

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 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, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Sarah Woody, Robert Lesjack, Mayor Glinton, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Solicitor’s Marissa McAndrew and Nathan Favreau. Absent was Vice President Nick Cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President DeGonzague opened the floor for public comment. John Kameen asked about the funds the Borough is receiving of the amount of \$212,000, is that an addition to what the Borough already has. Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas stated yes along with President DeGonzague. John Kameen asked for the total Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas was not sure of the amount off hand but would get John Kameen a total. John Kameen also asked council if the considered taking a foot of the east side to widen Main Street because the width of Main Street is becoming a serious problem that is wasn’t in the plan but if the engineer could at least look at it. President DeGonzague said he will bring it up to them and that it is rumored that the state would be doing that.

Jason Obelenus 612 Railroad Street questioned on the Solicitor’s that we have two, that he didn’t see it listed in the bills for the month of July. He wanted to know if there was a retainer fee on top of the regular meeting. President DeGonzague stated that the first month was free of charge and that they are here for Zoning and Code Enforcement issue. Jason said for Code Enforcement issue only, so what is the fee, \$150 an hour, President DeGonzague said correct. Jason asked what the retainer fee the same \$150 an hour, President DeGonzague said correct. Jason stated why is that, Ms. McAndrew can’t handle it or what. President DeGonzague said there is to much work load and Ms. McAndrew even agreed to it. Jason also asked about the parking on Main Street its becoming a hazard and he also asked for a copy of a video from inside the building on a certain date and that is no policy for video cameras, President DeGonzague said he would get him the policy and Jason replied ok thank you.

Mayor Glinton questioned the minutes from last month that the copy he had didn’t have the monetary amount the pay raise for the Secretary/Treasurer. The Mayor said that Councilman Lesjack made the motion for the raise so when did it change. Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas replied that she went over the recording and fixed the minutes.

Eric Burns Delaware Street, wanted to know about JHA asking for more money that he thought that PA 1 call did all that. Councilman Scalzo replied that they do the locating as far as locating a lateral. Eric said it just seems like when we get ahead, JHA turns around and is asking for more money. Councilman Scalzo started to explain the Borough authorized \$15,000 for Main Street, \$25,000 for Susquehanna Street where the sink holes are, and Upper North Main by Adam’s Body Shop was \$75,000. Councilman Scalzo said that JHA thought they could do the locating as well, and why they are looking for more money. The problem they ran into is, when they running these pipes that they have to go with the existing catch basin, and then you have water, sewer, gas, and electric lines especially up on Susquehanna Street. Just knowing where they are being not enough that you also need to know the depth, the Main you have a pretty good idea where they are but the laterals they are no set depth for them. The time tracker for electric and gas could 18 inches or two or three deep in the ground. They are trying to run a pipe a couple of hundred feet at a certain pitch and they don’t want to run into a lateral so you can’t just go up and over a lateral so what that want to do is get one steady pitch without hitting one. The company that JHA is looking at is an under penetrating radar and a jet truck

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 2024**

which digs a hole to make sure nothing is in the way even real hard rock. Eric said when we did all the sewer lines they didn't think about this before Councilman Scalzo said the was sanitary sewer, so as far as them going in our right away, some is in our right away and some private property. Eric stated if they want private property that I have two on my property that still doesn't drain right. Councilman Scalzo said what do you mean, and Eric replied since they put on I have nothing but venting issue in my house. Councilman Scalzo said they should have had an underground locating service there, Eric said they did have root-rooter there, Councilman Scalzo said they can't do the service. Eric said it was for his lateral. Eric also said because they started the sewer work at his house unless everyone below me flushes at the same time, all the sewer gas stays at my house, Councilman Scalzo said ok that is totally different problem. Eric said they had no problem digging my property, so where is the right away stuff from there. Councilman Scalzo said they may need to they don't know where they are going with this and between infrastructure, what they are looking to do is running a pipe from the west side of Susquehanna Street where the field is, behind the houses, that where all the water is coming from. Put a pipe down there and across to meet the catch basin on the corner of White and Susquehanna Streets that is further up so there not in the middle of the road. The sewer is not always in the middle of the road they are in different places in the road. They are basically following the existing sewer lines when they did the sanitary, this is a new run it was not there before, there is nothing for them to follow. Councilman Scalzo said the water is going to north to the creek by the cemetery and down the creek by Paul Smith old office from there more pipes to get it down to the river. The one thing DEP is strict on is once you touch it you own it that considered a high quality stream, so they don't like to see a stream end they want to see it go to the river even though it has been like that for hundred years they want to see it go to the river. So these people are looking to do it in the most cost effective way. Eric also wanted to know about the water problem up on Hudson and Maxey Street, Councilman Scalzo said good question, that the state has been contacted numerous times, Eric then jumped to another problem and Councilman Scalzo said one thing at a time Eric. Eric said if they money to catch where all the water is coming from, Councilman stopped Eric and said they want money to complete this one project. Eric stated that it wasn't in the original budget Councilman Scalzo replied that they didn't think they would have this problem locating depths. Eric stated that they seem to be trying to keep bleeding money from us, Councilman Scalzo said this is the first time they asked since the original contact. Eric then asked about below Center Street and Councilman Scalzo stated that is not JHA and that a different issue.

