

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
Monday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL:**

Present: President DeGonzague, Councilman Bernie Scalzo, V.P. Cost, Councilwoman Lazier, Councilwoman Bean, Councilman Lesjack, Councilwoman Woody, Mayor Ginton, Solicitor McAndrew, and Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas.

President DeGonzague announced an executive was held on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024 about ongoing litigation.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

President DeGonzague opened the floor for public comment. None was offered.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Minutes from May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, all responded “Aye”, none opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for May 2024. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for May 2024. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to approve PSAB Online Learning Series: Your Role as a Municipal Secretary/Administrator at member rate of \$150 for a five-part series for both secretaries to take. Councilwoman Woody seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for May 2024 was offered. Councilman Scalzo read the following into the record: Changed direction of Erie Street, Changed net and printed lines on tennis court, rebuilt one side of storm drain on Erie Street, replaced 11 cap shingles on gazebo up Kennedy Park, removed grapevine on telephone pole on Maple Street, fixed broken wires on zero-turn mower, removed plastic pipe on Delaware Street, fixed both gates going to upper field at Kennedy Park, yard waste pick-up two days, replaced pressure relief valve on Kennedy Park water heater, put American Flags up on Main Street poles, new flags put up at the Coal Miners Memorial, patched holes in alley between Hudson and Susquehanna Street, repaired a meter on Main Street, Mike Serniak installed a new expansion tank on water heater at Kennedy Park, May 2024 recycling donations were \$196.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody stated the cameras are installed in strategic locations throughout the borough building inside and out and a monitoring TV was installed in the main borough office.

President DeGonzague updated everyone that the borough building roof is underway.

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

Action Team Updates; Councilwoman Bean announced three bike racks were purchased for Main Street and once delivered they will be discussing where in the borough they will be placed. It was stated that one would go in Zazzera’s parking lot, one in front of Cicilioni building and one at Elegantes Pizzeria.

Juliann Doyle announced they received the Endless Mountains grant in conjunction with the Action Team, Rail Trail, and Historical Society. The Action Team wrote the grant, Rail

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Trail is going to donate \$500 of in-kind service and the Historical Society will be approving the final design of the sculpture.

Councilwoman Bean announced the Forest City Outdoor Action Team next meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 6 p.m., Forest City Outdoor Action Team minutes and agenda are in everyone's folders.

**PARKS & RECREATION:** (Nick Cost)

V.P Cost announced the May 19<sup>th</sup> 2024 Vendor Market had 42 vendors and raised \$778.25. A big thank you to the community. Next Vendor Market July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. May 30<sup>th</sup> a ton of new sand was put on the beach at Kennedy Park, thanks to the many volunteers. Today June 3<sup>rd</sup> this pond was stocked with fish purchased by donations. Reminder of Pete's Reptile show June 29<sup>th</sup> along with Kiddies Day. BBQ tickets are now on sale for \$14.

**COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH:** (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier stated that at the last meeting we agreed that ATV's and 4x4's are allowed to go to Turkey Hill to get gas. How the vehicles gain access to Turkey Hill to get gas was addressed. Councilwoman Lazier said her friends got puled over twice for being on 247 and asked for clarification. Chief Foley said the ATV and 4x4 riders need to use the trail behind Kost Tire to get to Turkey Hill.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT** (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack read the Code Enforcement report submitted by Joe Unis.

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

The May 2024 police report was distributed for review.

Chief Foley said the new tickets came in and will work fine. Anyone wishing to see them can come to the police department.

Mayor Ginton stated Patrolman Kenneth Esterline completed the certification process to become a Level 4 First Aid Instructor through HSI. He is now certified and can certify in areas which include First Aid and CPR a biennial requirement for our police officers.

Vice President Cost asked if the Mayor Ginton could provide council a list of which officers are issuing tickets, warning, citations, summons, an updated roster, etc.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Solicitor McAndrew)

No report.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (President DeGonzague)

Vice President Cost offered a motion to approve an ad in the Forest City News Congratulating the Forest City 2024 Class Seniors for \$35. Seconded by Councilman Lesjack. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Vice President Cost offered a motion to approve the Historical Society to borrow 8 tables for June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024 for an event they are hosting. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

Vice President Cost offered a motion to approve the GFCBA to put an event banner to promote the light parade and events in the same location that the town puts the Merry Christmas sign across Main Street. They are asking NEP to help put the sign up the last week of June and take down the week after light parade. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

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**CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Items other than those covered by the agenda)

Jason Oblenus of Railroad Street asked if there was any headway made with the over charge and the PPL contract. Councilman Scalzo stated there was not.

Resident Carla Stackhouse of Erie Street spoke of another issue with the directional change on Erie Street with the garbage pickup. President DeGonzague responded the ordinance is still being reviewed. Ms. Stackhouse also questioned the stopping of ATVs by a local police officer near the Industrial Park and on 247. She added that there are only certain reasons for the police to chase ATV offenders, and that taking license numbers should be sufficient.

Juliann Doyle stated she just received an email that the CBDG grant has been approved. She stated the plan is to pave Erie Street up to Railroad Street with a stripped pedestrian bike lane. She also noted that they will be seeking additional funding for the sidewalk from Railroad Street to Main Street. Carla Stackhouse stated "Erie Street is not wide enough for a bike lane."

