

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 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, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier, Bernie Scalzo, Joann Matarese, Bob Lesjack Mayor Chris Ginton and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

Absent: Amy Bean, Solicitor Paul Smith

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments offered at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese - motion to approve minutes from February 2019 Meeting.

Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried.

Total Cash Receipts - \$93,256.37. Total General Fund disbursements - \$68,496.83, Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3,336.25. \$29,100 for Up-fitting on new F550 plow truck. Sewer Account disbursements - \$14,194.63 (\$13,230.06 of that was to transfer garbage fees collected with sewer payments). Councilwoman Matarese - motion to accept the Treasurer's Report.

Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote 6 yes, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese - motion to adopt Resolution #4-2019 - checking account at HNB to segregate revenues from parking meters & Tickets/fines for the cost of Main Street snow removal. \$9,527.15 transferred from General Funds – Meter/fines collected for 2018/2019. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. All voted in favor and Resolution #4-2019 was adopted.

Councilwoman Matarese presented Application #26 from Leeward for \$51,174.36.

However, \$18,435 of that covered the pumps and to retrofit a pre-cast tank for Kennedy Park. \$18,435 deducted for a revised payment of \$32,739.36. Payment due upon installation at the site. Councilwoman Matarese - motion to approve the reduced payment \$32,739.36 pending completion of some punch list items on South Main Street - seconded by Councilman Scalzo. Roll call vote, 6 yes, none opposed.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo distributed the Public Works Report for February 2019 as reported by Bob Tedesco. Councilman Scalzo continues to receive complaints about the plowing. He asked for cooperation of residents to move vehicles off the road and take in garbage & recycling cans as quickly as possible. He asked residents to be patient.

Vandling Borough picked up seven (7) bucket loads of cinder/salt mix and was billed \$455.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that the refrigerator and stove were removed from the third floor kitchen. The doors & locks are installed and will be painted in near future. Councilman Lesjack is getting a price for new flooring in the elevator and hallway on the third floor.

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to rename the third floor hall – "Chandeliers at Pentecost Hall". Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. President Cost asked "All in favor?" Five members responded "aye". Councilman DeGonzague responded "Nay". The motion carried 5 to 1.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

With Councilwoman Bean unable to attend, Kathy Kernoschak, Parks & Rec Board, reported that the board is working on a Purse Bingo, with the help of Barbara Mihelc and sponsored by the F.C. Emergency Services. A chicken BBQ is planned for August with the

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MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2019**

Rail Trail Festival event. She extended a thank you to all those who participated in the Winterfest. The winner of the Soup Cook-off was the Speakeasy for a \$50 gift certificate from Zazzera's market. Second & third place winners took a \$20 and \$10 lottery ticket.

Mr. Joe Franceski, Franceski Lumber, addressed council about the Gazebo bid that was originally submitted over six months ago and as such he could not hold to the price he originally proposed. The price increased from \$9,146 to \$9,836. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion accepting the new price and approving the purchase of the 16" Octagon gazebo. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members in favor, six to zero.

CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

Code Enforcement Report (Stephanie Reisch) for February 2019 listed the projects that she is working on. Ms. Reisch presented a report on blight in the borough and will be working with council, the police and Solicitor Smith to get the borough moving forward in better enforcement of borough property maintenance. Ms. Reisch asked council to support her efforts to proceed with condemnation of 517 Susquehanna St. by getting a bid from a structural engineer to find the structure condemnable for the purpose of future demolition. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to move forward on this. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried permitting CEO Reisch to proceed.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that one person, Paul Daugevelo, had applied for the position of Main Street Coordinator. She offered a motion to make his employment effective March 4, 2019 at a biweekly salary of \$200, \$400 per month. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members in favor of the appointment - Six to zero.

Councilwoman Lazier submitted an invoice and made a motion to purchase new flags for Main Street, which included several replacement poles, and parts for \$920.50. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and all voted yes, six to zero.

Councilman Lazier thanked everyone for the help for the Winterfest at Kennedy Park. She announced that an Easter Egg Hunt with a passport format would be sponsored by the GFCBA on Wednesday, April 17, 2019.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Mayor Ginton provided the February 2019 Police Report and Vandling's invoice for March 2019 patrols & February 2019 Calls.

Mayor Ginton asked council to approve a new hire – Lauren Fizz as part-time police officer for \$14/hour. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the new hire. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in six for and none opposed.

Mayor Ginton asked Council to approve his and Chief Rowan's participation in a PSAB training on April 30, 2019 at a cost of \$150 per man – "Municipal Police Department Supervision and Oversight". Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve payment for the training. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

President Cost received a request for a donation from Griffin Pond. Their Humane Officer, Laura Vitali has been providing service to the borough responding to several calls for assistance with domestic animals in the borough. A donation to the animal shelter is permitted by code. Councilman Lesjack made a motion approving a \$100 donation to the shelter. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call found six in favor, none opposed.

A donation request was received from the Susq. Co. Conservation District for the upcoming "Envirothon" at Elk Mountain on May 3, 2019. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2019**

make a \$100 donation (Ruffed Grouse Patron). Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted yes to a roll call vote, the donation was approved.

A letter from the F. C. Historical Society was read concerning the restoration of the stone wall in front of their building on Main Street and their concerns about any possible damage to the sidewalk or future replacement of the sidewalk causing damage to their wall. President Cost explained that the borough has many issues about the sidewalks and with the contractor. The borough cannot make guarantees about something that “may” happen in the future.

NEW BUSINESS:

A report on the deterioration of the Doughboy Statue and Coal Miners’ Memorial was provided to Council by Colonel J. Swegel. Colonel Swegel apologized for his unavailability for tonight’s meeting but asked council to help with fund raising efforts to restore the two important memorials. The American Legion Post 524 asks the Borough to make a contribution to this project. President Cost responded that the borough will absolutely consider this worthwhile project and will come up with a reasonable donation to be considered at the April 1 meeting.

GFCBA submitted a request for a road closure for the Easter Event to be held on April 17, the 400,500 & 600 blocks of Main Street. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve the closure. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion, all responded “aye” and the motion passed. Ms. Vannan will submit the necessary paperwork to PennDot.

A bid for the removal a large tree on Center & Delaware was received from Mikloiche Timber & Construction for \$500. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve payment of \$500 for removal of the tree that was creating some health & safety concerns, to be paid from the Impact Fees. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll vote, the motion carried. Mr. Mikloiche also submitted a bid for the removal of nine more trees in the area, also creating a safety issue and in the borough right of way for \$4,500. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the removal of the trees for \$4,500. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote and the tree removal was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

Rachel Habetler suggested that someone at the USDA level should be contacted to help the borough with the problems caused by the contractors. She also reported that the light is out at the reader board again, and then asked if the borough was moving ahead with plans to install reflective tape or better paint at crosswalks. Councilman Scalzo replied that this is being worked on but that we’re waiting for the weather to clear and this is on the list of things planned for Spring.

Katherine Singer complained about the stray cat problem in the borough and asked if the borough is doing anything about it.

Councilman DeGonzague asked if the borough could purchase a few mourning banners for the borough building.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

Reminder, the GFCBA 2019 Spring Mixer is this Thursday, March 7, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Cornerstone Bible Church in Browndale. This free event is open to everyone.

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, April 1, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilman Scalzo - motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. All members responded “aye” and the meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.