

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY April 1, 2019**

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**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, Amy Bean, Mayor Chris Ginton and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

Absent: Council members Robert Lesjack and Joann Matarese.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There were no comments offered at this time.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve minutes from March 2019 Meeting. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried.

Total Cash Receipts - \$153,919.84. Total General Fund disbursements - \$119,228.22, Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3,251.53. Sewer Account disbursements - \$17,647.47 (\$10,203.04 of that was to transfer garbage fees collected with sewer payments). Councilman DeGonzague motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. Roll call vote 5 yes, none opposed.

An email from DEP announced that the borough would receive \$1,623 for the Act 101, 904 Recycling Grant for 2017 on or about June 1, 2019.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the Public Works Report for March 2019 as reported by Bob Tedesco. The gazebo was removed. A belt assembly was replaced on the recycling truck. Scrap metal brought in \$86. Street sweeping is being done. The meter timers are being verified. Mr. Tedesco recommends that the restrooms at Kennedy Park not be opened until the new pumps are installed and the holding tank is repaired. Council agreed suggesting that port-a-johns be rented while the repairs are being done. Mayor Ginton offered to look into the rentals.

Vandling Boro was invoiced for \$325 for five bucket-loads of salt/cinder mix.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack was unavailable. He submitted two bids for council's approval. The first was a bid from Mesko Glass for replacement of the front entrance door and the library windows at a cost of \$8,950. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the renovations to the Borough entrance. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found all members in favor, none opposed. The second proposal was from T & H Floor Store for carpeting and plank flooring on the third floor in the elevator, hallway, kitchen, stage and two restrooms at a cost of \$4,951. No motion offered. The proposal tabled.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean announced that the Park's Board is sponsoring a Mothers' Day Cheesecake fundraiser for the park. Pocono Cheesecake Factory is offering four flavors of 6" cheesecake for \$12 each. The cut-off for orders is April 26. Cheesecakes will be distributed in time for Mothers' Day on May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact members of the Board to place your order.

Franceski Lumber ordered the 16'x16' octagon gazebo. Steve Mikloiche and two other contractors are bidding on installation of the foundation. President Cost said that a "Special Public Meeting" may be held to decide on who would do the job so that we could get moving forward with this project.

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Councilwoman Bean reported that she would be pursuing the free Trees offered by the PPL Electric Community Roots project. President Cost asked her to follow up on this. Councilwoman Bean reported that it is an on-line process and she will get on it as soon as the site opens.

Councilwoman Bean thanked Mayor Ginton for his offer to get more information on the Port-a-Johns. Mayor Ginton said he would have them by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The bathrooms at the park cannot be opened until the new pumps are installed.

Ordinance #504 covering alcohol consumption at the park was discussed. Councilwoman Bean and Lazier said they would be looking into how it could be amended to permit alcohol under certain circumstances. They will be looking at the ordinance, the application process and what is required by law to permit alcohol. Ms. Vannan noted that the existing ordinance does permit alcohol under special circumstances that requires a sponsoring organization, with insurance, fencing around the area, additional police coverage, etc. There is an application on the website that explains what must be provided.

Councilwoman Bean reminded everyone that the next Parks & Recreation meeting is on Tuesday, April 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Volunteers needed, please attend.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY:** (Chris DeGonzague)

The March Code Enforcement Report from Stephanie Reisch listed the projects that she is working on. Ms. Reisch continues to focus on blight in the borough. She is working to get the borough moving forward in better enforcement of borough property maintenance and "Quality of Life". Ms. Reisch asked council to support her efforts to proceed with condemnation of 517 Susquehanna St. A bid from JHA will be presented later in the meeting to provide the inspection to continue the condemnation and demolition process.

**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier announced that the "Forest City Easter on Main" and Easter Egg Hunt at HNB will be on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. There will be many activities hosted by members of the GFCBA.

**MAYOR'S REPORT:** (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

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

Mayor Ginton asked council to approve two new hires – Rebecca Clark & Keith Rynearson, both as part-time officers at a starting rate of \$14.50/hour. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve Rebecca Clark for \$14.50/hour. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote – five to zero in favor. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to approve Keith Rynearson at \$14.50/hour. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Bean. All voted yes in a roll call vote, five to zero.

Mayor Ginton asked Council to approve a Proclamation designating the month of April as "PA 811 Safe Digging Month". Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted "aye". The Proclamation was approved.

The Mayor shared information on a Radar Speed sign system from ElanCity for Council's consideration. The cost of a twin pack special is \$5,499. Council opted to table the request for further discussion.

