

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: (Nicholas Cost, Vice President).

V.P. Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone and all stood for the "Pledge of Allegiance".

ROLL CALL:

Present: V.P. Cost, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Joann Matarese, Tracey Lazier, Christopher DeGonzague, Amy Bean, Mayor Glington, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan. President Lesjack monitored the meeting by phone.

FINANCIAL SERVICES PRESENTATION:

Josh Perry, Financial Advisor from Edward Jones Investments presented Council with information on the latest interest rates on Certificates of Deposit; all Federally insured for up to \$250K. The ability to purchase CDs from many different banks gives E. Jones an advantage over local banks. Rates were from 1% to 3.25% depending on the length of time from 3 months to 5 years. Three accounts being considered (2 from HNB & 1 from FNB) were currently earning less than a 2-tenths of a %. These would be invested in the highest yielding accounts with multiple banks. The borough could access the interest without fees. Councilman Scalzo asked, "How does Edward Jones make their fees?" Mr. Perry answered, "The fees come out on the money over the guaranteed interest, the net is the interest earnings, there are no other fees unless early withdrawal is needed." The decision to close the three accounts and transfer funds with Resolutions 4, 5 & 6 to Edward Jones would be discussed later in the meeting. Vice-President Cost thanked Mr. Perry for his presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kameen asked about the public works opening with Mr. Tedesco's retirement. V. P. Cost responded that Wally Miller would likely be promoted to the Supervisory position, which will be on the table for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from May 2, 2022. President Lesjack seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman offered a motion to accept the Minutes from a "Special Meeting" held May 26th. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion, all responded aye. None opposed.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for MAY 2022. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with cash receipts totaling \$290,423.33 and Disbursements totaling \$137,159.40. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, all in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for MAY 2022 was offered for the record. Agility equipment was installed in the Dog Park, the cost of the Auger rented from Barhites was covered by a donation from the F.C. Lions Club. Recycling donation totaled \$203. Yard waste pickup totaled one load. A storm drain near Adam's Body Shop was repaired with 450 lbs. of Sakrete. Parking lines & crosswalks on Main Street were painted. Put up flags on Main Street honoring 2022 Graduates.

Bob Tedesco submitted a letter with his intent to retire as Public Works Supervisor effective July 29, 2022. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to accept his resignation with sincere regret, thanking him for his many years of dedicated service. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. Councilman Scalzo noted that something will be done in recognition of his 15 years of service.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve and advertise the help wanted ad for a full-time maintenance/public works employee at \$17/hour. President Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted in

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favor and the motion carried. The ad will run in the F.C. News and be posted on the Borough website. Deadline for applications – June 30, 2022.

Councilman Scalzo presented a quote from Prince Excavating, LLC for three locations in the borough that needed asphalt restoration, replacement of a swale and curbing for \$6,435. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve the bid and proceed with the work. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote – seven to zero. The motion carried.

A bid for specs on a sink hole in the 900 block of Susquehanna St. for \$2,000 for the initial project research and site visit from JHA Engineering was presented. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to approve the bid and proceed. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All responded yes to a roll-call vote. The motion carried.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Nick Cost)

Councilwoman Matarese motioned to purchase two air conditioners at a cost of around \$600 for the office space occupied by Cindy and Sharon. Councilwoman Lazier seconded the motion a roll call vote 7-0 in favor; none opposed, motion carried.

Council voted in favor of placing an ad in the F.C. News for a part-time Janitorial position for the Borough Building at \$15/hr. The motion was made by Councilwoman Matarese and seconded by Councilman Lesjack. The ad will also be placed on the Borough’s website.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Bean introduced Gus Fahey who explained how he has administered C & E Development programs in other municipalities. He presented a tentative budget for the distribution of COVID money to local businesses who qualify for Façade improvements to their storefronts on the Main Street. Details still to be worked out, but a number of businesses have expressed interest in this opportunity and Mr. Fahey would prepare the guidelines, monitor progress, determine eligibility, etc. for a percentage (8%) of distributed funding. He indicated that he also had discussed the plan with an Architect (Mike Muller) who would be willing to advise and support owners at a discounted rate. Mr. Fahey, Amy Bean, Paul Daugevelo and Sharon Vannan will work out additional details for approval from council as the plans progress. Based on available funds, the cost for Mr. Fahey’s participation would be up to \$3,900. Additionally, all of the businesses on Main Street would be surveyed for their input and level of interest. Originally intended for the 300 to 600 blocks of Main Street, Councilwomen Lazier and Bean expressed their plans to extend this to all Main Street businesses so that no one would be excluded. Meetings to include anyone interested will be held. Future input from Council would determine a cap and the percentage of reimbursement for each project. Councilwoman Bean made a motion to approve moving forward with Mr. Fahey’s assistance and approve his proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed.

At Ms. Bean’s request, The F.C. Outdoor Town’s Action Team addressed Council with their plans for the future development of the Main Street and their wish to be recognized as an Advisory Board to the Community & Economic Development Committee, similar to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board. They added that they already meet monthly, maintain minutes and will communicate regularly with the borough liaison from the Borough Council. The request will be researched and if allowed, a Resolution will be developed and reviewed by the Solicitor for the next meeting for Council’s consideration.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier reported that there was damage done to the newly installed handicap swing at Kennedy Park. She stated, “This is so outrageous, and will not be tolerated. Anyone caught causing damage to the park will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.”

