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to table the decision until it was received. The motion to table was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. A roll call vote found four members in favor, two opposed (President Lesjack and V.P. Cost). The decision was tabled and will be revisited at the January meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS:

Councilwoman Bean noted that a recent meeting held was not a “secret meeting”, it was three council members getting together to discuss the 2024 budget and since there was no quorum, it was not in violation of the Sunshine Act. In attendance were Councilwoman Bean, Councilman DeGonzague and President Robert Lesjack.

Councilman DeGonzague and Solicitor McAndrew reported that they are still working on some additional changes to Ordinance #522. If it is available for final review, it will be voted on for advertisement at the January meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The 2024 Bi-Annual Reorganization Council Meeting will be Tuesday, January 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Cost offered a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. All responded “aye”, none opposed and the meeting ended at 1:40 p.m.