

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY April 3, 2023**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (President Robert Lesjack).

President Lesjack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone. All stood for the “**Pledge of Allegiance**”.

**OPENING STATEMENT (President Lesjack)**

President Lesjack read a statement regarding the disrespect displayed at the March meeting. “All citizens & property owners are welcome to speak at our meetings, however, we will not allow anyone to be mocked or attacked. This is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Our police are in attendance and anyone who fails to adhere to our standards of professionalism and respect will be removed.” Forest City Borough Council have not been involved with the creation and/or operation of the Community Center. Mayor Glinton has stated that he has undertaken this project in a personal capacity and outside his scope as Mayor of Forest City. The Borough Council takes no position regarding this project, it is outside the scope of regulation by the Borough, as long as any such operation is in accordance with the laws of the state and local government. “We have no comment about the project and will not discuss it at meetings. This project is not being undertaken by your local government.”

**ANNOUNCEMENT:** (President Lesjack)

An Executive Session attended by Borough Council Members and the Borough Solicitor was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. The Council sought legal advice from their Solicitor about employment issues and potential and/or threatened litigation.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Lesjack, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague Amy Bean, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.  
Absent: Vice-President Nick Cost.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Mayor Glinton asked why he was not invited to the Executive Session, stated that he should not have been excluded. President Lesjack asked Solicitor McAndrew to look into whether Council is required to include the mayor.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the Minutes from March 6, 2023, Councilwoman Lazier seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the March, 2023 Treasurer’s Report with cash receipts totaling \$100,134.32 and Disbursements totaling \$145,706.62. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, six in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Councilman Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the March Public Works Report: replaced a pin on the plow shocks; received 22.5 tons of CoStars Salt, received \$77.50 for Aluminum cans from Archbald Wrecking; replaced the cutting edge on the pickup plow; installed the swings at Kennedy Park; and patched several potholes. Recycling Donations for March - \$132.0. Vandling Borough was billed \$280 for (4) four bucket loads salt/cinder mix.

Public Works employee search update – received one (1) new application. Interviews are being scheduled. President Lesjack added, “Hope to have a viable candidate by the May meeting.”

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**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Councilwoman Lazier)**

Councilwoman Lazier noted that the Pentecost Hall sign was started, “Hope to be completed by next meeting.” President Lesjack asked Councilwoman Lazier to contact Mr. Wilcox about the colors and said, “They don’t seem to be what I thought they would be.”

Councilwoman Lazier noted, “We are still waiting for Gary Wilding from KBA to provide more information on the roof, I will contact him again.”

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)**

The minutes from the Action Team’s March 2023 meeting and the agenda for April 2023 were distributed. The next Action Team meeting will be on April 3<sup>rd</sup> at Elegante’s Restaurant.

Councilwoman Bean noted that two more businesses had received ARPA funds for Façade improvements, Zazzera’s and the F.C. Historical Society.

“Easter on Main” is scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. with an Easter Egg Hunt at Wm. Penn Apartments.

Councilwoman Bean presented Resolution #4\_2023 and offered a motion to recognize the Green Space at the top of Center Street between Main Street & Delaware as an official “Pocket Park”. Seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. All responded “Aye” to “All in Favor?”. None were opposed, the motion carried.

Susie Atcavage, representative of the Outdoor Town Action Team, addressed council and reported that the Welcome Arch at the Erie Street Trailhead will be installed soon. The Action Team has contacted Christine Dettore for funding opportunities and will be pursuing a grant through the DCNR. The group is waiting for additional information from Paul Bechtel, from McLain Associates, about the Center Street Park. The Action Team will be pursuing grants to complete the sidewalk project from Erie Street to Main. “The next FCOTAT meeting will be on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> at Elegante’s Restaurant, please try to attend.”

**PARKS & RECREATION: (Vice President Cost)**

V.P. Cost was unavailable, in his absence, the following information was shared: The K.P. Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success with approximately 250 kids attending. Thank you to all the generous sponsors who made this event special. The 2023 Vendor Markets are scheduled for May 21<sup>st</sup>, July 16<sup>th</sup>, and September 17<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Advance registration required for all vendors.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Councilman DeGonzague)**

Councilman DeGonzague announced that the County Burn Ban ends Sunday, April 16, 2023. A flyer announcing a Lyme Disease presentation to be held on April 15, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Blue Ridge High School was distributed. Councilman DeGonzague plans to attend.

