

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – DECEMBER 9, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER: (President Nick Cost)

President Cost called the meeting to order at 5:30 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.

Brief adjournment called for an Executive Session to discuss potential litigation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese - motion to accept minutes from November 4, 2019 Meeting held Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague. All members responded aye. Councilwoman Matarese motioned to accept November 2019 Treasurer’s Report. Council Member Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote seven in favor, none opposed, report accepted.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt the 2020 General Fund Budget. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Seven in favor, none opposed.

Council member Matarese offered a motion to adopt the 2020 Sewer Budget, seconded by Councilman Lesjack, seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt Resolution #7-2019 with no increase to the 2020 Tax Levy. Council Member DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve USDA payment request #67 for \$300.61 to KBA. Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague, the motion carried with a roll call vote seven to zero.

PUBLIC WORKS: (President Cost)

President Cost shared the Public Works Report for November 2019 as reported by Bob Tedesco. Council approved the installation of signs at the bottom of the road connecting North Main & Upper North Main Street to eliminate truck and bus traffic. 65 feet of 6” drainpipe was installed in the 700 block of Railroad Street for a storm drain. Repairs to borough equipment included a new alternator and a manifold cover in the recycling truck as well as a new battery for the backhoe.

Vandling purchased 4 bucket loads of salt/cinder mix. The borough will bill them \$260.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack had no information but said he continues to work on plans for the third floor hopes to have it ready for rental in the spring. GFCBA is expecting the Borough to host the “Spring Mixer” up there in March.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that there a huge turnout on 12/7. Sale of hotdogs & nachos brought in \$187. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and energy.

The Parks & Rec. Board created their Bi-Laws and a copy was presented to council for their approval. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to approve and accept the Forest City Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Bi-Laws. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted aye in favor. The Bi-Laws were approved.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – DECEMBER 9, 2019**

Councilwoman Bean announced that the Parks & Rec. Board will host the 2nd Annual Soup Cook-off on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at Kennedy Park. The “Ice Fishing Derby” organized by the F.C. Police Department will precede the contest. NEP Telephone and the Forest City Lions Club will sponsor the event. More details will be available on Facebook and the Boroughs website.

Members discussed creating a \$200 discretionary fund for the Parks Board to use without prior approval. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve a \$200 fund. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, seven to zero.

The Parks & Recreation Board will hold the next meeting on January 9th. Meetings for the balance of 2019 are cancelled for the holidays.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: (V.P. Scalzo)

The November Code Enforcement Report from Stephanie Reisch was distributed. Councilman Scalzo will be working with CEO Reisch. They will meet with the Appeals Board again in six months.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT/HEALTH & SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague shared information from the Susquehanna County Dept. of Public Safety. The notice outlined the quarterly meetings planned for 2020 that council members are urged to attend in order to be aware of the responsibilities in the event of an emergency or natural disaster.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier deferred to Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo who reported that the Main Street Winterfest was successful and thanked everyone involved. A special thanks to the police department. He added that the next planned event is a Winter Solstice celebration on December 21. Rails Trails will begin the evening with a presentation by Keystone College at the Trailhead and Luminaries lighting the way from the Trailhead to activities on the Main Street that will include roasting marshmallows at 7:00 p.m. He hoped that everyone would make an effort to attend.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

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

He asked Council to approve “free parking” for the holiday season beginning 12/23 and ending 1/3/2020. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve free meter parking. Seconded by Councilman Lesjack, the motion passed seven to zero.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith presented Ordinance #517 to establish a 3-way stop at the corner of Higgins & Railroad Streets. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #517. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the motion carried.

Solicitor Smith requested council to advertise the adoption of Ordinance #518, another amendment to Ordinance #498, adding signs that prohibited truck or bus traffic from entering the street connecting North Main Street to Upper North Main Street. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to advertise Ordinance #518. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All voted “aye”, the motion carried.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

President Cost asked council to consider final payment to Leeward Construction for \$44,000. This closes out the sewer/storm drain/sidewalk project with this company. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve payment. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the motion to make final payment to Leeward was unanimously approved.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – DECEMBER 9, 2019**

CORRESPONDENCE:

President Cost shared an invitation from BIU to attend their Holiday party. RSVP is required by December 16. Please contact them to confirm your attendance.

Councilman Scalzo proposed a motion to hold future monthly meetings at 6:00 p.m. rather than 7:00 p.m. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All agreed and the motion carried. The corrected schedule for the 2020 meetings will be published in the F.C. News and on the Borough's website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

Councilwoman Lazier questioned rumors about the purchase of the former gym located on Main Street. Solicitor Smith responded that no formal requests have been submitted to the borough. Nothing can be discussed until the new owners have submitted their plans in writing.

Miss Abigail Swegel asked council's permission to work on the area located at the top of Center Street behind the Borough building. President Cost asked Abigail to submit her plans in writing at the next council meeting for review. It will be a few months until Spring when she would be able to begin work.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, January 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded. All members responded "aye" and the meeting ended at 6:30 p.m.