Resident Stanley Zory questioned Councilwoman Bean based on recent developments did she plan on staying on council. Councilwoman Bean responded she would be staying. Mr. Zory proceeded to poll council as to their support for Councilwoman Bean and her seat on borough council. Councilman Lesjack stated that it was a personal matter Councilwoman Bean was going through and has nothing to do with council, Mr. Zory responded that it is personal but it is basically a conviction of fraud of tax payer money. Councilman Lesjack stated that Councilwoman Bean was not convicted yet. Mr. Zory addressed Councilwoman Bean if she had plead guilty, she responded that he knew. Councilman Scalzo stated he was not sure what could be done other than wrestle with her to keep her out of here. Mr. Zory proceeded to ask if anyone wanted to go on record with their opinion. Councilwoman Lazier stated she stood by Councilwoman Bean 100%. President DeGonzague responded that according to the Borough Code it was not a felony charge and Councilwoman Bean could retain her position on council. Mr. Zory stated he was not asking council to force her out, he was asking council to go on record individually with their support for Councilwoman Bean retaining her seat or against her retaining her seat. President DeGonzague stated council would not be answering his poll.

The speaker stated her name was Donna and she was a resident of Pennsylvania trying to decide if she wanted to purchase a house in this town. That woman was Councilwoman Bean's mother and spoke in defense of her daughter; stating people will never know the real story behind the legal issues against her daughter. Stating her daughter has worked very hard for the Forest City Borough Council for six years and never took a dime from the borough. When the residents in attendance realized the woman was Councilwoman Bean's mother, the audience became unruly. President DeGonzague gaveled several times trying to regain order.

After much gaveling a small amount of order was gained and resident Jason Oblenus asked to be recognized to speak again. President DeGonzague replied he had already given public comment. Mr. Oblenus replied so, it's only 6:30. Mr. Oblenus stated he just heard Councilwoman Bean hold the police responsible for their actions but refuses to hold herself responsible for her actions. Councilwoman Bean asked Mr. Oblenus what he was referring to. Mr. Oblenus stated how many people did you hire; you should have this information. Much discussion back and forth with multiple people speaking at once. Mr. Oblenus closing statement to Councilwoman Bean; the only person in this room standing up for you is Councilwoman Lazier so that should tell you something. V.P. Cost told Mr. Oblenus; that is not true. I will keep my opinion to myself. President DeGonzague told Mr. Oblenus that was not necessary. V.P. Cost chimed in; I will keep my opinion to myself. Mr. Oblenus became loud and disorderly telling V.P. Cost; you are a part of council and I am the public and you are supposed to represent me. President DeGonzague gaveled several times trying to regain order. President DeGonzague reiterated that according to the Borough Code it was not a felony charge and Councilwoman Bean could retain her position on council. Councilwoman Lazier spoke in Councilwoman Bean's defense stating the Councilwoman Bean was just approved for the same benefits she was charged with obtaining fraudulently; with adding Jeff's income and name to

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the application. The only thing Councilwoman Bean is guilty of is not listing Jeff's name and income on the application. Somebody has it out for her or they are trying make an example out of her. Councilwoman Lazier stated 95% of this town is guilty of defrauding the welfare or government.

Councilman Scalzo and V. P. Cost stated they will not be going on the record with any statement until they are given all the facts in Councilwoman Bean's case and for that reason alone. The meeting was chaotic and disorderly at this point; President DeGonzague gaveled several times try and regain order. Councilwoman Bean announced she would like to make a comment. Councilwoman Bean stated everyone is attacking me and no one knows exactly what I plead guilty to. If anyone would like to know I would be more than happy to sit down with them and explain. Resident Jason Oblenus spoke out but Councilwoman Bean quickly snapped; "Mr. Oblenus you had your chance to speak twice without interruptions please let me speak. Quit interrupting me because you get pissed off when we interrupt you, so sit there and let me talk." Mr. Oblenus kept speaking President DeGonzague gaveled to obtain order to no avail; finally asking Chief Foley to please escort Mr. Oblenus out of the meeting. Chief Foley responded to President DeGonzague; sorry, will not. Mayor Glinton responded to President DeGonzague that Mr. Oblenus was a tax payer and would stay in the meeting. President DeGonzague reiterated; Chief Foley, Council President is giving a direct order; Chief Foley please escort Mr. Oblenus out of the meeting. Chief Foley responded I am following the chain of command and listening to the Mayor Glinton. President DeGonzague said to Chief Foley, you know this is grounds for suspension. Mayor Glinton responded on what grounds? President DeGonzague said for not following a direct order from council. Things quieted down; Councilwoman Bean asked Jason Oblenus if she was ok to speak, he responded he was not in charge. Councilwoman Bean continued, everyone knows my story, I am not hiding anything if you want to know anything just come and ask me. But I will tell you something; there's litigation going on right now with the Mayor Glinton and ex-Main Street Coordinator Paul Daugevelo. They are suing the borough; this is a public issue costing the tax payers money. Councilwoman Bean asked the Mayor Glinton why he was suing the borough to which he responded I am not suing the borough.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced the next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to adjourn. V.P. Cost offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Lesjack, all responded "aye," none opposed. The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.