

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, March 7, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: (Bernard Scalzo, President Pro-Tem. presiding).

Councilman Scalzo called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone and all stood for the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

President Lesjack monitored the meeting telephonically.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

Monitoring by Phone: President Lesjack. Absent: Councilwoman Bean and V.P. Cost.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vice President Scalzo opened the floor for public comment.

John Kameen questioned the reason for Ordinance #521-one-way street on Welch Road. Eric Burns responded since he had requested Council’s consideration at the February meeting. He is concerned about safety issues during winter months when the road is narrowed by snow. Vice-President Scalzo responded that it is still in the planning stage and more information is needed. Mr. Kameen asked about the expenses for the elevator testing, why two companies were paid for the same inspection. Ms. Vannan explained that the Dept. of Labor & Industry requires this inspection every three years and a witness to the pressure testing is required by the state.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from February 7, 2022. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion, all responded aye. None opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for February 2022. Council Member Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize disbursements of \$107,456.37. Total Receipts were \$96,570.37. Council Member Lazier seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, none opposed, five to zero.

Councilwoman Matarese announced that the Annual Experience Credit refund from the Geisinger Health Plan is \$7,439.99.

Councilwoman Matarese announced that she had submitted past Council President Nicholas Cost to the “Small Town American Civic Volunteer Award Program” for his many years of services. There were over 700 nominations from 49 states.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for February 2022 was offered for the record. Recycling donations \$208.00. Archbald Wrecking Scrap Metal proceeds - \$144.

Councilman Scalzo reported that a few complaints were received about the plowing and he has spoken to the drivers who will reduce their speed and be more careful in the future.

Streetlight outages can be reported directly to PPL, the number of the pole is needed. If you report the outage to the borough office, please include the location and pole number.

Public works will be doing street sweeping on damp days to reduce the dust ask people not to park on Main Street and Dundaff Street between the hours of 2 a.m. & 5 a.m. Cars will be ticketed and/or towed. An observation was offered by Councilwoman Lazier that PennDot is not plowing from curb to curb. Councilman Scalzo said he would follow up on it. Councilman DeGonzague asked about alternate parking, Vice President Scalzo responded, “That was tried about 10 years ago and at different times in years prior to that, but the residential opposition was strong. Additional research and resident’s feedback is needed, perhaps a poll of residents could help.

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An invoice for Cinders/salt mix for February was issued to Vandling for \$420.

V.P. Scalzo said that discussion is ongoing about placing a sidewalk on the road to Richmondale in the 200 block of Hudson Street. This is a state road and PennDot will have to be consulted.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Lazier (stepping in for Councilwoman Bean) reported that Easter on Main will be on Wednesday, April 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Activities include an Easter Egg hunt at Wm. Penn Apartments, an Easter Bonnet March at “Stitches & Strokes”, and a coloring contest at the Forest City Library to be judged by Tibbey & Freckles.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to permit up to \$250 be released for misc. expenses related to the “Easter on Main” celebration. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call vote found five in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Shirley’s Restaurant is closing, another loss for the Main Street businesses. Councilwoman Lazier thanked Shirley and noted, “We are sad to see you go”.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier announced the Soup Cook-off is March 19, from 11 to 2 p.m. Due to weather conditions, the Ice Fishing Derby is cancelled and will be rescheduled. The 2022 Vendor Market will be on 5/15, 7/17 & 9/18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications are available on the Borough’s website www.forestcityborough.com, the cost is \$10 per day. This is a donation and not refunds will be issued.

An Easter Egg hunt will be held at Kennedy Park on April 10th, swimming resumes on Memorial Day, May 30th, July 24th will be a drive thru collection for “Toys for Kids”, the annual Chicken BBQ will be held on August 7,

Councilwoman Lazier is meeting with Kevin from Burke Playgrounds on 3/23 at 11:00 a.m. to secure information on the cost and installation of playground equipment.

Brian Fitzsimmons requested council’s approval to cover the cost of equipment for the Little League/Softball Association, i.e., pitchers’ mound, bases, practice balls, privacy netting for the fence, etc. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the purchase with COVID (ARPA) funds not to exceed \$3,500. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, none opposed, five to zero.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Councilman DeGonzague reminded everyone to shovel their sidewalks. Building permits can be picked up at the Borough office or obtained on line from NEIC (a link is on the borough website www.forestcityborough.com) The permit is issued by NEIC, dropped off at the borough to be picked up with payment, checks made payable to Forest City Borough. NEIC bills the borough monthly.

