

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022**

CALL TO ORDER: (Robert Lesjack, President).

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

ROLL CALL:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kameen opened public comment with his opinion on the hourly rate offered for the full-time public works position, saying it was too low to attract a candidate. Council agreed to meet in Executive Session at a later date to discuss this employment issue, interviews have not begun yet.

Deb McNamara (Action Team member) presented some of the plans that the Team hoped to initiate in the coming months. Asked the Council to support their efforts by recognizing them as a Board. She reported that the next meeting of the Action Team will be on Thursday, July 7th at 5:30 at the Elegante Restaurant.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to accept the Minutes from June, 2022. V.P. Cost seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with cash receipts totaling \$236,218.08 and Disbursements totaling \$109,879.86. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, five in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for JUNE 2022 was offered the following: Recycling Donations for May/June - \$432, repaired storm drain Center Street at Borough Bldg, replaced the vacuum cleaner motor, hung the 2022 graduate banners, installed signs at K.P., Barricaded steps between Center & Delaware following the report of a recent injury, and received the benches at K.P.

Work will begin soon on the three locations to be paved previously approved at the June meeting. Dennis Kutch (KBA) met with Bernie Scalzo & Nick Cost to determine what is needed for the steps leading to Delaware Street.

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to promote Wally Miller to the position of Public Works Maintenance Supervisor, replacing Bob Tedesco, at an increased hourly rate to begin immediately. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote, five to 0 in favor.

The response to the help wanted ad in the F.C. News was low, but interviews will begin in the coming weeks. Discussion about publishing in the Scranton Times was tabled, but "Indeed" would be considered, as well as the Wayne Independent which covers the Carbondale area. Councilman Scalzo stated that Wally Miller will be included in the interview process with the Personnel Committee.

Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve a \$100 gift certificate from the Speakeasy Restaurant in Union Dale in appreciation for his 15 years of service. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. All voted in favor, five to zero, and the motion carried.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Nick Cost)

V.P. Cost re-iterated Councilman Scalzo's report that they had met with Mr. Kutch (KBA) who provided a report (distributed to council) on his recommendations for the final plans for the aluminum stairway from Center to Delaware. They will follow-up with a cost for the project.

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Bean presented an update on the Main Street Façade Project. She, Paul Daugevelo and Sharon Vannan met with Mr. Fahey to review the policies. Mr. Fahey provided a flyer that will be given out to all of the Main Street business property owners over the next few weeks regarding a public meeting to be held on July 25 at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to approve the meeting and advertise the meeting in the F.C. News. V.P. Cost seconded the motion. All voted in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Councilwoman Bean provided council with Ordinance #521 – creating a Recreation Board to be known as the F.C. Outdoor Town Action Team to support the Community & Economic growth of Forest City and made a motion to advertise the Ordinance so that it could be considered for adoption at the August 1st meeting. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll-call vote, five to 0. The motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier was unavailable for the meeting, but in her absence, the initial plan for the bathroom renovations was distributed. The first phase, a drawing of the newly renovated bathrooms which will be reviewed and any revisions will be made. Once the drawing is approved, it will go to the MEP engineer who will finish construction documents for use in bidding & permitting.

No report was received on the 3 v. 3 Basketball Tournament held on July 3; concession stand proceeds were \$25.15

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Councilman DeGonzague)

There was nothing to report.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The JUNE 2022 police report and Code Enforcement Report were distributed for council's review.

Mayor Glinton recommended Charles Cavanagh for the position of part-time patrolman at a rate of \$17/hr. effective 7/5/2022. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to hire Mr. Cavanagh as a part-time patrolman at \$17/hr. The motion was seconded by V.P. Cost. All voted yes, five to zero. The motion carried.

Mayor Glinton submitted a letter to council requesting a road closure for the Light Parade to be held on Saturday, August 6, to be co-hosted by the Borough and the GFCBA. V.P. Cost offered a motion to approve the street closure. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. The vote was five in favor, none opposed. The motion carried. Ms. Vannan will submit the road closure permit application to PennDot.

Mayor Glinton offered his thanks to Wally for installing the 2022 Graduate banners on Main Street and commented how nice they looked.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

No bids have been received on the 2014 Chevy Impala police sedan following publication in the F.C. News. Alternative methods of advertising will be researched.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Eric Burns of Delaware Street reports that he has contacted an attorney over an alleged defamation, stating that as a citizen he has attended meetings and made RTK requests, never in uniform. He claims that a call was made to his commander accusing him of tail gating one of the part-time officers,

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and that she claims to have felt intimidated by Burns' actions. V.P. Cost responded, "If you were tail gating, that officer has the right to make a complaint." When asked her opinion by Mr. Burns, Solicitor McAndrew offered, "No comment". Mr. Burns continued to claim that he has received reports of two of the part-time officers responding to EMS calls while on duty. He continued to make accusations about things that he's witnessed and complaints he's heard about the police. Mr. Burns was quite agitated and continued to threaten the borough with a lawsuit. Mr. Burns expressed his discontent with the Council's failure to hire an individual who had been promised a job by the retired chief. The paperwork was incomplete at the time that this individual would have been considered for employment and it was not followed up on by that chief before his retirement in August 2021. President Lesjack thanked him and advised him to seek counsel if he felt he had some kind of case.

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch, Susquehanna St., expressed her concern over the \$39K spent to renovate the third floor and demanded to know what the Council's marketing plan was. President Lesjack responded that those funds were spent in over a four-year period from 2017 to 2021 and all funds were spent with the approval of Council. Ms. Sojka-Reisch asked how many signed contracts for the hall rental were received to date. She stated, "Too much was spent when all it needed was a good cleaning, the outside doesn't reflect what's inside, this could have saved the Borough money". She asked again how many contracts and President Lesjack responded, "None". She asked again, "What is the Borough's Marketing Strategy?" President Lesjack responded, "Only recently V.P. Cost has taken over the Buildings & Grounds Committee, but he will be working on that now." As she continued to repeat her questions, President Lesjack struck the gavel and thanked her for her thoughts.

CORRESPONDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

An invitation to the rural EMS issues Meeting to be held on July 14 at 6:00 p.m. at the Susq. Co. Public Safety Center in New Milford was extended to Council members and Mayor Glington.

The next Council meeting will be Monday, August 1, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by V.P. Cost. All responded "aye". Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.