

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 2022**

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL REORGANIZATION MEETING
OATH OF OFFICE:**

Newly re-elected Mayor, Christopher D. Glinton executed the Oath of Office to re-elected Council Members Tracey A. Lazier, Amy T. Bean, Christopher DeGonzague, and Robert Lesjack.

CALL TO ORDER: (Mayor Glinton, presiding).

Mayor Glinton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2022 and asked that all join her in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague, Joann Matarese, Nick Cost, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Robert Lesjack, Mayor Glinton, and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan. Solicitor McAndrew was unavailable.

NOMINATION & ELECTION – COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mayor Glinton asked for nominations for Council President. Councilwoman Matarese nominated Councilman Robert Lesjack to serve as council president. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the nomination. Mayor Glinton asked if there were any other nominations, there were none. Mayor Glinton asked for a show of hands of all those in favor. Six voted in favor, one against (Councilman DeGonzague). Mayor Glinton presented the gavel to the new Council President, Robert Lesjack.

President Lesjack continued with the nominations:

Nominations for the Vice President – Councilman Scalzo nominated Councilman Cost to serve as Vice President, seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. No other nominations offered. All voted in favor of Councilman Cost’s appointment.

Nominations for the President Pro-Tem – V.P. Cost nominated Councilman Scalzo, seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. With no other nominations, six voted in favor of Councilman Scalzo to serve as President Pro-Tem. Councilman DeGonzague opposed the nomination.

Preside Lesjack made the following re-appointments:

Vacancy Board Chair - Mr. John Kameen

Borough Solicitor: Marissa McAndrew, Esq.

Borough Secretary/Treasurer: Sharon M. Vannan

Zoning Officer: Lucinda Stone

Appointment of Committee Members: Committee Members will be announced at the next meeting.

President Lesjack then addressed everyone, thanking them for their support and asking for their patience as he takes on the role of Council President. He reviewed the meeting rules. Everyone received a copy.

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
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PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Lesjack opened the floor for public comment.
None offered.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from December 6th & December 29, 2021. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion, all responded aye. None opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for January 2017. Council Member Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize disbursements of \$150,984.67. Total Receipts were \$96,141.44. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, none opposed.

Financial Statement forms were distributed – all Borough elected officials and employees are required to complete the forms for 2021 and return them at the February meeting.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the "letter of Understanding" from Brian T. Kelley, CPA & Associates for the 2021 Audit and Financial Statements for the previously contracted price of \$8,000. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, the roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

B. PUBLIC WORKS:

The Public Works report for December 2021 was offered for the record. Bob Tedesco reported the following:

- Recycling donations collected for December 2021 were \$348;
- Repaired the Center Street lamp post
- Worked on two alleys that are on the plowing list – filled holes & graded with backhoe.

Councilman Scalzo reported that the guardrails for Welch Road were received at the borough garage and work would begin soon.

Councilwoman Matarese reported that there is a large piece of carpet blowing around on Dundaff Street creating a hazard for motorists, could the Public Works crew please collect it.

Vandling purchased 3 bucketloads of salt/cinder mix in December - \$195.

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Nothing to report.

D. PARKS & RECREATION:

Councilwoman Lazier announced that the Winterfest 2022 is postponed until March 19th due to continued concerns over the COVID variants.

Information for the park benches was distributed. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to get a price quote on the composite material benches, Brown seat/back with black base, six to eight, four ft. benches. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All responded in favor, none opposed. Prices will be sought for the February meeting.

Councilwoman Lazier addressed the issue of hiring a Code Enforcement Officer. She had been contacted by a resident who said he had complained numerous times about a code violation at the property next to his home and nothing has been done, despite his submitting written complaints as instructed. Discussion continued. Councilman DeGonzague, who has been handling Code Enforcement complaints since the previous CEO, became upset and walked out of the meeting shouting angrily. Councilmen Cost got up and followed, both men confronted each other outside in the hallway. Mayor Glinton asked Asst. Chief Foley to go after them to restore order. Councilman Cost returned with Asst. Chief Foley and Councilman DeGonzague left the building.

It was noted that money is still budgeted for a CEO and an advertisement would be prepared for the February meeting for council's input and approval.

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E. CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Nothing to report for Code Enforcement or Safety & Health.

F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

Donations continue to come in for the Holiday Light Fund and more strands will be ordered after the holidays when they go on sale. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The December 2021 police report was distributed. The Annual Report for F. C. Fire Department was distributed. The Annual Police Report for 2021 will be available for the February meeting.

Mayor Glinton announced the retirement of Lee Rowan. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to accept his resignation effective 12/31/2021. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All in favor was met with a unanimous "Aye" from Council members, none opposed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor McAndrew was unavailable for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Lesjack reminded everyone that the garbage fee will be increasing in the February bill. January service is increased to \$17.50/month per unit and will be in the February bill.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

A request for a 2-year extension on the PennDot Multimodal Grant for the sidewalks in the 400-600 blocks on the East Side of Main Street was submitted to PennDot. Deadline for the request is March 15, with the grant expiring June 10, 2022.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mr. John Kameen, Forest City Borough, asked the reason for the extension on the Sidewalk Grant. Councilman Cost responded, "We're not ready with the Engineer's specifications & drawings."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A training for Elected Officials & EMC is scheduled for February 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. in New Milford – PA – Incident Command System Overview.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Lesjack asked for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Cost made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded "aye". The meeting adjourned at 6:44 p.m.