

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (Robert Lesjack, President).

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

President Lesjack reiterated his plans to follow “Robert’s Rules”. Individuals upon being recognized by the president will identify themselves with their address; have five (5) minutes to speak and no interruptions will be allowed during the council members’ presentations. He asked that everyone keep comments to themselves unless called upon.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Lesjack, V.P. Cost, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan. Absent: Council Members Chris DeGonzague and Amy Bean.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Lesjack opened the floor for public comment.

John Kameen, Forest City News, expressed his concerns over the announcement of a Yard Waste Collection planned for 4/11 & 4/14 with no time to run the advertisement in the paper. Discussion followed, pick-ups to be postponed and rescheduled for 4/25 & 4/28. It was noted that the 4/11 & 4/14 dates have been posted on the Borough’s website, Facebook and given to residents who have called the office to ask about it. Vice-Pres. Cost offered a motion to advertise the pickup once dates are confirmed. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion, all responded “Aye” and the motion carried. Ms. Vannan will contact Bob Tedesco to see if the new dates will work for the Public Works schedule or if he prefers some other dates.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from March 7, 2022. Vice-President Cost seconded the motion, all responded aye. None opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for March 2022. Council Member Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize disbursements of \$95,465.19. Total Receipts were \$209,835.63. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, five in favor, none opposed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for March 2022 was offered for the record. Recycling donations \$289. Franceski Scrap Metal proceeds - \$285.

Installed new cutting blades on both snowplows. Began street sweeping on Main & Dundaff Streets. Councilman Scalzo said, “Please encourage your neighbors to clean up their yards, let’s get the town looking good for Memorial Day”.

An invoice for Cinders/salt mix for March was sent to Vandling for \$210.00.

The Center Street Steps are still a “work in progress”. Plans are sought for work on the storm drains in the 600 block of Railroad Street. Councilman Scalzo reported that specs are being sought for the sinkhole project in the 900 block of Susquehanna Street, so this also is still being worked on. Councilman Scalzo will provide details as they become available.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Nick Cost)

Nothing to report.

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**COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** (Councilwoman Bean)

President Lesjack (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.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier announced the winners of the 2022 Annual Soup Cook-Off - **1ST PLACE** - *Creamy Tortellini with Kale & Sausage* - Mike Flood; **2nd PLACE** - *Polish Divorce Soup* - AJ'S; **3rd PLACE** - *Grilled Cheese Tomato* – C.G. (Ruth) Peterka; **Honorable Mention** - *Mexican Corn Chowder* - Candlelight Inn - Thanks to all who donated.

Upcoming Events: Easter Egg Hunt at Kennedy Park April 10<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. – Rain date – April 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

The Pavilion at K.P. will not be reserved for any holidays or holiday weekends, it will be “Open for Public Use” – May 30<sup>th</sup> - Memorial Day, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.

Swimming opens – Memorial Day, May 30<sup>th</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>.

July 17, Vendors Market - 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

July 24, Christmas in July to benefit Toys 4 Kids – all proceeds will go to FC Regional for their annual toy drive. A fun day for the kids!

August 7, KPs Annual Chicken BBQ - NOON - Advance tickets will be on sale.

September 18, Vendors Market 10:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Councilwoman Lazier met with a Representative from Burke Playgrounds. He measured the planned area for playground equipment and sent a selection of pieces on sale. The Parks & Rec Board meeting later tonight will select a grouping and Burke’s will provide a quote for the equipment & installation to be presented at the May meeting for Council’s approval. Removal of the existing equipment may be done by the Public Works department, if possible, with the potential for some salvage value and to save on installation costs. Councilwoman Matarese asked why the equipment needed to be replaced. Councilwoman Lazier responded, “What’s there is in very poor and potentially dangerous condition with a lot of rust and part of the cost will be covered by fund raising efforts and matched with ARPA (Covid) funds.

Councilwoman Lazier reported that Councilman Cost has volunteered to work with her to obtain the services of an architectural engineer to help evaluate and prepare specs for repairs to the restrooms at K.P. in line with Labor & Industry guidelines. “There is a lot more involved than expected.”

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Councilman DeGonzague was unavailable for tonight’s meeting. President Lesjack reported that work continues on the complaints that have been received. Solicitor McAndrew offered to help with the Magistrate if needed.

**MAYOR’S REPORT:**

The March 2022 police report was distributed.

Reminder - “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.