Carrie Kelleher South Main Street said I am here to bring up the fact that Amy Bean and we as tax payers are allowing this person who stole tax money to be on council. Solicitor Favreau stated that this should be at the end of the meeting that this is not an agenda item.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Minutes from July 1st, 2024 seconded by President DeGonzague all responded "Aye", none opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for July 2024. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for July 2024. President DeGonzague seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack made the motion for the Secretary/Treasurer to attend a Municipal Budgeting & Finance Training in Wilkes-Barre at a cost of \$125.00. Councilwoman Woody seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack made the motion to accept the adoption of Resolution 13 for 2024 Susquehanna County EMA Plan. President DeGonzague seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six favor, none opposed.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 2024**

Councilman Lesjack read the email sent by Sarah VanScoten from Susquehanna County Housing/Redevelopment Authority the Borough was awarded funds from the PennDOT Multimodal Transportation Fund grant to reconstruct the 600 block of Main Street totaling \$212,685.00.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for July 2024 was offered. Councilman Scalzo read the following into record: Jet out sewer line on Fell Street past 230 Main Street line was clear, removed big flood light from Borough building Center Street Side, Had roto-rooter camera storm drain near Vice President Nick Cost house down Center Street (under Center Street Park; found two brakes), Had roto-rooter camera sewer in front of 219 Main Street past house and down Main towards Fell Street (found what look like a dip in main), Dyed 219 Main Street lateral from basement cleanout to man hole next door (flows was ok), Changed out Grand Ave signs at Grand Ave and Main Street, Replaced five flags on Main Street, Cleaned out water run off on Upper Main Street, Cleaned out water run off behind Adam's Body Shop, Put more modified in persons driveway on Center Street, Installed two new carbon monoxide alarms in Borough building, Replaced drive belt on zero turn diesel mower, Cleaned out storm drains on Grand, South, Delaware and Depot Streets, Put up 3 no parking signs on North Street between Main and Delaware Streets, Filled in sink hole across from firehouse on Railroad Street, Repaired sinkhole on Delaware 400 block and added curb for run off, Put more milling at the top of Center Street road sinking just past Borough building, Changed light bulb in elevator in Borough Building.

Councilman Scalzo read The 2022 904 performance recycling grant money from The Department of Environmental was processed on July 31st in the amount of \$3,246.22 and should receive it in 4 to 6 weeks.

Councilman Scalzo made a motion for JHA Engineering Company whom is asking for additional fees of \$30,000 for scope procurement of sub-consultant services for underground utilities in association with Susquehanna, Main, and Upper Main Street drainage improvements projects. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Woody question the \$30,000 in addition to the \$30,000 to get the job done. Councilman Scalzo stated \$30,000 in addition to what we approved a year or year in a half ago. He said there is \$30,000 left to be drawn down because they not sure how much so they went high because they don't know how much it will cost. They will bill us by the hour because they don't know what they will run into.

Councilman Scalzo mentioned he did speak to Northern Tier about grants that were recommended by Kim Jenkins looking for funding for this projects that we may be eligible to some on the fees back.

