

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER: (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President DeGonzague, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Nick Cost, Tracey Lazier, Amy Bean, Sarah Woody, Mayor Ginton, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas and Solicitor McAndrew. Joining by phone - Councilman Robert Lesjack.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President DeGonzague opened the floor for public comment. None was offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to accept the Minutes from February 5th seconded by Councilwoman Bean, all responded “Aye”, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to accept the Minutes from special meeting February 19th, seconded by Councilwoman Woody, all responded “Aye”, none opposed

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for February 2024. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for February 2024. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Resolution #8-2024 Secretary/Treasurer appointment of Dennise Yankauskas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lesjack. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to adopt Resolution #9-2024 Pension Chief Administrative Officer appointment of Dennise Yankauskas. The motion was seconded by Councilman Scalzo. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to close the current Discover account currently listing former Secretary/Treasurer, Sharon Vannan as primary card holder. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to authorize an application with HNB for Visa credit card. Initially for use by the general office, one for public works and one for police dept. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Woody. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed. It was decided that Councilman Scalzo would be listed as the primary card holder.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to move April 1st meeting to April 2nd to allow more time for new Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas to prepare for her first meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Woody. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve for GFBCA the use of Pentecost Hall for Bingo on April 14th. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for February 2024 was offered. Councilman Scalzo read the following into the record: The crew repaired pot holes throughout the town. Cleaned storm drains on Dundaff Street. Rebuilt a 2nd storm drain on Higgins Street. Vandling Borough purchased 3 bucket loads of salt/cinder mix for \$225. Recycling Donations for February was \$182.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2024**

Councilman Scalzo announced quotes for a New 2024 F550 dump truck with trade –in values as follows: Coccia \$21,500, Tasca \$16,843, Hondru Fleet trade-in not available, total price was \$71699. Councilman Scalzo made the motion for Tasca. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed

Councilman Scalzo announced the up-fitting quote from Powell’s Sales plus the installation on the tarp for \$53641. Councilman Scalzo made the motion to accept the bid for Powell Sales. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Scalzo also commented that funding is coming out of the Liquid funds.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Sarah Woody)

No Update

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean said she would have an update on final projects to be completed in February at next month’s meeting. Councilwoman Bean noted that the Facade program award would take place at Fitzsimmons Insurance agency at 11a.m. on March 5th, 2024.

Councilwoman Bean stated that there was no update on the action team that the February meeting was cancelled.

Councilwoman Bean made the motion for the Borough to donate \$200 to Parks & Recreation for there Easter event to be held on March 24th, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lesjack. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Nick Cost)

V.P Cost announced that the 5th Annual Winterfest & Soup Cook-Off was held on Saturday, February 24, 2024. There were 26 soups, \$768.50 in donations and the turn- out was unbelievable. WNEP Channel 16 was there on Wednesday morning and returned for the event on Saturday, finally good publicity for the community.

V.P. Cost made a motion to up Parks & Receptions petty cash from \$200 to \$600. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody announced the Susq. Burn Ban will be effect from midnight March 16 thru 11:59 p.m. April 14th,2024.

CODE ENFORCEMENT (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague stated there are (2) applicants for the position and interviews will be conducted this week.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

The February 2024 police report was distributed for review. The purchase of parking tickets was discussed at length, since the supplier has gone out of business. This was tabled until pricing can be secured from new sources. Cindy Stone is working with Police on this matter.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2024**

Solicitor McAndrew suggested council to adopt Ordinance #522-Parking & Traffic. President DeGonzague asked for a motion. Councilwoman Woody made the motion and seconded by Councilwoman Bean. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Woody made the motion for signs to be installed on or around April 1st. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the MOU to the Full-Time Police contract, wage re-negotiations, was seconded by V.P. Cost. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Scalzo put into motion Ordinance #523-2024 Amendment to the Uniform Pension Plan per compliance audit of 2023. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed

Councilwoman put into motion Ordinance #524-2024 Amendment to the Non-Uniform Pension Amendment per compliance audit of 2023. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Council sought a bid on vintage Christmas Lights, one person seemed interested, but never got back to the Borough. Items were tabled.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eric Bennett of Railroad Street offered public comment on the cost of the up-fitting from Powell's for the new truck. He wanted to know if bids were secured from other companies. He mentioned Lowes and RTS Truck of Honesdale. Sharon Vannan commented that Powell's is COSTARS approved which is supposed to provide municipalities a good price. After much discussion Councilman Scalzo made a motion to reopen the bids for the up-fitting the new truck and will have the Borough Public Works call companies mentioned for pricing to ensure apples to apples with the up-fitting Powell's would provide. Councilwoman Bean seconded. A roll call vote 5 – 2. Motion carried. President DeGonzague and V.P. Cost voted no on reopening the bid.

Mike Linde of Grand Ave commented that he was recently on the Borough website browsing and noticed the town slogan was changed to "Where the three counties meet". Questioned why it was changed from "A mile of Hospitality" and how do we get it back. V.P. Cost stated it was not changed and The Lions club was looking at purchasing new signs for the town.

John Kowalewski of Main Street commented on when a new code enforcement officer will be hired and if he will go right to work on 1177 North Main Street.

Josh Faatz of Parks & Recs read an email sent from the chairperson of Parks & Recs. That Parks & Recs would like to thank the FC Lions Club for their \$1000 donation to improve the beach area and other improvements at Kennedy Park. Greatly appreciated. The soup off was a great success. There were 26 soups this year. Winners were: 1st Rudy Peterka, cheesy shrimp & crab bisque, 2nd Brian Kension, cheeseburger soup, and 3rd Ed Skorupa (AJ's) Haluski soup. The next event will be our annual Easter Egg hunt on Sunday March 24th at 1 p.m. Thank you to our community for their support.

V.P. Cost commented also on the FC Lions Club for \$1000 donation to Parks & Recs. He also sent a thank you to Linda Fitzsimmons for all her help on the decorations on the Christmas trees display.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY March 4, 2024**

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced the next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to adjourn. V.P. Cost offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scalzo, all responded “aye”, none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.