Mayor Glinton made recommendations for two new hires – part-time officers – Jennifer Esterline and Franklin Winstead at \$17/hour effective April 4, 2022. Councilwoman Matarese said that she and President Lesjack met with the candidates and were impressed with their credentials. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to hire Jennifer Esterline & Franklin Winstead effective this date. Councilman Nick Cost seconded the motion. A separate roll call

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vote taken for each found a unanimous five in favor, none opposed. Both officers were approved effective April 4, 2022.

Mayor Glinton announced that Patrolman Daniel Coulthard received a grant from the US Deputy Sheriff's Association for ten (10) personal tourniquets with holsters and a PBT (portable breath test). The grant covered the total cost of approximately \$1,000. Mayor Glinton congratulated and thanked Dan for his efforts".

Patrolmen Dan Coulthard and Ken Esterline received vests that were partially funded by the U.S. Department of Justice from a grant applied for by Chief Foley. 50% of the cost will be refunded to the borough, congratulations and thank you to Chief Foley.

Mayor Glinton presented the resignation of James Marinovich effective March 5, 2022. Officer Marinovich has accepted positions in two other departments that will regrettably make it difficult to serve the Borough. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to accept the resignation, seconded by Councilwoman Matarese, all councilmembers voted in favor, none opposed. The resignation was accepted.

Mayor Glinton presented a rate change request for Patrolman Ken Esterline from his current rate of \$16.75 to \$17/hour to bring him in line with the "new hire" rate. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the rate increase. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. Roll call vote – five in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

Vice President Nick Cost took this opportunity to note that parking meter revenues are up as well as tickets and fines collections thanks to our diligent police department and reminded everyone that this source of funding covers the cost of snow removal on the Main Street business area.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Planning Commission submitted a request to approve a proposed Minor Subdivision application for Paul Walaski at 65 Depot Street. This application was reviewed and approved by the Commission (Paul Dovin, Peggy Brager & Eric Bennet) at a public meeting held on March 10, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve their request. Vice President Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, five approved, none opposed. The motion carried.

Councilman Scalzo then offered a motion authorizing President Lesjack to sign a letter to the Susquehanna County Dept. of Planning & Development on behalf of Council approving the request for the Minor Subdivision. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded "Aye" to "All in Favor?", none were opposed.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

Ordinance #521 – "One Way traffic on Welch Road" was again tabled. Further discussion and more information are needed. Vice President Cost feels that traffic should be one-way entering on Main and going up but noted that since buses use this road, the school transportation officer will have to be contacted. Councilman Scalzo reported that Bob Tedesco says that plowing is easier going down from Maxie St and exiting on Main Street and added the input is needed from the residents that live on Welch Road.

**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Lesjack opened the floor reminding everyone that there is a five (5) minute limit. Please state your name and address for the record. Please, do not speak out without being recognized.

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John Kowalewski, 1201 No. Main Street, "Hopes the borough is going to tighten up on Code Enforcement, is the borough going to hire a Code Enforcement Officer?" His problem with the neighbor has been going on for over 8 months and clean up is not happening. President Lesjack responded, "I've been out of town, so this is the first I'm hearing of it, however, I'm told that Councilman Degonzague has been working on it and our next step will be to take her to the Magistrate.

Bill Orasin, Sr., 911 Susquehanna Street asked if NEIC was being considered for Code Enforcement. President Lesjack responded that Council is still looking at their options, outsourcing vs. appointing someone to a position of "paid" Code Enforcement Officer.

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch, 609 Hudson Street, noted that during her two years as Code Enforcement Officer she had completed 231 tasks, attended several abatements at the Magistrate's office, maintained files, issued letters and attended meetings. Ms. Sojka-Reisch added that this position should be filled on site. Councilwoman Lazier commented that she believes that this position should be advertised. An ad will be created for the May meeting for Council's review and consideration. Vice President Cost reminded everyone that written complaints are required for the borough to investigate. President Lesjack added that Councilman DeGonzague will do citations and Solicitor McAndrew offered to meet with Councilman DeGonzague and offered her help with any citations filed with the Magistrate.

Bill Orasin, Sr. commented again on the Welch Road ordinance asking why the borough would spend money on an Ordinance, advertising, & signage that was brought to their attention by one resident who seemed to have a personal interest in this change and suggested it "on a whim". Vice President Cost thanked Mr. Orasin and added, "There have been several accidents on that road, but that the residents living on that section of road will have to be polled and that this was only brought up for consideration, nothing has been done yet that cost the Borough any money."

**CORRESPONDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Council meeting will be Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Vice President Cost seconded the motion. All responded "aye". The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.