

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 2, 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”.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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.

President Lesjack opened the floor for public comment to the agenda only. You can speak only once about a particular subject.

John Kameen remarked about the Resolution #4\_2022, Support for Cannabis. John stated he was in favor of medicinal marijuana but not for recreational use. This resolution seems to be supporting both uses. Council President Lesjack stated this should be tabled and the resolutions wording changed to reference medical marijuana. This will be addressed when it comes up on the agenda later.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from April 4, 2022.

Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion, all responded aye. None opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for April 2022. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carries.

Councilwoman Matarese noted that the Dog Park at Babe Ruth Park will be closed the week of May 2<sup>nd</sup> for new equipment installation and wanted to thank the Forest City Lions Club for a donation that will cover the cost of the auger rental. She then stated that she wanted to stress that this “Babe Ruth Dog Park” is for DOGS and not children.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for April 2022 was offered for the record. Street sweeping on Main and Dundaff Street is completed. Three loads of yard waste were picked up in April and another pick-up is scheduled for the third week of May if needed, May 16<sup>th</sup> and 19th. Kennedy Park is now open for the season.

Councilman Scalzo reported that paving for Center Street, Railroad Street and Grand Avenue are still a “work in progress”. Also, we are looking for a contractor to connect a sewer line that was missed during the project on Grand Avenue. Councilman Scalzo stated plans are sought for work on the storm drains in the 600 block of Railroad Street (possibly adding another storm drain) and 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. JHA was consulted for the Susquehanna Street sink hole and they will come down at a later date.

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

Vice President Cost motioned to purchase new air conditioners for the office space occupied by Cindy and Sharon. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion a roll call vote 7-0 all in favor; motion carries. John Kameen questioned the size of the air conditioner for the front office stating the newer models don’t cool as good as older versions. A 5,000 BTU unit would be constantly running. Vice President Cost stated this would be checked before the order is placed and capped the spending at \$675.00

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for two units. (This was later put on hold during public comment when Jason Obelenus questioned why a unit similar to the ones on the third floor weren't considered. V.P. Cost will start requesting pricing.)

V.P. Cost said this not on the agenda but asked if council wanted him to proceed getting bids to repair the roof. President Lesjack stated we could not vote on this but they did want him to proceed getting quotes and this would be added to the next agenda.

Welsch road becoming one-way was discussed once again; V.P. Cost said he spoke to the school district who said they did not have any issue with the way it was. President Lesjack spoke to a resident who felt the same. Did any other councilmembers get feedback? To be added to next month's agenda.

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

Councilwoman Bean reported that Easter on Main on Wednesday, April 13, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. was a huge success. Memorial Day service would be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> with line up for parade at 10 am at DG's and the parade to start at 10:30 with a service at William Penn at 11 am.

Outdoor Towns Action Teams proposal for projects in town were discussed in great detail. Mostly, why they had picked projects the borough has already been working on; sidewalks, murals on buildings in town, Center Street Park gazebo and Facades for storefronts on Main Street. Councilwoman Bean stated she has suggested to them to not choose projects the borough is already pursuing. President Lesjack reiterated Councilwoman Bean's suggestion to check with the borough to see what projects they are working on.

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

Councilwoman Lazier reported that there was not a Parks and Recreation meeting in the month of April.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to purchase new playground equipment from Burke Playgrounds at a cost of \$71,954.00, this would cover equipment, installation and materials needed for ground cover. The cost will be covered by KP fund raising efforts (\$15,000) and with ARPA (\$56,954 Covid) funds. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion a roll call vote 7-0, all in favor. Motion carries.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to purchase sand from Blooming Grove Sand & Gravel and have Stephen Mikloiche slope the beach area so the sand doesn't wash into the pond at a cost of approximately \$2500.00. Funds to come from Kennedy Park fund raising account. A second came from V.P. Nick Cost, 7-0 roll call vote, motion carries.

Councilwoman Lazier went on to make a motion to hire CAM Architect for Engineering services (to draw specifications) at the cost of \$3,650 for the renovations of Kennedy Park bathrooms. She stated that the bathrooms up Kennedy Park are horrendous and from the 1950's and are in desperate need of upgrades. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. Roll call vote, all in favor. Motion carries 7-0.

Next on the agenda was the topic of purchasing a Golf Cart which was rescinded by Councilwoman Lazier.

Discussed next was a picture provided by Brian Fitzsimmons of a retaining wall that is in need of repair. Councilwoman Lazier is looking for quotes to repair this retaining wall and will bring them to the next meeting.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:**

Councilman DeGonzague started with safety & health, he stated there were no accidents or injuries of borough employees this year or last year.

Moving on to complaints, Councilman DeGonzague stated there was a complaint for the 400 block of Susquehanna Street this month closed out and he was working with one resident on a complaint for the 300 block of Hudson Street and one on Upper Main Street. Summons were issued, and given to owner. There seems to be a clerical issue with the magistrate's office that she is working on with Sharon and he is not sure if it was remedied. Councilman DeGonzague Stated the Citations are at the Magistrates offices for several complaints, but are on hold until this issue is resolved.

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**MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The April 2022 police report was distributed for council's review.

Update on - "Drug Take-back" held at the Forest City Emergency Services building on Railroad Street on Saturday, April 30, 2022, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Assistant Chief Dzanis reported 19.2 pounds of solids and 21.8 pounds of liquids were collected, for a total of 41 pounds.

Mayor Glinton made a recommendation for rehire –as a part-time officer – Lauren Fizz at \$17.25/hour effective May 2, 2022. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to hire Lauren effective this date. Councilman Nick Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote taken found five in favor & two apposed, Motion carries 5-2.

