

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 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”. President Lesjack began the meeting with a change to Committee appointments. Councilwoman Lazier will be chairing the Buildings & Grounds Committee and Councilman Cost will chair Parks & Recreation. He thanked them for their service and added that, “I know they will be a great benefit to their new Committee appointments.”

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Lesjack, V.P. Cost, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Absent: Mayor Ginton and Solicitor McAndrew.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kameen opened public comment by commemorating Diane Junior for her 33 years of service to the community and lamenting her recent passing. President Lesjack added, “She was loved by a lot of people, may she rest in peace.”

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch wanted to ask questions about Code Enforcement, but hold her questions & comments until second public comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Minutes from July, 6, 2022. V.P. Cost seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report with cash receipts totaling \$90,239.51 and Disbursements totaling \$87,335.30. Councilwoman Beam seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, seven in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

2022-2023 Glatfelter renewal rates for Liability/Auto/Property coverage \$43,012 – 8/1/22-8/1/23 and Workers’ comp rates from H.A.R.I.E. & SWIF - \$22,520 for Volunteer fire, and paid Emergency & Borough employees. All were approved by a seven to zero roll call vote.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for JULY 2022 was offered the following: Recycling Donations for July - \$273, submitted on 8/1/22. Purchased belts & blades for zero-turn mower, waiting for parts to service mower at 4-Season’s. Rented mower from Barhite’s Sales & Service, needed while Zero-turn mower is in for service. Replaced the electrical box near the gazebo at K.P., weather tight with ground-fault receptacle.

Councilman Scalzo reported that interviews are still being held for a full-time maintenance worker. The position will be advertised in the Tri-County Independent and on ZipRecruiter and the deadline extended to 8/19.

The curb on Grand Ave. & Railroad Street has been delayed due to UGI’s installation of gas lines.

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 8/2/22 for the Center Street Step. Interested contractors will tour the site, then proceed to bid.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Nick Cost)

V.P. Cost reported that a part-time cleaning person is still being sought. He also reported that roof repairs to the Borough Building are still on the top of the list. A meeting with KBA & PPL is planned.

In response to previous questions about marketing Pentecost Hall, Mr. Lesjack reported that he had held an “Open House”. Photos of the hall and rental details are also posted on the Borough’s website.

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Bean reported that a meeting held on 7/25, with Gus Fahey presenting, was well attended. Many applications for the Façade program have already been submitted and more are expected. The Design Committee were introduced, Mr. Tom Fitzsimmons and Ms. Katie Zefran will serve on the Committee and review all initial applications. Those chosen to proceed will fill out a more extensive application and are reminded that the deadline is August 5. This is a reimbursement-based program and participants will be required to submit paid receipts for a 50/50 reimbursement up to \$5,000.

Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #521_2022 to establish the F.C. Outdoor Town Action Team. Councilwoman Matarese offered a second and a roll-call vote found seven members in favor, none opposed. The following appointees were recognized by President Lesjack, Chair - Katie Zefran; Co-Chair - Deb McNamara; Secretary - Erin Debish; Grant Team Leader - Susie Atcavage; and Marketing Team Leader - Juliann Doyle. Meetings will be the first Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Elegante Restaurant. The "Action Team" Minutes for July 7, 2022 were distributed.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier thanked the Parks & Rec Board, most of whom she worked with during her time on this committee, indicating that she is excited to move on to Buildings & Grounds.

Vice-president Cost reported that plans for the bathrooms at K.P. were distributed and specs would be available soon so that the job could be advertised for bids.

V.P. Cost reminded everyone that the Chick BBQ and Fishing Derby are Sunday, August 7. Tickets may still be available, but were selling fast. The registration for the Fishing Derby is at 8:30 a.m. with the first cast at 9:00 a.m. "Hope to see everyone there, a lot of great prizes will be awarded in two age groups with free hot dogs & drinks for the kids."

Ideas are being sought to eliminate the problem with erosion of the beach area, much of the sand has washed out due to recent heavy rains. Any suggestions are welcome.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Councilman DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague reported the World Health Organization is issuing warnings about the spread of Monkey Pox. He will pass on information as it becomes available.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The JULY 2022 police report was distributed. Chief Foley had nothing to report for Code Enforcement. Chief Foley was called out of the meeting, so there was nothing else reported.

