

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY – JUNE 1, 2020 6:00 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER** – President Cost welcomed everyone, the asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL** taken: present – President Nick Cost, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council members Chris DeGonzague, Joann Matarese, Robert Lesjack, Tracey Lazier & Amy Bean. Also present: Mayor Christopher Glinton & Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

President Cost opens the floor for public comment – Mr. Jason Obelenus asked what the borough has done to address the pandemic, asking if a site is available if there is a need for mass quarantine. President Cost & Councilman DeGonzague responded, “Protective equipment has been collected, information has been provided to the public, contact with Emergency Management at the county level continues, the office has been restricted to public traffic, all necessary distancing & masking recommendations are being followed with our employees. Mr. Obelenus asked about a designated quarantine site. President Cost answered, “That’s part of the Emergency Management Coordinator’s responsibilities.” Obelenus asked about food distributions, President Cost replied, “That continues to be done at the Polish Church with the Food Pantry supplies.”

Paul Lukus questioned the expenses reported as part of the Fire/Emergency support offered by the Borough. He argued that several things should be listed under infrastructure or borough expenses, i.e., hydrants. Borough Treasurer Vannan responded that these line items have been associated with the report given to Mrs. Mihelc since before her time and are identified as those accounts based on DCED recommendations for budgeting. This will be checked with the auditors and adjusted accordingly if Lukus’ argument is correct.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**ADMINISTRATION:** (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from May 11, 2020. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion, all responded “Aye”. Motion carried. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve the May Treasurer’s Report. Councilman DeGonzague seconded. Roll Call vote – 7 in favor, none opposed.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

May Public Works Report was offered for review. President Cost announced that there is a Curbside yard waste pick-up on Monday, June 8 & Thursday, June 11. No plastic bags, place out by 7:00 a.m., see the website for further details, [www.forestcityborough.com](http://www.forestcityborough.com).

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

Councilwoman Bean reported that a \$250 grant was received for Main Street flowers. Thank you to the Mountain View Garden Club volunteers who filled the pots along Main Street. A meeting was held with Gus for the Building Arts Grant “Valley in Motion” on May 20 to discuss which buildings may receive the murals.

Councilwoman Bean reminded everyone about the Primary Election, she urged everyone to “Get our & Vote”.

Councilwoman Bean addressed the furlough of Main Street coordinator, Paul Daugevelo, citing that he has continued to meet with her and he continues to be involved behind the scenes. She asked that he be reinstated. Councilwoman Lazier disagreed and asked this be tabled until the members could discuss this further. President Cost scheduled an “Executive Session” for personnel issues with this immediately following the meeting.

**PARKS & RECREATION** (Tracey Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier announced the following events:

A Balloon Release at Kennedy Park on June 2 at 10:15 to remember the recent drowning victim, a student at Forest City;

A free Chicken & Biscuit Dinner at Kennedy Park from 11:30 to 1:00 sponsored by D.G.’s Do Gooders.

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The Richmondale Hunting Club will hold a free Venison Dinner on 6/13 from 11:30 to 1:00 at Kennedy Park;

The Farmers' Market will begin on July 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and continue through October on the third Sunday of each month.

The Chicken BBQ is on Sunday, August 2 starting at noon. Tickets are \$10 and available from Board members and a few other locations around town. The fishing derby is tentative, more details forthcoming.

Councilwoman Lazier asked if weed killer and better maintenance around the pavers could be done. President Cost said, "I'm working on that, red stone will be added around the flag pole, there are more trees to be planted and the benches will be painted. Public works department are working on all of these things. Mikloiche will return to finish filling and seeding. The basketball court will start on 6/15 and should be done for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend in time for the 3 vs. 3 Tournament." Councilwoman Lazier added that the concession stand will be stocked and open for the tournament and asked for volunteers. No definite info on fireworks at this point.

Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the purchase of a two bay ADA compliant wheelchair swing set with a wheelchair swing and a pediatric swing for up to \$3,000. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. The roll call vote was seven in favor, none opposed.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT:** (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague provided a Code Enforcement Report for May 2020. Councilman DeGonzague reported that he is working with owners of two Main Street buildings on façade repairs. All complaints must be in writing on the forms available in the office or on the Borough's website.

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

Councilman Lesjack thanked everyone for their help & cooperation through this COVID crisis. In an effort to help give the 2020 graduating class something special, with Council's approval he will place mylar balloons on the parking meters throughout town.