Mayor Glinton requested approval from council for the Police Department and the Mayor to work together to develop effective protocols and procedures that would strengthen code enforcement within the borough. President Lesjack responded, "What do you have to say about that?" Assistant Chief Dzanis responded the Police Department would act on borough complaints utilizing a part-time police officer. Vice President Nick Cost asked if the complaints would be transferred to the police department in the future? Council President Lesjack stated, "The complaint would need to be filed in the borough office and then transferred to the police department." Assistant Chief Dzanis stated they would be utilizing Part-time Officers for Code Enforcement. Councilman Cost asked if they would be using the same officer, Assistant Chief Dzanis stated they would try. Councilman DeGonzague explained that the borough has currently adopted the 2018 International Property Maintenance Code and there a few are steps that have to be followed for the the Magistrate to accept it. Councilman DeGonzague added that the Code Enforcement report would need to be presented by the Police Department monthly. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the Police department and Mayor Glinton to provide Code Enforcement for a 90-day trial period. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion to do a 90-day trial and then revisit the subject. A roll call vote taken found six in favor & one apposed, Motion carries 6-1. President Lesjack thanked Councilman DeGonzague for all his efforts and time doing Code Enforcement for the borough.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Rail-Trail Council submitted an increase to the cost of the land lease #81760075-discharge pipe on Erie Street from \$249.31 to \$274.24, a \$24.93 increase effective for 2022. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion and Councilman Chris DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, 4 approved 3 opposed. The motion carried, 4-3.

Discussion of Resolution #4\_2022 to support Cannabis Legalization as requested by David Bolton of the PSAB Board of Directors & the PSAB Resolution & Policy Committee. As the discussion progressed council members agreed not to support the PSAB in this matter. Councilman Chris DeGonzague offered a motion to table Resolution #4\_2022. Councilman Nick Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote found 6-1, Resolution #4-2022 was tabled.

**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

President Lesjack announced PennDOT has approved the extension for the Multimodal Grant for the East side of Main Street Sidewalks to December 10, 2023.

President Lesjack told everyone they were in possession of a project report that was filed (deadline 4/30/2022) for three tentative projects that fall under Outdoor Recreation and Community & Economic Development approved guideline categories. These projects are based "loosely" on discussion at prior public meetings. These are estimated and will require more specific information as the projects proceed, which may leave money for other projects in 2022. Total \$182,229.10. President Lesjack did not act on the matter at this time.

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**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President Lesjack opened the floor for public comment, 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. And a topic can only be commented on once by the same person.

Jason Obelenus, 765 Railroad Street. Mr. Obelenus questioned how long the borough has been working on the projects that the Outdoor Towns Action Teams wants to contribute to. President Lesjack stated it was probably since 2019. President Lesjack stated that COVID had put things on hold for two years. Jason remarked that President Lesjack stated they were the boroughs ideas, although the borough has been working on them so long maybe they need to get on the same page and see what the Action Team has to offer. Seems the borough can't work with other people. Stating the borough hasn't done anything in two years and maybe it's time to start working with other people and organizations. President Lesjack called the five-minute rule and hit the gavel, and moved on to the next person.

John Kowalewski, 1201 No. Main Street. Mr. Kowalewski questioned "Where do we stand with his property?". President Lesjack asked Councilman DeGonzague if he would kindly answer the question. Councilman DeGonzague responded that he had just explained that he was unable to file the citations due to circumstances out of his control and asked the solicitor to respond. Councilman DeGonzague said, "The Magistrate said the resident needs to fill out a new complaint in the new year." Councilman DeGonzague responded that he only had the complaints from last year. Mr. Kowalewski said no one asked him to file a new complaint and asked for the minutes from February 2022 & March 2022 to be checked. Councilman DeGonzague said, "With the police department now in charge of code enforcement, a new complaint has to be filed with the borough."

Discussion about 1177 N Main Street began. Mr. Kowalewski stated, to gain access to the property, the resident is going across his property to get to their home therefore trespassing. Councilman DeGonzague explained that this is a civil matter if there is no easement. Residential Rental inspections was the next topic, Mr. Kowalewski stated that front 1177 N Main Street passed the inspection but rear 1177 N Main Street failed per Councilman DeGonzague's prior statement. Mr. Kowalewski asked if it was reinspected. Councilman DeGonzague's responded to his knowledge the unit has not been reinspected. Mr. Kowalewski said people are living in the rear house with no running water. He also stated the issue with the dog had been rectified.

Mr. Kowalewski requested to be heard again, President Lesjack stated if was on the same topic he could not comment again. Mr. Kowalewski stated it was not and proceeded. He spoke with Mr. Gliha last week about the neighbors having bon fires. Councilman DeGonzague stated that was a police matter. He also stated the issue with the dog had been rectified.

Jason Obelenus, 765 Railroad Street. Mr. Obelenus questioned the efficiency of a window air conditioner and stated a HAVC unit similar to the ones on the third floor should be considered. V.P. Cost said he would research the idea. Councilman DeGonzague stated if the unit was in the right spot, it would cool both offices. To be added to next month's agenda.

**CORRESPONDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The Mayor and Council members are invited to the Grand Opening of the Care Net Pregnancy Center of NEPA on Wednesday, May 25 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 528 Main Street.

An email from Forest City Librarian Lisa Spangenberg thanking Council for their support and announcing new Library hours effective May 1, 2022.

A thank you note from Brian Fitzsimmons on behalf of the F.C. Little League & Softball

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

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President Robert Lesjack asked for a motion to adjourn, Vice President Cost offered a motion adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scalzo. All responded "aye". Motion carried 7-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.