A flyer was distributed to announce the unveiling of the Forest City Trail Town Mural at 503 Main Street on Saturday, August 6 at 5:00 p.m. The Trail Town Light Parade sponsored by Mayor Ginton and the GFCBA that evening.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor McAndrew was unavailable for this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution #5-2022 to close FNB Sewer Reserve Account and transfer funds the FNB Cetera Financial Services to establish a Certificate of Deposit offering 3.25% was offered for consideration. V.P. Cost made a motion to approve and adopt Resolution #5-2022. The Resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Matarese. A roll call vote was taken, seven in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

F.C. Fire & Emergency requested a special meeting to be held on Thursday, August 11, 2022. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to approve the meeting and advertise in the F.C. News. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded in favor, the motion carried.

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CONTINUED BUSINESS:

No bids were received on the 2014 Chevy Impala police car. V.P. Cost made a motion to approve the sale of the vehicle for scrap. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll-call vote, seven in favor, none opposed. Councilman Scalzo would see what the area scrap yards (G&G Towing, Franceski's, etc.) would pay for the vehicle, taking the best price offered.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Stephanie Sojka-Reisch, 518 Lacka. Street noted that she was not available to attend the open house of Pentecost Hall, feared it would be too crowded. Asked again about the Borough's marketing strategy. President Lesjack responded, "Marketing through local media will be considered. She said that she would take up her Code Enforcement issues at a later date, because Chief Foley was called out of the meeting, so not available to question.

Joe Woody, 724 Main Street, joined by Tim Madden, asked Council to consider replacement of sidewalks in front of his house on the 700 block of Main Street. Tim Madden, who recently purchased a property next to Mr. Woody also questioned council about sidewalks. President Lesjack replied, "The only sidewalks being considered at this time are to be done with the use of a PA Multi-modal grant secured from PennDot. Waiting for specs from KBA to proceed." Councilman Scalzo will look into the existing sidewalk ordinance, but believed that maintenance and repairs are the responsibility of the property owners.

John Kowalewski, 1021 Main Street, reported that the property at 1177 Rear Main Street has been rented out and had failed a recent Rental Unit Inspection. He asked Council to follow up on it with NEIC.

Deanna Flood announced that Parks & Rec would hand over their involvement in the restoration of the Center Street Park to the Action Team. There is a bench that was purchased by the Borough and is at K.P. Ms. Flood and her husband had purchased a lighted flag pole and flag that they had donated, also available for the Action Team to use. President Lesjack offered to talk to the Action Team at their next meeting.

Kathy Kernoschak thanked Councilwoman Lazier for all her help during her involvement with the Parks & Rec Board. She also praised the police for stepping up their watch over K.P. and noted that there has been a decrease in the vandalism.

Brian Gasper, 329 Susq. St., expressed his concerns over the lack of consideration by police to responsible ATV operators, who are licensed and insured. "Police should be going after the bad guys." President Lesjack noted that he has experienced the "bad guys" speeding around his property, up the hill toward Kennedy Park. Reiterating what has been said in the past, it's illegal to operate these vehicles on the streets, they must be trailered. Comments from the audience asked that council consider designating certain roads that could be used, rather than forcing people to trailer their ATV or Quad for three blocks. Councilwoman Lazier suggested that Council members look at the ordinances.

Eric Burns, Delaware Street, began by commenting about President Lesjack limiting Ms. Sojka-Reisch and didn't seem to apply that rule to anyone else. President Lesjack responded, "That's at my discretion." Mr. Burns continued, "These illegal vehicles are affecting the "Quality of Life" at my home, using the roads to and from the Kartri parking lot, speeding down the hill to Turkey Hill. These vehicles are prohibited by PA Law." He continued by suggesting that police presence be increased to prevent the use of roads by ATV's. "Buy a trailer and use it." Deanna Flood suggested that the borough look into selling passes and designating specific streets. Councilman Scalzo said he would research this further.

CORRESPONDANCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President announced that a Special Public Meeting is scheduled for a F.C. Fire & Emergency status report on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Area municipalities will be invited to attend.

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Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Vice President Nick Cost offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Scalzo. All responded “aye”. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.