Councilwoman Bean asked who is the Borough’s Emergency Management Coordinator. Councilman DeGonzague responded, “Paul “Buzz” Mihelz”. Councilwoman Bean asked why he doesn’t attend the council meetings and let Council know what plans have been developed for the borough in the event of an emergency. Councilman DeGonzague replied, “He’s supposed to attend the meetings held at the county for Hazard Mitigation as well, but he does not.” President Lesjack said he would find out more and get back to her.

**MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)**

The March 2023 Police Report was distributed for Council review. The national Prescription Drug Take-back is scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2023 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Forest City Emergency Services building.

The mayor reported that over \$700 worth of prizes have been donated for the “Easter on Main” event. Thank you to all of our generous supporters. Rabbit ears have been placed all over town and kids are encouraged to locate them and get a count to compete for prizes.

Councilwoman Lazier asked if the computers for the patrol cars had been received. Chief Foley responded that they have been ordered but not received yet.

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**NEW BUSINESS:**

President Lesjack announced that penalty & interest will be activated beginning with the April Sewer/Garbage bills that are processed in May. These fees were suspended during COVID.

The Capital Improvement/equipment funds held in a 9-month Certificate of Deposit with Edward Jones matured on 3/29/2023 – \$192K earned \$3,446.53 (at 2.4% for 9 months). Available options - renew for 3 months at (5%) or 6 months at (5.15%) – money intended for Capital Improvements, (i.e., Main Street sidewalk or Borough Roof). Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to renew the CD for 6-months with interest at 5.15%. Seconded by Councilman Scalzo, council approved it with a roll call vote six in favor, none opposed.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

President Lesjack reported that the personnel committee is still looking for a CEO and will have more to report at the next meeting.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Councilman DeGonzague asked if candidates will be re-interviewed or if second interviews are being done. President Lesjack said that interviews are not finished and that the committee had hoped to find someone from outside the borough to avoid the potential for bias.

Wendy Zapolski, a republican candidate for office of Register of Wills for Susquehanna County introduced herself and offered background information and asked that Susquehanna residents offer her their support in her efforts to win this office.

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch also took this opportunity to introduce herself and ask for everyone's support for her bid for Susquehanna County Auditor. She is already Acting Auditor and is pursuing a full term in the upcoming elections. She also shared her background and thanked Council for giving her an opportunity to give her.

Jason Obelenus asked the status of the audit on the F.C. Emergency & Fire. Solicitor McAndrew answered, "We are still trying to get more information from them and will work with our accountant once they've provided that information."

Paul Daugevelo, owner of Ros-Al Floral shared his concerns with Council about the potential problem pointed out to him by KBA Engineer when they looked at the vault under the sidewalk in front of his shop. He stated, "According to KBA, it may not make it through another winter and advised strongly about letting any equipment on the section of sidewalk to remove snow." President Lesjack responded, "We're working on it and will contact KBA to get more information."

Eric Burns reported that he has seen a vehicle coming up Maxie at an excessive rate of speed and going through stop signs. He said, "It's a dark blue SUV, an older model." Asked that the police try to be there between five and five thirty p.m. to catch this individual. Mr. Burns also asked when the closed section of Maxie Street would be re-opened. Councilman Scalzo responded, "Probably early May, it's usually after the last snow." Mr. Burns also complained that the plow has been pushing road debris into his yard, can they clean it up? Councilman DeGonzague offered, "Street sweeping will be starting soon for MS4", Councilman Scalzo added, "Filters have been purchased for some of the storm drains and those will be put in place soon."

Mr. Obelenus asked to be recognized again, however, President Lesjack refused to recognize him. President Lesjack asked if there was anyone else who had anything to offer, then closed public comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Memorial Day parade & service will be on Monday, May 29, 2023.

The next regular monthly Council Meeting will be on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded in favor, none opposed. The meeting ended at 6:45 p.m.