Recycling donations for the month of July was \$317.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody announced the roofing job is 85 percent completed. Councilwoman met with the contractor for a better idea as to when the roof will be completed.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean updated us on the Action minutes and agenda. She also mentioned that The Center Street Park is on hold due to some sewer issues. Katie Zefran added that Jason Wood from Woodlands design has a meeting with an engineering that is doing the retaining walls and catch basin under the park. She asked if council is contacting an engineer because we only have so much time with the grant money Woodland design is hoping for

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 2024**

Spring of 2025. Action team meet with Woodland designs for the primary designs of the retaining walls.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Nick Cost)

Vice President Cost was absent for August meeting. President DeGonzague read for the record July 21st, 2024 they had a vendor market and had 31 vendors, donations of \$27 and concession stands sales of \$507. Stated that the fishing derby and chicken bbq was on Sunday and from what he heard the had a great turn out.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Tracey Lazier)

No Updates

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack read the Code enforcement monthly report for July 2024. There was 60 total hours for the month of July. Councilman Lesjack announced for the hiring of a structural engineer at the cost of \$1800. He asked on why they were charging \$1800, President DeGonzague stated that is price from a company from the Pittston area and that they are cheaper than KBA, and the building is in terrible shape and Joe feels the building will collapse soon and before that happens. The Mayor than asked who owned the building, President DeGonzague said Jason “Wash” and the Mayor said should this \$1800 be coming from Jason “Wash” and President DeGonzague stated we will be going after him to recoup the funds. The Mayor said so the Borough will pay the \$1800 and then be going after him for the funds. Councilman Lesjack made the motion to hire the engineer and Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six favor, none opposed. The Mayor added one more thing that if and when it gets to it the Borough will be demolishing the building correct, President DeGonzague said he didn’t know that he will see what the engineer said. The Mayor said when we get there we will discuss it. President DeGonzague said he would keep him in the loop.

Solicitor McAndrew asked when you mean you’re going to go after him, do you mean sue him civilly, did he agree to pay it. President DeGonzague said we are going after him civilly. The Mayor asked if we asked him to pay it, President DeGonzague said that Joe has been in contact with him and we have been having problems with him. President DeGonzague said we tried and everything is exhausted and now you are doing it legally. The Mayor asked for a time frame and President DeGonzague said in the next two weeks. Councilman Scalzo said you will never see a building come down on Main Street because very few are going up. Councilman Scalzo also stated that he wished someone would buy it and fix. Solicitor Favreau asked if there was an intimate possibly of collapse, President DeGonzague that Joe feels it is and that he wished he was here to explain more. President DeGonzague said he has been in the building along with the Mayor and that there are holes in the floors, windows are blown out, and President DeGonzague foot almost through the floor and the roof keeps caving in. Solicitor Favreau asked if anyone had contact with the owner and President DeGonzague said that Joe has.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

The July 2024 police report was distributed for review. The Mayor announced the resignation letter of Patrolman Raymond Gabikian vacating a part-time police officer position effective July 31st, 2024 due to financial circumstances. The Mayor stated that if anyone knew of anyone looking for a part-time police officer position to please come and talk to the Chief or Assistant Chief.

Councilwoman Woody had a question about ATV’s in town that everything has been an obstacle, and that she got it touch with Paul Micknosky who is the director “Community Economic & Development”. Councilwoman Woody asked him we go about theses obstacle we

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 2024**

are going through and that he said there is some economical use going on He said Carbondale is doing one and she wanted to know how to get involved. Paul said to go back to your Mayor that the Mayor would be the one to initiate that. Councilwoman Woody asked the Mayor if he received that, he stated yes. The Mayor spoke with Lisa for the governor's office and hopeful we will get it all worked soon. She asked if that is an overall review or a specific to this. The Mayor is not sure, but as soon as he knew that he would let her know. She said there is also a secondary specific to ATV's and side-by-sides and wanted some information on that, and was curious if he made any other process. The Mayor stated the only he has been running into was the problems on Facebook that the post doesn't help very much, he asked Solicitor McAndrew about a cease and desist order and she did not. The Mayor said that there is a cease and desist order coming from the Governor's Office. Chief Foley stated that he discussed with the other officer's that ATV'S and UTV'S are not our main priorities, to use your desertion if they are on the side streets that some drive with caution so use your desertion but didn't tell them to overlook it. If they are crossing the street to get to Turkey Hill that they are allowed to do that per vehicle code. Chief Foley also reached out to a Police Chief so long ago because that this fizzled down, I discussed it with the Mayor, they remembered it was from Minersville, that they passed on ordinance to allow ATV'S on the road. Councilwoman Woody stated she has a copy of that ordinance but the problem is now the state roads before we can do anything about the ordinance. She also stated that PennDot is not responding, so that where we are at. The Mayor that Lisa has been sending him stuff but with everything going on with Facebook it is very frustrating. Councilwoman Bean we are not going off some other town ordinance that we can do our own, Councilwoman Woody said yes that the ordinance is just an example.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew stated that it was just bought to her attention that the County along with the resolution with PEMA it looks like there is a signified list of information that needs to be provided if there is an emergency, does this fall under Councilwoman Lazier department. President DeGonzague said it falls under Paul Mihelz he is emergency management. Solicitor McAndrew said since you passed the resolution that you should have this fill out sooner than later.