Councilman Lesjack asked to open discussion about air conditioning for the third floor and replace the heating units which are quite loud. President Cost asked him to research it and get back to council with a proposal and a couple of bids. If it looked like it would be over the bid limit of \$21K, it would require advertising. President Cost said, "We can't act on this without knowing the cost."

Councilman Lesjack added, "Inspired by the Palette Pals, I've painted something for Pentecost Hall as well to add to their collection."

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

May 2020 Police Report and the Vandling invoice for June patrols was distributed. New Hire – Part-time patrolman – Vincent Mezick of Honesdale – 3 yrs. Exp. - \$14.50/hr. Councilwoman Lazier offered a motion to hire, Councilwoman Bean seconded. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

Bids for repairs to the 2014 Chevy – R.B. Fries - \$1,335. or M&M Auto - \$719.75 Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve repairs at M&M Auto for \$719.75. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

A refund check for \$2,925 was issued to the Borough by R.B. Fries for a warranty purchased from them that proved to be invalid for a police vehicle.

**NEW BUSINESS:** (President Cost)

President requested the purchase of two flag poles for Coal Miners' Memorial - \$135, plus shipping. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted to approve in a roll call vote – 7 to 0. President Cost asked Council to approve the removal of trees around the memorial. All voted aye in agreement with the request.

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President Cost noted that the plaque on the memorial appears to be loose, originally installed by Mr. Ed Bognatz, he would ask his son if it can be secured and get a price for the next meeting.

Approval to pay for a 4'X12' vinyl banner – “Congratulations to Forest City Graduates” - \$148.16. Councilwoman Bean made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. The roll call vote was 7 to 0 in favor.

Paving bid from Prince Excavating - \$4,766 – (3) locations - 900 Susq. St., 700 block of Railroad St. & 800 block of Main Street. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to accept the bid from Prince Excavating. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. Roll Call vote – seven in favor, none opposed.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE:**

A farewell letter from Solicitor Paul Smith was shared, expressing his thanks to the council and waiving his fees for services provided from January through May as furtherance of his civic duty. President Cost commented, “Paul has served the borough well and he will be missed, it is we who thank him.”

Letter from Paul Lukus, Forest City Fire Department expressing his concern over line items in the 2019 budget. Ms. Vannan responded that the Chart of Accounts is determined by the DCED and the auditors verify that these items are in the proper accounts. President Cost said, “We will look into further and get back to you.” Ms. Vannan confirmed that she would discuss Mr. Lukus’ concerns with the auditors.

Letter from Attorney Jeffrey Levine regarding his interest in the Solicitor’s position and his disappointment in not having been considered for the appointment. Councilwoman Bean asked if the personnel committee had met with him. President Cost responded, “The COVID situation made it difficult to hold meetings or schedule interviews. But he also felt strongly that the borough would benefit from using someone who’s office is in the borough. Other members agreed.”

An Invitation from Susq.Co. Conservation Annual Awards Banquet was received. It will be on 10/15/2020 – RSVP by 9/30/20 - \$18/person. Anyone wishing to attend, please let Ms. Vannan know.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENTS or QUESTIONS:** (President Cost)

Ann Stefanov, 417 Railroad Street, complained about the quad & side-by-side traffic continues to increase around her home, the noise is excessive. She noted that she had witnessed a police car parked at the Emergency Services building and they (the police) do nothing to control these offenders.

Paul Lukus asked Chris DeGonzague about Code Violations, Councilman DeGonzague said he would follow-up on it. Jason Obelenus asked if there is a formal procedure. He was advised to submit his complaint in writing and Councilmember DeGonzague would respond.

Paul Daugevelo said he is working with Superintendent Aquilina on the picture banners for the graduates. The school is paying for it. Bob Tedesco & Wally Miller are putting them up.

Kathy Kernoschak asked why the Fishing Derby wasn’t happening. Mayor Glington responded, “I don’t know at this point what the restrictions will be, so for now it’s on hold.”

There was a question about the hours of the Borough’s office workers. President Cost responded, “Due to the pandemic the hours were adjusted to limit exposure, but both have different duties and I need both to keep things going.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Cost)

The next scheduled Meeting will be held on Monday, July 6, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All responded “Aye”. Meeting ended at 7:05 p.m.