

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – JULY 3, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: (President Robert Lesjack).

President Lesjack called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., welcomed everyone and reminded everyone that the public meeting policy which will be strictly enforced. All stood for the “**Pledge of Allegiance**”.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Lesjack, V.P. Nicholas Cost, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Chris DeGonzague, Amy Bean, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Arriving at 6:08 p.m.: Councilman DeGonzague (missed the 1st & 2nd roll-call votes).

Absent: Councilwomen Joanne Matarese, Tracey Lazier and Mayor Ginton.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

V.P. Cost made a motion to accept the Minutes from June 2023, seconded by Councilman Scalzo. Motion carried with approval from all, none opposed

V.P. Cost offered a motion to accept the June, 2023 Treasurer’s Report with cash receipts totaling \$291,807.96 and Disbursements totaling \$116,261.58. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Motion carried in a roll-call vote with four in favor none opposed.

Impact Fee allocation received 6/20/23 - \$182,146.70.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

Councilman Scalzo provided the June2023 Public Works Report: Public Works crew painted crosswalks for four days, installed the signs at K.P. for the 2023 swim season; power washed the windows on the Borough Bldg.; repaired the salt spreader on the F550; Trimmed trees on Delaware Street; weed whacked at K.P.; Repaired the storm drain on South Street near Hornbeck’s.

Councilman Scalzo proposed a motion to approve a proposal from JHA to increase their fees for Upper N. Main Street by \$2,700 for additional work. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with a four to zero response.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier was not in attendance. Council proceeded to address two of the four items listed under Bldgs. & Grounds. V.P. Cost made a motion to advertise for bids for the Borough Roof. KBA would be providing copy for publication in the F.C. News and posted on the borough website. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote results – five in favor, none opposed.

V.P. Cost announced that due to limited office space in the building, he was making a motion that the office formerly known as the mayor’s office now will be shared office space between Code Enforcement and the Mayor. CEO Reisch and the Mayor will provide a schedule for when each would use the office and coordinate their efforts to accommodate each other’s schedule. Councilwoman Bean seconded the motion, noting that “There is a potential for confidential information and both will need locked file cabinets. All agreed. The vote was five in favor, none opposed. CEO Reisch commented that there is a locked file already there. Councilwoman Bean said, “Let us know if another file cabinet is needed or another lock will be purchased for the existing cabinet.”

Two items on the agenda were tabled – Cameras & phones for the building, the second item was to discuss the sidewalk to curb area along Center Street, until more information was available.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Bean read a list of upcoming events from her phone – Trail Town Festival – Saturday, August 5, 1:00 p.m. ribbon cutting at the Interfaith Store at 500 Main Street, 2:00 p.m. Distinguished Citizen presentation, cabbage & noodles will be sold at the Historical Society Building from 3 to 9; Vendors from 3 to 9; music from 4 to 6; Lynette’s Twirlers at 6:30; Lite Parade at 9:00 p.m. with fireworks to follow.

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Reported that the Forest City News was presented with a check for \$1,000 from the Façade program covered by the ARPA funds. The next meeting for the Outdoor Town Action Team will be Thursday, June 6 in the Borough Building.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Vice President Cost)

V.P. Cost offered the Parks & Recreation Board Report: A big thank you to the Forest City Community, the volunteers and Zazzera's Market for providing lunch for Kiddie's Day and the donation of a bike. It was a huge success with over 100 kids in attendance. Face painting & the Reptile Show was enjoyed by all.

K.P. is now in compliance with all of the requirements required by the PA Dept. of Health and were reissued the beach/swimming permit. K.P. is open to the public from dawn to dusk, this applies to the entire park. Due to recent vandalism, P&R Advisory Board is asking Council to approve the purchase of cameras for the park not to exceed \$1,000. Donated funds available in the Parks & Rec account will be used. V.P. Cost made a motion to okay the purchase, seconded by Councilman DeGonzague, a roll call vote found five in favor, none opposed.

The next event is the vendor market on Sunday, July 16, deadline for vendors is July 7th. No food vendors, please. The Park's Concession stand will be open with food & beverages available for purchase. The gates open at 8:30 for vendor setup. There is a \$10 non-refundable donation for each space, applications are on the website www.forestcityborough.com, at the borough office or by emailing fcparcsrec@gmail.com.

The Chicken BBQ is Sunday, August 6th from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. Drive-thru Take-out only. Tickets can be purchased for \$12 from Ros-Al Floral, DG's Bar, Cube Auto, the Borough office or any Parks & Rec member. Usually a sell-out, so get your tickets soon. The Fishing Derby will be held prior to the BBQ with registration at 8:30 a.m.

CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Councilwoman Lazier)

With the absence of Councilwoman Lazier, CEO Stephanie Sojka-Reisch provided a verbal report on Code Enforcement activity for June. Two certified/return receipt letters were sent out, one was returned "undeliverable". The one that responded was given 30-days to correct the violation. The CEO indicated that she started a journal and will keep council informed. She reported that there are enough file cabinets in the shared office, but one may need a lock. She worked from home for the past few weeks. She submitted a letter to the PA Ethics Commission with an inquiry about holding both an elected position for the County and serving as the appointed CEO for the Borough. She was advised by the solicitor to hold off until an official response was received from the Ethics Committee. President Lesjack added, "This concern is the result of a letter from a concerned individual suggesting that holding both positions was in violation of state & borough code, the letter was sent to the state to get an opinion on this issue."

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Glinton)

Mayor Glinton was not available for this meeting. In his absence Assistant Chief Dzanis was available. The June 2023 Police Report was distributed.

A request from the Mayor & Main Street Coordinator, Paul Daugevelo was made for Council to approve the application to PennDot for a road closure for the light parade to be held on August 5th. Councilwoman Bean challenged the request asking if this is done for every event. She was backed up by Councilman DeGonzague, who stated that he should be involved in the process since he is responsible for Community Health & Safety. Both complained that neither were made aware of this in advance and questioned the validity of the request. Discussion stalled the approval.

Discussion followed complaints received about ATV's driving hazardously and endangering residents. Also, regarding the recent spat of lawn tractors seen on Main Street and Main Street Sidewalks, one pulling children in the back of the device. Vice President Cost noted, "All of this is being investigated and will not be tolerated. ATV's Quads, lawn tractors are not allowed to travel on Main Street or sidewalks. To get to Turkey Hill for gas, come down Welsch Road, cross at the crosswalk, then get back off the Main. There are residents who need to move their equipment to mow lawns, but a lawn tractor is not meant to be used for transportation." President Lesjack added, "Absolutely no children should be towed at the back of these machines." The police will be following up on this and know who the violators are. V.P. Cost stated, "Machines may be impounded

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starting next week.” Councilwoman Bean asked, “Can I report to police the individuals that are operating on the streets that have no licenses or operators driving with suspended licenses?” “If caught by police, they will be cited”, responded A.C. Dzanis.

When questioned about the computers recently installed in the police cars by Councilwoman Bean and Councilman Degonzague. A.C. Dzanis responded that the equipment is operational, is being used for checking licenses, registrations & plates, but the department is waiting for the installation of software that will give them the ability to file citations and other features, and that training will be happening in the next week or two.

SOLICITOR:

Solicitor McAndrew prepared rules & regulations regarding the white boards. Comments that are derogatory or inflammatory will not be allowed. No charge for posting local events for non-profits, schools, local organizations, or the borough, however, a fee for private messages, birthdays, anniversaries, local business advertisements, etc. will incur a charge. Initially \$100/week was suggested, but following discussion, it was recommended by V.P. Cost that the price be less, possibly \$25/week. President Lesjack asked, “Should the price be different for residents vs. out-of-towners? Solicitor McAndrew asked council to look over the material and a resolution will be prepared for the next meeting. V.P. Cost made a motion to adopt the \$25/week fee to be included in the Resolution, seconded by Councilman Scalzo, a roll call vote found four in favor and one (Councilman Degonzague) opposed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter from KBA regarding the structural integrity and safety of the sidewalks over a vault at 510 Main Street was read. Core drilling indicated a competent concrete depth. Plans to fill in the vault will be a part of the sidewalk project in 2024, until then KBA approved the sidewalk to remain open, however the use of heavy equipment for snow removal or vehicle loading on the sidewalk is prohibited. Manual snow removal or a walk-behind snow blower is recommended.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS & QUESTIONS:

None

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular monthly Council Meeting will be on Monday, August 7, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

V.P. Cost offered a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman DeGonzague, all responded in favor, none opposed. The meeting ended at 6:51 p.m.

RECONVENE:

Upon the request of Secretary Vannan and an okay from Solicitor McAndrew, Council reconvened momentarily to confirm their approval of the request from Mayor Glinton & Main Street Coordinator, Paul Daugevelo for a road closure for the Light Parade on August 5th celebrating the “Trail Town Festival”. Road closures must be submitted not less than 30 days prior to the event, so this needs to be submitted in the next day or two. Discussion and negative comments earlier had pre-empted a decision by council. A motion to submit the Road Closure to PennDot was offered by Councilwoman Bean and seconded by Councilman Scalzo. The response was four in favor, one opposed with no explanation (Councilman DeGonzague)

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn, V.P. Cost, seconded by Councilman Scalzo, all replied “Aye”, meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.