NEW BUSINESS: (President DeGonzague)

No Updates

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Katheryn Singer from Delaware Street brought the attention from 719 Delaware Street about trees that are on City property and across from my property. The trees have branches that are falling down and if the trees fall could damage a lot more. I was told if we do it for you we would have to do it for others. The property is not owed by me it is the city, if I owed the tree I would be sued for damages so maybe you would like to hear from my lawyer if the tree should fall and hit my house, to rebuild it would be over \$300,000, replace my car \$20,000, for a funeral \$11,000. There are other trees on the street that the city is responsible to maintain them, and the price would be a lot cheaper to maintain than to wait for something to happen. It would be heart breaking if someone was to get killed by the trees. I believe the city has funds to use to correct these problems. I pay over a thousand dollars a year in property taxes, there are 16 homes on the block and they all pay taxes. You were elected to protect and serve the residents so I hope you take care of it before something happens. The trees are on city property and your responsible for them. There are companies in the area that might be willing to donate their services. I also brought in sample to show you. President DeGonzague agreed, he asked Councilman Scalzo that this week have DPW or find someone cut these trees. Councilman Scalzo asked how many trees and how much you want to spend that he is all for it. President

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY August 5th, 2024**

DeGonzague said get some bids. Solicitor McAndrew said she was nervous from DPW that they are not qualified and it is a lot of liability for the borough. Katheryn also stated that when the time comes that Adams and NEP would help with the cable wires at no cost to the borough. President DeGonzague said get a price on the four or five bad ones to start. Councilwoman Lazier said we received an email from a home owner that she did not want her tree cut. Councilman Scalzo said we have been there, Councilwoman Lazier said she had someone come and trim it. Solicitor McAndrew said we talked this and the last time we were up there that V.P. Cost said there was no intimate danger. So I guess you will have to look at it again. Solicitor said becomes a public notice, we need to do something.

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch from 609 Susquehanna Street spoke about a fireworks law enacted July 2022 effective by Governor Wolf September 9th, 2022. The state law governing the use of fireworks in the state of Pennsylvania is illegal. She read a few facts about fireworks. She said July 4th, 2024 she felt like she was in a battle field. Chief Foley said he was not on duty but they had issued warnings.

Carrie Kelleher again asked council why people of a small town allow someone who stole from us taxpayers are allowed to be on council. President DeGonzague stated one for the record it was not Borough money, she asked for him to repeat his answer, but as taxpayers anyone in this room that has a job we pay taxes and that is what she stole from us. She said originally she charged with felony and a judge reduced to a misdemeanor and she been lying for 12 years, she on council what else is she lying about.

Eric Burns Delaware Street stated the legalities of ATV crossing state road on RTE247 & RTE171 are using private property to come and go for gas and food and access to the Borough streets and the trails. Councilman Scalzo explained the way to get there.

Mike Norella from Dunaff Street stated that Nick worked his butt off at the fishing derby and that Cindy Stone was there helping out too. President DeGonzague thanked them too.

Jason Obelenus questioned the fact about two solicitors again and said your stated that this gentle man right here was just code enforcement, well does he need to be at every meeting for code enforcement and then he is handling the information about Ms. Bean when Ms. Kelleher asked why she is still on it. Why isn't Ms. McAndrew handing it. We are paying \$300 right here, then plus a constable, that we have police officers right here that the taxpayers pay for, are paying tonight the constable bill. President DeGonzague said it was voted on last meeting. You just you own private security. The Mayor committed just remember this when it comes time your reelection, just remember.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced the next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be, Tuesday September 3rd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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