

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES MONDAY July 1, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance. President DeGonzague read the rules on Forest City Council’s public meeting policy.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President DeGonzague, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Nick Cost, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Sarah Woody, Robert Lesjack, Mayor Glinton, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas and Solicitor Marissa McAndrew was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President DeGonzague opened the floor for public comment. John Kameen asked about what Maiocco Excavating for \$48,585.00 was about. Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas answered his question that for the Browndale Sidewalk project and the money comes back to the Borough that it is a grant accounted for from Pa Department of Community & Economic Development.

Jason Obelenus from 612 railroad Street questioned council about the need of a Constable to be present when they have no jurisdiction when we have our own Police force. President DeGonzague stated they have jurisdiction to protect the citizens and council members. Jason Obelenus also noted about the two secretaries to leave prior to end of shift do they get paid for a full day. President DeGonzague had no comment on that. Jason also stated about the sidewalks on the eastside of the street if they will be completed this year. President DeGonzague stated as per KBA next year completion. Jason also stated that at the last meeting, that council was not informed about a council member status, I am here to present with such action so you can stay informed. President DeGonzague asked what it was for, Jason explained that it is for her removal because she broke the Law.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Minutes from June 3rd seconded by V.P. Cost all responded “Aye”, none opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for June 2024. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for June 2024. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

V.P. Cost offered a motion to support Forest City Area Emergency Services in the amount of \$12,933.00 for Vehicle Insurance. Councilman Lesjack asked what council favor is on this. Barb Mihelc Forest City Area Emergency Services stated that there is \$11,600.00 in the budget to support the Emergency Services, but unfortunately insurance goes up every year and come in this year over \$20,000 and cancelled the one ambulance insurance and hope to sell it at some point. Insurance on each vehicle is \$5,135 each. The balance of the \$15,000 that was in the letter is for 2 fire vehicles. The other 2 units that we have the department has been paying for that insurance. In addition to the \$15,000 there is another \$10,000 that is for building, liability and equipment insurance and we pay for it. The Borough has been supporting us for as long as I can remember and it is 78 years old. Does that answer your question? Last year you paid in the area of \$11,600. I will be in come this fall with figures and you know yourself your own car insurance goes up and we are no different. V.P. Cost asked what vehicles and Barb stated it is the 2 ambulances that are running now plus the fire engine and rescue truck Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call was seven in favor, none opposed.

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Councilwoman Woody made the motion for Berkheimer tax collector signatures for their resolution for Secretary/Treasurer to receive electronic deposits. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack made the motion for Brian T. Kelly, CPA & Associates, LLC for a sewer audit. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack made the motion for a State Constable to attend their Borough's monthly meeting at \$50 per hour. Councilwoman Woody seconded the motion. Council President DeGonzague stated he would be paying for July meeting out of his own pocket. The roll call was made, six in favor, one opposed.

Councilman Lesjack read that the Office was closed July 4 and 5 for the holiday. He also announced that we received dividends from natural gas resources from 2023 totaling \$111,979.52.

Councilman Lesjack made the motion for raise in pay after the Secretary/Treasurer 90 day's probation period to \$19.00 per hour. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for June 2024 was offered. Councilman Scalzo read the following into the record: The crew put up the graduation banner, replaced clasp on handicap swing, attended class for road and gravel, painted all cross walks in town, painted meter lines, fixed the little gate, weed wacked all of KP, cleaned all storm drains on Dundaff Street, and put a sign up on Upper North Main Street. Recycling donations for June 2024 \$240.

Councilman Scalzo stated that JHA is an engineering company handling sink hole on Susquehanna Street and Roxy Road which is Upper North Main Street. I have spent a couple of hours with them and on the phone back and forth. In a zoom meeting with DEP it is still work in progress. They are having issues locating water, sewer and gas lines on Susquehanna Street. There want to run a storm drain from Carl Street to White Street and snake through the different elevation through the laterals. We will probably have a change order because it not as easy to have Roto-Rooter. Center Street a small problem is happening; the road is starting to sink. It maybe a broken line, PW guys went up and dyed it and nothing came out. May need a hammering service to see what is happening. Mayor Gliton asked what going to happen to the Pocket Park. Councilman stated that that line probably runs down that bank. The Pocket Park is still in design stage either way the line needs to be fixed and doesn't think it is coming north or south. Need to find the problem and see what needs to be fixed.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody announced the roofing job is 75 percent completed.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean updated us on the Action minutes and agenda that they can't be approved. That there is issues from the Façade Program that is continuing and would like what we discussed in these minutes. Councilwoman Bean stated about the bike racks were placed at Frugal Living, Zazzera's and Elegante. Councilwoman Bean also updated on the GFCBA street closure submission and approval. Councilwoman Bean tabled bike racks signs until next month's meeting.