Councilwoman Lazier noted that the purchase of sand for the beach area at Kennedy Park had been approved for \$2,500 at May’s meeting. She was now making a motion to approve an additional

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\$2,500 to \$3,500 to cover the cost of labor, materials (weed barrier, wood, drain tile) and equipment to be used to prepare the beach area in a way that would keep the sand from being washed into the lake. Stephen Mikloiche will complete the project and submit a bill that will include the sand upon completion. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion. A roll-call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. Payment will be issued from the Parks & Recreation fund raising Account.

Councilwoman Lazier reported that the specs on the bathrooms are still being prepared. V.P. Cost said they should be available for the next meeting.

There will be a 3on3 Basketball Tournament at Kennedy Park on Sunday, July 3rd, registration at noon, tip-off at 1:00 p.m. Proceeds will be split between the Kennedy Park and the American Legion.

Councilwoman Lazier thanked Nicole Gordon for her recent donation to go toward equipment at Kennedy Park. Mr. Kameen asked, "What equipment?". Councilwoman Lazier responded, "We'll let everyone know when we get more specifics."

Councilwoman Lazier announced the resignation of Michelle Miller from the Parks & Recreation Board with a motion to accept. She thanked Mrs. Miller for her service. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. All voted in favor, none opposed, the motion carried.

CODE ENFORCEMENT:

Councilman DeGonzague announced an invitation from PEMA to municipalities to participate in the update process for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. The virtual meeting will be Wednesday, June 22, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Everyone has a copy of the email, so please try to participate if you are available.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

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

The Code Enforcement report was distributed. Mayor Glinton asked Stephanie Sojka-Reisch to return the Code Enforcement Badge. Ms. Sojka-Reisch explained that she does not know what happened to the badge, "It's lost". Councilman DeGonzague said that he has a CEO Badge, but that he purchased it personally and does not know what happened to the one purchased by the borough. The mayor reported that the police are the acting Code Enforcement office and that they need to be able to do their job. It seems that the same couple of people are writing multiple complaints and the Mayor asked, "Please let them do their job." Police business will always take priority over Code Enforcement. They will accept phone calls and/or anonymous complaints and will do the best they can to resolve any issues that they are able to deal with. Several have been resolved, one lead to a citation.

The mayor thanked the police department for the coverage at the Memorial Day Event.

A resignation from Part-time officer Daniel Coulthard was presented to Council, effective 5/21/22. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to accept his resignation, seconded by Councilwoman Matarese, all voted "aye", none opposed. Councilwoman Bean asked about the vest purchased for him. "It will be turned in and re-purposed", replied Chief Foley. V.P. Cost asked Councilwoman Bean to follow-up with Coulthard to see if he is available for an "Exit interview".

The mayor expressed his thanks to Kathy & Elaine Nealon for a donation to the Holiday Light fund "In memory of Marian Franceski". V.P. Cost also expressed his thanks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

A motion to adopt Resolution #4-2022 to close and transfer the Sewer Certificate of Deposit held at Honesdale National Bank to Edward Jones Investments was made by Councilwoman Matarese and seconded by Councilman Scalzo. It will be placed in a CD with a current rate of 3.25%. Roll call vote – 7 to 0, motion carried.

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Councilman Scalzo made a motion to adopt Resolution #5-2022 to close and transfer the Sewer Reserve checking account held at First National Bank to Edward Jones Investments to be invested in a CD at 3.25%. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. The roll call vote was six in favor, one opposed (President Lesjack). The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to adopt Resolution #6-2022 to close and transfer the R.E. Capital Improvements/Equipment held at Honesdale National Bank to Edward Jones Investments to put into a shorter-term CD (6 to 9 months) so that these funds would be available if needed for the roof repairs or for the sidewalk project planned for the east side of Main Street. Seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, a roll call vote found five in favor, two opposed (President Lesjack and Councilman DeGonzague). The motion carried.

President Cost reported that the plans to designate Welsh Road as a one-way street are indefinitely tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Scalzo made a motion for an ad to be published in the F.C. News for the sale of the 2014 Chevy Impala police car with bidding to start at \$550. President Lesjack seconded the motion. Seven responded yes in a roll call vote, none opposed.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

V.P. Cost opened the floor for public comment.

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch asked if a signed written complaint is still required. Chief Foley replied, "Come in and we'll review the complaint and decide if a written complaint is needed." Ms. Sojka-Reisch asked about a RTK request for information on how much was spent and for what on Pentecost Hall renovations. Ms. Vannan replied that it was emailed back the next morning, but would check to make sure it had gone to the right email. Ms. Sojka-Reisch stated that her email was not @gmail, it was @mail.com. Ms. Vannan apologized and said, "It will be resent."

John Kameen complained about the noise from ATV's at Kartri Sales. The property is being used for demo purposes and now it's attracting more people who think it's okay. Chief Foley responded that they have charged a few people and are practicing zero-tolerance when it comes to ATV's. The comment was made that it's Kartri property and maybe they should be asked about it.

Eric Burns asked why the police patrol cars were spotted outside the borough. Chief Foley responded that travel outside the borough is generally due to police business.

John Kowalewski, 1201 Main Street, thanked the police department for their involvement with following up on his complaints and things are moving forward. V.P. Cost thanked Mr. Kowalewski for his comments.

CORRESPONDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Due to the Fourth of July Holiday, the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by President Lesjack. All responded "aye". Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.