There is a burn ban in affect in Susquehanna County from March 15 through April 22, that also means “No burning” in the Borough.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

The February 2022 police report was distributed.

Chief Foley, reporting for Mayor Ginton, requested Council’s approval to purchase (4) Goodyear Eagle Enforcer tires from Kost for \$646.68 for the 2017 Ford Explorer. Council

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Member Matarese offered a motion to approve the purchase. Seconded by Councilperson Lazier, a roll call vote was five to zero in favor, motion carried.

Chief Foley, on behalf of Mayor Glinton, thanked and congratulated Assistant Chief Dzanis for being invited by the Susquehanna County Sherriff's office to participate in an Active Shooter Class (ALICE) for the staff of Forest City Regional School District. Asst. Chief Dzanis spoke about the importance of recognizing the early warning signs of a potential threat and being prepared.

The Wayne County 911 requests participation in a three-year contract for AVL's (Automated Vehicle Locaters). A grant will cover the cost of the equipment, installation and the 1st year's fees. Cost to borough will be \$936 annually for the second & third years. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve the department participation and an annual payment of \$936 in the second & third year. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote was five in favor, none opposed, the motion carried. Chief Foley will follow-up with Wayne County.

Chief Foley announced that a "Drug Take-back" will be held at the Forest City Emergency Services building on Railroad Street on Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Present for review & discussion Ordinance #521-One-way traffic on Welch Road. Based on comments, more research is needed, impact study, and more input from residents on that street. Ordinance tabled. It was noted that since school buses use the route, their transportation office would also have to be consulted.

Resolution #3_2022-Amend Ordinance #457 to adopt UCC Code 2018 edition per PA Dept. of Labor & Industry. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to adopt Resolution #3_2022, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, all replied aye, none opposed, motion carried.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Vice-President Scalzo opened the floor:

Mr. Eric Burns asked about Hudson Street. Pres. Pro-Tem Scalzo noted that he and Vice-President Cost met with PennDot to discuss Hudson Street Maintenance. A concern was voiced over people running thru the stop signs on Hudson & Maxey. Councilwoman Matarese suggested that the police add a patrol in that area. Stephanie Sojka-Reisch noted that when going south on Hudson and stopping at the sign, you can't see left on Maxie St. Councilwoman Lazier suggested no parking.

Paul Kalasinski, Lackawanna Street, asked on behalf of the American Legion Commander if plans are being made for Memorial Day, "Notice is early enough to get something in motion".

Councilwoman Lazier expressed concerns about shoveling on the Main Street sidewalks, it's been over 48 hours and hasn't been done. Councilman DeGonzague replied that he is working on it. Councilman DeGonzague thanked John Zasik for shoveling out the 20 ft. between two buildings on Main Street. Eric Burns followed up with comments about snow on the sidewalk in front of the Dollar General. Councilman DeGonzague again said that he is on top of it and contacting offenders.

Councilman DeGonzague, as Safety & Health Chair will establish a policy in the exposure category for potential contact with hazardous materials and unknown substances for borough employees.

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John Kowalewski asked if anything is being done about the three (3) complaints he submitted for code enforcement violations at the house next to his property. He said that he saw a rat run out of a couch that they had discarded in the yard. It ran back into the house.

Councilman DeGonzague stated that he has notified that property owner of the complaints. He and Chief Foley issued a summons and it will be followed up on.

Mr. Burns complained about what he believes to be raw sewage coming from a pipe that sticks out of the hill on Upper No. Main Street that runs along the road leading to the F.C. water treatment plant on North Main Street. V.P. Scalzo said public works will investigate.

Councilwoman Matarese asked if the police could ramp up their patrols at Kennedy Park, she noticed that the ice is thinning and she is concerned about the safety of kids in the park.

Brian Fitzsimmons asked the police to also keep an eye out for the violators of the pooper scooper ordinance while they're at the park. People continue to allow their animals to relieve themselves and do not pick it up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 4, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All responded "aye". The meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.