

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY May 6, 2019**

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, Council members Robert Lesjack, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier, Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean, Mayor Chris Ginton, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secretary/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

Council President Cost announced that an Executive Session was held at 6:15 to discuss a Personnel issue then opened the floor for comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no comments offered at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve minutes from April 1, 2019 Meeting. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion; all voted aye, motion carried.

Total Cash Receipts - \$197,418.1, total disbursements - \$122,208.37, Liquid Fuels (Streetlights) \$3,202.66. Sewer Account disbursements - \$48,635.51 (\$11,660.82 for garbage fees collected with sewer payments) Councilwoman Matarese motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. Roll call vote 7 yes, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve reimbursement to Sharon Vannan for the cost of her Medicare, Medigap & Part D (Drug) coverage beginning July 1, 2019 as a taxable benefit through her paycheck in lieu of her eligibility to continue coverage with the group plan as a full-time employee. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion and a roll call vote was taken. Seven voted yes, none opposed. The motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the Public Works Report for April 2019 as reported by Bob Tedesco. Saturday recycling donations for March & April totaled \$427. The crew finished sweeping Main & Dundaff Streets, installed a parking meter near Lesjack's Funeral Home, replaced pavers, left the new F550 at Powell's to replace the plow cylinder and repair hydraulic leak (covered under the warranty). They repainted the crosswalks & parking spaces with glass beads added to increase visibility. Yield to pedestrian signs were put out.

Councilman Scalzo reminded residents that only certain items are recyclable when dropped off at the garage. Recycling items are single stream (mixed) in the County Waste cans for pickup, but must be separated when taken to the garage for the Lackawanna Co. Recycling Center.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to purchase a back-up camera for the new F550 dump truck at a cost of \$600 (that includes installation at Furdock's). The system will give the driver the ability to see what's left in the dump truck when using the spreader. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, the motion carried 7 to 0. Ms. Vannan will place the order.

Councilman Scalzo reported that he had attended an MS4 training that was very informative but still a lot of things that the borough needs to do to prepare for compliance. He will provide more information as it becomes available.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack expressed his disappointment that Council voted to rescind the new name he had proposed for Pentecost Hall. He had many ideas tied into the “Chandelier” Theme and now he’s putting all of that on hold. He understands, “The roof needs repairs but it has for a long time and no one else has dealt with it in the past, so why now? Falling ice and problems with the gutters need to be addressed as well; again, no one did anything about it in the past. I have a few people working on this and will get some prices.” President Cost said, “We need to find out what has to be done.” Councilman Lesjack said he is working on it.

Councilman Lesjack went on to report that “Palette Pals” are holding their annual art show at the end of May. Set up on Thursday, May 30 with it open to the public on Friday, Saturday & Sunday (May 31, June 1 & 2). They agreed that there would no nails in the walls, everything will be on easels and set up on tables. They will provide their own linens. When asked what the borough was charging, he replied that they had agreed to paint pictures to his specifications in exchange for the use of the hall. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve their use of the hall. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried. Councilman Lesjack asked for volunteers to cover the time they would be open to the public. Ms. Vannan, Cindy Stone, President Cost and Councilwoman Bean offered to help.

Councilman Lesjack asked who would be taking care of the planters at the entrance to the Borough building and under the Library windows. Mayor Ginton was asked if Rosal could take care of it. Mayor Ginton said, “I can’t speak for Paul (Rosal) but I will ask him, how much has the borough spent in the past?” Councilman Lesjack replied, “Around \$50. In the past the library window boxes have been donated by Michael O’Neal (House of Flowers), sometimes by Cindy, it’s different every year.” All agreed to get it done before the Memorial Day Parade.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that Mother’s Day Cheesecake sales went well. 56 were sold and that netted \$252. Council member Bean will pick up on Thursday, the ninth, and distribute the frozen cheesecakes.

Thank you to Ms. Zevan, Advisor for the FCR Watersheds Team, who cleaned up Kennedy Park with a group of her students for their service/environmental project.

Councilwoman Bean contacted PPL to register for the free tree giveaway and selected several different species for planting at Kennedy Park and Babe Ruth Park. She is waiting for confirmation on what will be available. Councilman Lesjack asked what type of trees she had ordered. Councilwoman Bean replied, “Dogwood, Eastern Red Bud, Winterberry & Crabapple. Some will come in pallets of 25, some in buckets. We have to wait to find out what we are going to get.”

Councilwoman Bean reported that Kathy Kernoschak chairperson of the Park’s Board was unable to attend tonight’s meeting, but asked her to announce that the Chicken BBQ is planned for August 4. More information will be forthcoming. The next Parks & Recreation board meeting is Tuesday, May 14 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

Three bids received for the concrete pad for the gazebo at Kennedy Park. Mikloiche Timber & Construction - \$2,950 (did not include step repair); Keating Masonry Plus - \$3,100 (included step repairs); and the high bid from Colachino Masonry & Construction - \$7,350 (included step repairs and a “Versa Lok block” wall around the foundation facing the lake. After some discussion, Councilwoman Lazier opted to go with the low bid from Mikloiche for \$2,950, offering a motion to hire Mikloiche to construct the base for the gazebo. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in seven to zero in favor of the motion, motion carried.

