

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – JANUARY 6, 2020 6:00 P.M.**

Mayor Christopher Ginton issued the “Oath of Office to incumbent Council Members Nicholas Cost, Joann Matarese, and Bernie Scalzo.

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Christopher Ginton, presiding, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to join him in the “Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Present: Council Members Nick Cost, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean, Robert Lesjack, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secr/Treas. Sharon Vannan. Councilwoman Tracey Lazier arrived following the election of officers at 6:15 p.m.

Mayor Ginton opened the floor with a request for Nominations for Council President. Councilwoman Matarese nominated Nicholas Cost to serve as President. With no other nominations, Mayor Ginton asked for a show of hands. All were in favor of the nomination.

Mayor Ginton passed the gavel to the newly elected Council President.

President Nicholas Cost continued with the following appointments:

Nomination for Council Vice President – Councilwoman Bean nominated Bernie Scalzo to serve as V.P. No other nominations, all voted yes.

Nomination for President Pro-Tem – V. Pres. Scalzo nominated Councilman DeGonzague. No other nominations, all voted in favor.

President Cost asked for a motion to appoint the following:

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to re-appoint John Kameen to the Vacancy Board Chair – all voted “Aye”.

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to re-appoint Paul E. Smith as Borough Solicitor – all voted “Aye”.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to re-appoint Sharon Vannan to the Secretary/Treasurer’s post – all voted “Aye”.

Vice Pres. Scalzo offered a motion to re-appoint Cindy Stone as Zoning Officer – All voted “Aye”.

Vice Pres. Scalzo made a motion to re-appoint Stephanie Reisch as Code Enforcement Officer – the vote was one in favor, four opposed, Councilman DeGonzague abstained (due to a personal financial relationship), Councilwoman Lazier had not arrived yet. Without a majority, the appointment failed.

President Cost stated that the appointment of Committee Members is under review and will be announced at a later meeting.

**Regular Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 6, 2020**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Cost opened the floor recognizing Barbara Mihelc who expressed her opposition to the change in the meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. She was concerned that this would prevent people from attending and that it should not be for the convenience of the council

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but rather the public. President Cost responded that Council had discussed it at the end of 2019 meeting and all agreed to bump the meeting back to 6:00 p.m. so that everyone could get home a little earlier.

John Kameen commented on the condition of the holiday lites. Mayor Glinton agreed and said he would be working on a fundraiser. President Cost agreed saying, “We need to get some work done on the lights.”

Main Street Coordinator, Paul Daugevelo added that he had worked with the school to decorate the trees. Mayor Glinton added a thank you to Frugal Living for purchasing the fence lights and a contribution from the police department’s Special Events funds. Councilwoman Bean added, “Now is the time to buy for next year.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to Approve Minutes for December 2019.

Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All responded “aye”, minutes approved.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the December 2019 Treasurer’s Report.

Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Nicholas Cost)

Public Works Report for December 2019 was distributed, no comments or questions offered.

Three-way stop signs installed at the corner near the Dog Park and \$190 was collected for recycling donations. Salt/cinder mix sold to Vandling – Invoiced for \$975 for 15 bucket loads.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that he is still working on the 3rd floor rental agreement. Decisions needed on Alcohol, police coverage, etc. Possibly make it BYOB, but will need to place controls. Councilwoman Bean asked if the parks will be under the same rules, should the park rules be revisited? Solicitor Smith and Councilman Scalzo offered their opinions on potential liability issues. Mayor Glinton stated, “Wine vendors have their own licenses and insurance.”

Councilwoman Lazier commented, “People should be able to bring in alcohol.” Solicitor Smith added, “Allow it or don’t, but it must be consistent.” Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to prepare an amendment for the ordinance to permit alcohol (BYOB) on the 3rd floor and the parks. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. An amendment to the ordinance will be created.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that there was no Parks & Rec. meeting in December, but they would resume on Thursday, January 9, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the borough building. The Soup Cook-off is on January 25 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Bring in soups at 10:30 to set up. The Ice Fishing Derby is on, “weather permitting”, for 9:30 a.m. registration, 10:00 a.m. start.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Bernie Scalzo)

Code Enforcement Report for December, 2019 was distributed. Garbage collection was delayed due to bad weather. Work continues on the grant application for the demolition at 517 Susquehanna St. There were no comments or questions.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/SAFETY: (Christopher DeGonzague)

Susq.Co. notice of change for Training class previously scheduled for 2/11/2020, now to be held 2/4/2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Montrose – “Duties & Responsibilities of the Local Emergency Management Coordinator”. Councilman DeGonzague will attend.

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier deferred to Main Street Coordinator, Paul Daugevelo who reported that port-a-johns are secured for the soup cook-off. He also said he is working on a grant for four bicycle racks for Main Street that would not require matching funds. Councilwoman Lazier added that a new Main Street business, “City Stitches”, is up and running and doing well.

CORRESPONDENCE: (Council President)

No Correspondence.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor)

Mayor Glinton provided the December, 2019 Police Report and Vandling’s invoice for January 2020 patrols & December Calls, \$2,000;

The Mayor recommended two new hires – Christine Elizabeth Trauger (Saylorsburg) - \$14/hour & Gilbert William Diaz (Tobyhanna) - \$14.50/hour. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to hire Christine E. Trauger. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll call vote was seven to zero, motion carried. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to hire Gilbert W. Diaz.

Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All vote yes in a roll call vote, seven to zero. New hire approved.

Mayor Glinton requested approval for the 2.5% pay increase for Chief Rowan & Assistant Foley under their Contract effective January 1, 2020. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the 2.5% pay increases for both. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, seven to zero, motion carried.

2019 Annual Police Report & 2019 Annual Fire Department Report were distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cost took this opportunity to note that he was told that the donations for the Fire Department are down. It may become necessary to look at imposing a “fire tax” or some other way to direct additional funding to support the local volunteer fire company. This will be discussed in the months ahead.

Councilwoman Lazier reported complaints about fireworks on Susquehanna Street and noted that the police department should address this. She hoped that an ordinance could be created that would regulate their use. Solicitor Smith will research, under current PA law, fireworks are permitted but some restrictions may be allowed.

Councilman Lesjack presented information about holiday lights on sale. He has plans to replace the wreaths and purchase large snowflakes at a cost of \$463 each. President Cost added that we need to all work together on this, and that we need to find additional donations to meet Councilman Lesjack’s goal.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Resolution #1 of 2020 – name previously unnamed road – “Roxy Road”. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve Resolution #1 of 2020. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded “aye”, motion carried. Ms. Vannan will order a sign. Ordinance #518 the amendment to Ordinance #498 – Post Signage at bottom of Roxy Road and Maxey Street restricting truck & bus access. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve Ordinance #518. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted “Aye” and Ordinance #518 was adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Abigail Swegel approached Council again with a request to follow through on plans for the green area at the Center Street. President Cost asked her to please put her plans into written

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form and try to get estimates for the materials she would need. Council cannot act on her request at this time. More details needed.

Resident, Paul Kulasinsky reported that periodically there is a kerosene/lamp oil smell in his house and he has noticed it outside as well, he is concerned that it may be a sewer smell.

Councilman Lesjack agreed and said he has also noticed the smell around his house. President Cost replied, “We’ll need to check it out if it persists. Please call me the next time you notice it.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Tree Pickup – County Waste will collect Christmas trees on Friday, January 17, 2020. Place out with cans and they will be picked up separately. If over 5 ft. please cut in half. The next regularly scheduled Meeting will be on **Monday, February 3, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All responded “Aye” in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.