

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – OCTOBER 7, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: (President Nick Cost)

President Cost called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked all to join him in the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Nick Cost, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier, V. Pres. Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean and Robert Lesjack, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Smith and Secr/Treas. Sharon Vannan.

GRANT AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: (Mayor Ginton)

Forest City Regional School District Superintendent Jessica Aquilina announced that FCRSD in partnership with Johnson College received a USDA Rural Development Grant for \$81,150. The grant is to develop career pathways in Architectural Design & Logistics and ultimately develop a Johnson College satellite campus in Susquehanna County for FCRSD students and adult learners in Susquehanna, Wayne & northern Lackawanna Counties. The public announcement is Tuesday, October 22, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Forest City School campus. Please RSVP Mrs. Chesnick at 570-785-2403.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment offered at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve minutes from September, 2019 meeting. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried.

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to accept the September 2019 Treasurer’s Report. Council Member Amy Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote – all voted yes, none opposed.

USDA payment Req. #66 approves final USDA payment to KBA for \$10,128.06 and releases the Borough’s contingency balance of \$6,847.27 to close out the Landmark account. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve final payment to KBA Engineering for the additional design & construction for the stormwater system for \$21,317.50. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted in favor in a roll call vote and the motion carried.

2020 Budget draft for General Fund & 2020 Sewer Budget distributed for council review. Councilwoman Matarese asked for a “Special Budget Work Session” on Monday, 10/21/19 at 7:00 p.m. and offered a motion to advertise. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted “aye” and the motion carried. Make notes on the draft and have recommendations for changes at the Work Session.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

V.P. Scalzo provided the Public Works Report for September 2019 as reported by Bob Tedesco, noting that the recycling donations for September were \$265. The crew installed insulation & shelves in the garage to store police items and closed in two rooms in the K.P. building behind the restrooms. They will be collecting yard waste on Monday, 10/21 & Monday, 10/28. An ad will be published in the F.C. News.

V.P. Scalzo noted that there has been household trash put in the cans on Main Street and this must stop or they will be removed. If residents have any issues with garbage or recycling collection please call County Waste, their number is on the containers. Recycling items are listed on posters at the borough building and on our website.

Council discussed installing video cameras at the garage to deter dumping. V.P. Scalzo and Councilwoman Bean will work on this together.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack asked council for input on third floor rental, i.e. use of alcohol, should the fee be higher for non-residents v. residents, and if \$250 with a \$50 refund for those who remove all garbage/recycling and leave the hall in good order be the fee until additional work is done on the kitchen and bathrooms. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to adopt a \$250 fee with a \$50 refund if waste is removed and hall left in order. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All responded aye, no one opposed. Solicitor Smith will review the rental agreement.

Councilman Lesjack did not have any further information on Christmas lighting, asking if we had received any donations because of the article in the Forest City News. There have been no donations received. Councilman Lesjack asked volunteers to help him with this project.

Grimm Construction is preparing a bid to make some necessary/temporary repairs to the roof to eliminate the leaks into the attic for the winter. It will be ready for review at the “Special Meeting” on October 21st. Councilman Lesjack will seek bids in the spring for more significant repairs.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to appoint the following individuals to the Parks & Recreation Board. Andy Wagner, Niki Wagner, Sam Yankauskas, Brett Pelick, Dom Jonas and Dave Pelick will join current members Kathy Kernoschak, Amanda Howells, Rick Priebe, Kurt Howells, Steven Mikloiche, Derek Lukens, and Tracey Lazier. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All council members responded aye, appointments approved.

Councilwoman Bean made a motion to approve the use of \$200 from Park funds for hotdogs & hot chocolate for the Borough Trunk or Treat event. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

Councilwoman Bean announced plans for several other fund raising activities. The next Parks Board meeting is Thursday, October 10, 2019 at 7:00 in the Borough building. Items on their agenda - An Oprisko kielbasa sale; a tree-lighting ceremony at the Gazebo at Kennedy Park; a stand at the Main Street Tree lighting ceremony on 12/7 selling reindeer food; Winterfest at Kennedy Park January 25; a Soup Cook-off and Chief Rowan’s Ice Fishing Derby; an Easter Egg Hunt in March or April at Kennedy Park.

The bids for the Basketball Court will be opened at the “Special Meeting” on Monday, 10/21/19. An estimate for motion activated Trail cams will be prepared for the budget.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: (President Nick Cost)

The September Code Enforcement Report from Stephanie Reisch was distributed. The Animal Control Ordinance #517 is considered for adoption. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #517. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found five members opposed and only two (Matarese & Lazier) in favor. The motion failed.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HEALTH & SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague announced “Fire Prevention Month”. Programs will be presented at the school. He continues to attend trainings specific to Emergency Management.

Councilman DeGonzague asked for volunteers for the Steamtown Marathon for traffic control and reported that the Forest City Emergency Services will be providing breakfast.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that the purse bingo was a huge success. Thank you to Barbara Mihelc and the Forest City Emergency Service for use of the building and all the help to get this off the ground. This fundraiser saw a net profit of \$6,747.

Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo reports that Trunk or Treat will be October 25 and requested a street closure for the 400 & 500 blocks of Main Street. About 60 participants are expected, a hayride and several vendors will be on hand. Forest City School students are

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sponsoring a Haunted House from 6 to 9 on 10/25 & 10/26. Councilwoman Lazier motioned to approve the street closure for the 400 & 500 Block of Main Street. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted their approval and asked Ms. Vannan to submit a request to PennDot for a “Special Event Street closure” for 400/500 blocks of Main Street (Rt. #171)

Work continues on the Holiday event planned for 12/7/19. A Tree lighting ceremony, music, a visit from Santa and the Historical Society will participate as well.

The new Pierogi Café is doing well. They are open for business on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday from 11 to 9. GFCBA & Rails Trails Facebook and websites are seeing many hits and gaining popularity.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Mayor Ginton provided the September 2019 Police Report and Vandling’s invoice for October 2019 patrols & September 2019 Calls.

Brakes (pads & rotors) are needed on the Ford Interceptor – Wayne’s Auto Repair estimated \$468.78. R.B. Fries estimated \$378.24. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to accept the R.B. Fries estimate at \$378.24. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote.

The Mayor presented a request from the GFCBA to hold the Spring Mixer on the third floor on March 4, 2020 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the event, seconded by council member Scalzo. All were in favor and the motion carried. Additional details will be forthcoming.

Mayor Ginton announced there is a “Drug Take-Back” on Saturday, 10/26/19, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Forest City Emergency Services on Railroad Street.

Mayor Ginton recommended Sgt. Foley for promotion to Assistant Police Chief and an early end to his probationary period. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to end Sgt. Foley’s probationary period effective this date. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Solicitor Smith noted that before council could appoint Sgt. Foley to the position of Assistant Chief, they would have to re-instate the position as it was eliminated when Chief Rowan was appointed Chief of Police. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to reinstate the position of Assistant Chief of Police. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Councilwoman Bean made a motion to appoint Sgt. Foley to the position of Assistant Chief of Police with no change in salary at this time. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion, all responded aye and the motion carried. Councilwoman Bean made a motion to eliminate the Sergeant’s position. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded “Aye”, eliminating the rank of Sergeant.

Mayor asked council to consider hiring a part-time secretary for the police department for the additional paperwork. The Mayor also requested the purchase of a storage shed for the police department. President Cost said that both of these items could be addressed at the Budget work Session on 10/21/19.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith had nothing to add at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Cost announced the previously appointed Appeals Board (Rachael Habetler, Tom McKenna & Anthony Dell Aquila) would continue to serve. They will meet to review a recent request for an Appeal that arose as the result of a Code Enforcement issue.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to advertise for bids for Main Street snow removal to be opened at the special meeting on 10/21/19. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All in favor, a copy of the ad was distributed.

The Planning Commission issued their recommendation to approve the proposed Conditional Use application for a property at 709/711 Railroad Street. Councilwoman Matarese

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proposed a motion to approve the application based on the recommendation. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted in favor, application approved.

President Cost presented a bid from Prince Brothers for repairs on Depot Street to create a swale and black top the area from the alley to the corner catch basin for \$2,590. Problem created by Leeward during the sewer project and repairs are covered by sewer funds. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the repairs. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote, motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE:

An E-cycling event will be held in the Montrose Recycling Center on Friday, October 25 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, October 26 – 9 a.m. to noon for residential electronics, no businesses. Call 570.278.3589 for more information.

The Northern Tier Regional Planning meeting is on November 1, 2019 at 10 a.m. in the Wysox Fire Hall, Wysox, PA. Please RSVP by 10/21/19.

Fred & Katie Cicilioni of Frugal Living wrote that there is a traffic issue for deliveries at their Main Street entrance. They asked Council to install a no parking, tow away zone sign for their driveway and a handicap parking spot in front of Dr. Genco's office. Council agreed that the no parking/tow away sign would be up to the business owner. Chief Rowan responded, "Vehicles displaying a handicap placard or plate are not ticketed for meter parking. There is a two-hour "free" parking period for those vehicles." No additional handicap spot is needed.

President Cost thanked Senator Lisa Baker for her recent donation of flags.

Susquehanna County Township Officials Assoc. Convention is October 17, 2019 at the Montrose Bible Conference in Montrose. Mayor Ginton and Main Street Coordinator, Paul Daugevelo will represent the borough at this year's convention. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve the cost of attendance at \$10 each. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted yes to approve the cost.

The Susquehanna County Free Library Association requested permission to attend a future meeting for a presentation of the services the Library provides in the community. All agreed and authorized Ms. Vannan to contact Susan Stone, Librarian, to make arrangements.

The Susquehanna County Christmas Bureau invites families to apply for help for the holiday season. Please call to make an appointment by October 31, 2019 – 570.278.1776.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

John Kameen asked when the streetlights would be on. President Cost replied, "We're working on it with PennDot. We are still waiting for their final approval."

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

A Special Meeting will be Monday, October 21, 2019 to open sealed bids for the Basketball Court Grant, the Snow Removal bids for 2019/2020, and a Budget Work Session at 7:00 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, November 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Councilman DeGonzague seconded. All members responded "aye" and the meeting ended at 8:20 p.m.