Mayor Ginton requested approval for the purchase of tires for the police Interceptor SUV at \$513, including mounting, balancing and a state inspection from M&M Auto and a bid from Kost Tire for \$536.75. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the M&M Bid for \$513. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. The roll call vote was five to zero in favor. The motion carried.

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The Mayor shared information on a meeting at the Clifford Fire Hall on April 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. regarding the Spotted Lanternfly and the serious threat they pose to fruit trees and other trees in our area.

The Mayor shared a thank you picture from the 2019 Lady Foresters Softball League for the support given by the Borough Council and the Parks & Recreation Board.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith had nothing for tonight's meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** (President Cost)

Both correspondence items (Spotted Lanternfly meeting & the Lady Foresters' thank you were presented by Mayor Ginton.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

GFCBA requested a Main Street road closure for August 3, 2019 for the Trail Town Festival. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve the road closure. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. Approval was unanimous. Ms. Vannan will submit the request to PennDot.

Resolution #5-2019 Multimodal Signature Authorization for Streetscape Grant for East Side of Main street required approval by council. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll call vote was five to zero in favor, motion carried.

Authorize President Cost to sign the agreement on behalf of the Borough for the Streetscape Grant agreeing to cover the \$27,000 match (10%). Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve the request. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. A roll call vote found five in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Council accepted a bid from JHA to inspect a property and provide an appraisal at 517 Susquehanna Street being considered for condemnation at a cost of \$300. Councilman DeGonzague offered the motion to accept. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote. The motion carried.

Council considered a proposal for engineering services from JHA for the Streetscape Grant on the East side of Main Street. Following discussion, a motion from Councilman DeGonzague to accept JHA's proposal pending review and further clarification of items above the initial cost of \$27,000 (10% of the Grant) to be paid by the borough. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion with a request for additional review. The roll call vote was five in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

JHA presented a third proposal to provide an evaluation and recommendations for a road subsidence on Susquehanna Street for \$3,950. This item tabled for further review.

NEIC Northeast Inspection Consultants submitted a proposal and an agreement to issue Building Permits and perform Residential Rental Inspections in addition to BIU who will continue to provide service as needed. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier to authorize President Cost to sign the agreement on behalf of the borough. A roll call vote was five to zero, all in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:** (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

Rachel Habetler offered several comments. She asked if there is a fine for garbage cans left out. "No, they are tagged." Commented that she "Can't understand why more money continues to be spent on the third floor when the roof needs to be fixed. And, what about Leeward, what is the borough doing to get them back?" President Cost responded that he has been meeting with engineers about the sidewalks and the pumps at Kennedy Park and trying to get things

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back on track. Some type of litigation may be considered but would not be discussed at this time.

Diana Dakey of the Fair Districts PA gave a presentation on the impact that districting has on voting and that “it needs to be put back into the hands of regular voters and out of the politicians hands so they can’t produce unfair advantage to certain parties”. She asked the borough to adopt a resolution supporting their position. Council will give the information she provided further consideration but tabled the issue for now.

Barbara Mihelc, former council member, asked, “Why council felt it necessary to rename the third floor hall. It has been known as Pentecost Hall forever and I encourage council to rescind this motion made at the prior Council Meeting.” Council member DeGonzague offered a motion to rescind the Motion made at March’s meeting that renamed the Pentecost Hall to “Chandeliers at the Pentecost Hall”, keeping the original name of “Pentecost Hall”. Councilman Bean seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the motion.

Katherine Singer offered her support of the Motel/Hotel proposed for the borough and hoped that this would happen in the future. Mayor Glinton replied, “I am working on it.” Ms. Singer asked about the vacant building at 730 Delaware and Mayor Glinton responded, “That’s another thing I’m working on and may have a buyer.”

Mr. Bill Orasin, Sr. asked about any plans for further investigation in the 900 Block of Susquehanna St. President Cost replied, “We are going to have it looked at, the office of Mine Reclamation has offered up to 600’ of pipe to divert the drainage. JHA has been asked to provide a bid to investigate the cause of the subsidence and offer recommendations on which way to install the pipe”. Mrs. Mihelc added, “There is another small drain on White Street that is causing a problem.” President Cost added, “We are continuing to work toward a solution.”

Councilwoman Lazier asked, “Why isn’t the 300 block of Main Street included in the Streetscape plans?” President Cost replied, “The 300 block was not in the original grant applicaton, the 400, 500 & 600 blocks were estimated and those prices are from 2016, what was originally planned may not be enough for the three blocks without applying for additional funding.

Tom Fitzsimmons thanked council for donating \$3,000 to the Doughboy/Coal Miners’ Memorial Fund; they have received over \$5,000 in private donations.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

Councilwoman Bean - motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Lazier seconded. All members responded “aye” and the meeting ended at 8:45 p.m.