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CODE ENFORCEMENT/HEALTH&SAFETY: (Chris DeGonzague)

The April Code Enforcement Report from Stephanie Reisch listed the projects that she is working on. She followed up on a Dumpster permit, a condemnation, and rubbish complaints. She continues to work on the “pooper scooper” complaints and an issue with free-range chickens. Ms. Reisch met with the trailer park manager to work on some issues. She asked the police to accompany her on a house visit.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Bean apologized but excused herself and exited the meeting.

MAYOR’S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

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

Mayor Ginton reported that the “Drug take-back” held at the Emergency Services netted 45.44 lbs. of pills and liquids.

The mayor announced that the police department would again be hosting the “National Night Out” on the first Tuesday of August, followed by the Fishing Derby. They will be inviting departments from other municipalities to participate.

Mayor Ginton asked council to put the garbage cans back on Main Street since there didn’t seem to be any problems with the two that were already out. President Cost said we would try it, “but at the first sign of abuse, they will be gone.”

Mayor Ginton asked Mr. Swegel to fill everyone in on the Memorial Day Parade details. Jeff Swegel said the parade would kick off at 10:30 a.m., line up at 10:15 on North Main. The ceremony would be at 11:00 at the Doughboy statue. The PennDot road closure was approved and police will assist with traffic control and route traffic around the block at the Doughboy. He is expecting a lot of participation from Boy Scouts, bands, National Guard and a man from Union Dale who has an authentic Doughboy Uniform that he will be wearing in the parade and carrying the flag with a Color Guard and the Emergency Services people carrying guns. Emergency Services is hosting a lunch following the Ceremony at the Doughboy after the parade. The American Legion will be putting flags on the graves. President Cost asked all council members to join him for the parade gathering at 10:15 a.m. for the line-up. Forest City Regional School is hosting a Veteran’s Luncheon on Friday with a ceremony to follow.

Mayor Ginton reported that he and Chief Rowan attended a recent PSAB training “Municipal Police Department Supervision & Oversight” Apr 30, 2019 in Wilkes-Barre.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT: (Paul Smith)

Solicitor Smith had nothing to report.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Cost)

A letter from Betty Lorgan reported concerns about the area to the left of Babe Ruth Park across from the back of her property. She asked if the Borough could clean up the area, she has in the past cut down bamboo and piled up yard waste hoping that the borough public works would pick it up, but instead they have pushed fallen trees and accumulated waste into the wooded area and it has become dangerous. She worries about the safety of anyone going into the area. President Cost said he would have the maintenance crew look at it.

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Franceski Lumber issued a letter stating that they would soon be closing their doors. Joe Franceski, owner, said he would be retiring and that all sales will be final. President Cost commented, "This is a great loss to the community, we will be sad to see them go."

NEW BUSINESS:

At the advice of Gary Wilding, KBA Engineering, a motion from council to approve the purchase of a new control panel to convert single phase power to three phase power for the Kennedy Park pumps at a cost of \$6,161.70. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the purchase of the control panel for \$6,161.70. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call vote was six in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS: (President Cost)

President Cost opened the floor for comments:

Jeff Swegel again took the floor to offer more information on the Veteran's Ceremony at the Forest City School. He indicated that a speaker for the event was not yet confirmed. He went on to thank John Kameen for "getting hold of the Doughboy restoration project and running with it". The initial goal was reached within 45 days and they now have over \$20K, adding that over 80% of the donations came from former residents of the Borough. He reminded everyone that the Forest City Doughboy is only one of 134 that have been authenticated in the U.S. He had hoped the unveiling could be for Veteran's Day in November, but it looked like it may not be ready until Spring 2020.

Mr. Swegel reported that Wayne Memorial will hold a dedication event recognizing the grounds on which their new facility sits as having been the former home of the American Legion and hope to hold the dedication on August 3 with the other events planned for the Trail Town Festival. Their "Ribbon Cutting" Ceremony will be held on June 7.

Mr. Swegel thanked the borough for painting the handicap lines, but added that he thought they may be in the wrong place. He then went on to say he was concerned about a guide wire on a power pole down in the Industrial park that may create a hazardous situation for snowmobilers and bicyclists. The wire crosses out into a path. Councilman Scalzo said he would have public works look at both things. Councilman DeGonzague added that he has observed several stop signs that are not at the proper height or partially hidden and asked that these be looked at as well.

Abigail Swegel, working on her Gold Award for the Girl Scouts explained the need for her to find a project that she could dedicate 80 hours to. She hoped that Council could come up with some ideas that would help her to achieve her goal and benefit the community. She needs a project that would require her to find and direct a group of volunteers to prove her leadership skills. Councilwoman Matarese suggested a project with Parks & Recreation. Councilwoman Lazier suggested maybe seeking donations for purchasing buckets and planting flowers along the Main Street. Ms. Swegel indicated that her twin brother will also be searching for a project for Eagle Scouts, but they can't combine their projects because each must assume a leadership role directing their own group of volunteers. Council invited her to come back with some ideas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Cost)

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting is Monday, June 3, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: (President Cost requests motion to adjourn)

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