Mayor Gliton asked what was submitted Councilwoman Bean answered was the road closure. He then asked from where to where. From the vision park to 900 block on Main Street. Mayor asked if barrier is going up, President DeGonzague said yes and Julianne Doyle also help with detour signs. Mayor Gliton asked are they going to get officers and President DeGonzague said they are going sit and talk to them and try for next week.

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PARKS & RECREATION: (Nick Cost)

V.P Cost announced that the Kiddies Day was a success. They were about 80 kids in attendance. Donations of \$121 and \$200 in monetary donation from Lewis Lake Association & Renegade Roofing. Lunch was provided from Zazzera's. Prizes by Dutch Discounts & Fox Plumbing. V.P. Cost thanked all the volunteers and Community for a great event.

V.P. Cost made a motion for August 3rd, 2024 from 8am resignation. 9am to 11am fishing derby. Prizes not to exceed \$640. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. The roll call vote was, seven in favor none opposed.

Joanne Matarese would like to donate a shed for the dog park in memory of her dog. V.P. Cost made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. The roll call vote was made, seven in favor, none opposed.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Tracey Lazier)

No update. Councilwoman Lazier stated that there is a rumor going around that she was resignation, and she is happy to say she is not and she is staying and going to make life miserable here. Councilwoman Lazier stated there is a giant bear on the loose in Vandling so be careful.

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack read the Code enforcement monthly report for June 2024. There was 50 total hours for the month of June. Councilman Lesjack announced the hiring of a new lawyer Donald Karpowich for Code enforcement issues and any other Municipality issues at a rate of \$150 an hour. Councilman Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Lesjack, all in favor none opposed.

Nate from Donald Karpowich law offices spoke about what and will provide to the Borough.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

The June 2024 police report was distributed for review.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

No update

NEW BUSINESS: (President DeGonzague)

Kathy Kernschak sent an email to Borough Council from the FC Salvation Army asking permission to use the concession stand again this year for the Foresters Summer Lunch food pantry on July 16th and August 13 from 12:00 – 2:00. Councilwoman Woody made the motion, seconded by V.P. Cost. The roll call was made, all in favor none opposed.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Thomas Fitzsimmons from Delaware Street stated that next year he will be proud to say he has been a proud tax payer for 50 years. Mr. President I would like to see Forest City Borough Council do a resolution by roll call vote to call for the resignation of Amy Bean who is now a convicted person. In Susquehanna County Court she is convicted of welfare fraud which is public funds. I would like to see Forest City Council go on record and ask for her resignation. You can make a motion and seconded and go ahead with this resolution. President DeGonzague asked if he had anything else, Tom stated he wants to know if you are going to do it or not. President DeGonzague said no comment at this time we are still looking into. Tom stated your looking into now, where have you been for the last month. Tom stated you have the opportunity right now to take action. Cindy Stone Sewer Secretary replied it can't be voted on

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that it was not on the Agenda. Nate from Donald Karpowich stated if council wants to make a motion they can but don't have to. Tom replied there you go your \$150 an hour. President DeGonzague said it was up to council.

Lori Mattos of Hudson Street and I agree with this gentleman here that Amy Bean plead guilty of defrauding the state and the fact that she is here representing the town and council it a disgrace. You (President DeGonzague) just seem a person who hires your own security person and lawyer and anyone else that has feeling or concerns about it just gets pushed away and it not right for the position you have.

Jason Obelenus asked about the pole, V.P. Cost stated he was on vacation and he would look into. Also talking about money spending problem now on Center Street, and we are spending for two solicitors, two secretaries, complaining about maybe a \$700 more a year for a shed that might or not get vandalized, but have no problem spending \$600 on private security Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced the next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be, Monday August 5th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by V.P. Cost, all responded "aye", none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.