

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2022**

The **scheduled MS4 meeting for 5:30** was postponed until Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Lamereaux was unavailable to attend. This Special MS4 meeting will be combined with a Budget Workshop open to the public and will be advertised in the Forest City News.

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, Council Members Bernie Scalzo, Amy Bean, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Absent: Council members Nick Cost and Tracey Lazier

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Comment offered.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

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

Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to accept the August Treasurer’s Report with cash receipts totaling \$109,920.93 and Disbursements totaling \$100,127.57. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All Council members voted yes in a roll-call vote, five in favor, none opposed. Motion carried.

The 2023 Uniform and Non-Uniform MMO (pension obligation) were presented – Uniform - \$0, Non-Uniform-\$11,553, most will be covered by the 2023 annual State contribution. Motion to approve by Councilwoman Matarese, seconded by Councilman Scalzo. Roll call vote – five to zero in favor.

Announcement: The UC plan rate from PSAB has dropped from 5% (2022) to 2.85% for 2023.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Councilman Scalzo)

The Public Works report for August 2022 included August Recycling Donations- \$238. Zero turn mower rented from Barhite’s on 8/3 & 8/12, our mower is still at 4-Seasons for repairs. Weed whacked around Kennedy Park Lake for the upcoming fishing derby. Filled & patched a hole near the storm drain behind Adam’s Body Shop. Councilman Scalzo remarked on the complaint received about a sign on Railroad Street, that a resident said might be blocking the line of site for drivers. Councilman DeGonzague noted that the sign was placed there by the Trailer Park Management. Mayor Glinton said he would have Asst. Chief Dzanis check to see if the sign needs to be moved.

Due to the holiday weekend, a planned site visit to the sink hole on Susquehanna Street has been rescheduled.

Councilman Scalzo recommended Adam Robinson and offered a motion to confirm his employment as a full-time public works employee under the supervision of Wally Miller. Start date 9/19/22 at \$15/hour with benefits. The motion was seconded by Joann Matarese. The roll call vote was five in favor, none opposed.

One sealed bid was received for the Center Street step project. Councilman Scalzo opened the bid from FABCOR, Inc., Jessup, PA, which totaled \$81,357.50 for a two-flight alum. Staircase with alternative add-ons - \$4,661.38 for an ADA handrail and \$783.50 for a second gate at the north side of the

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mid-level landing. Total - \$86,802.38. The bid will be reviewed by Solicitor McAndrew and Dennis Kutch (KBA Engineering).

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Councilwoman Lazier)

Councilwoman Lazier was unavailable. In her absence, the request to revisit Pentecost Hall rental fees was tabled.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Councilwoman Bean)

Councilwoman Bean announced there will be a “Halloween on Main” on Wednesday, October 26 from 4 to 7, with multiple food vendors, a Witch parade, Ax throwing demo, costume contest, and the funds from pumpkin sales to be donated to the Holiday Light Fund.

She reported that she had been on vacation and was unable to attend the last FCOTAT meeting on 9/1/22. Minutes from the 8/4/22 meeting were distributed to council members. Mr. Fahey reported to the Action Team about the Façade Program, noting that 23 applications had been submitted and all were encouraged to proceed to the next phase of the application process. More details will be available at future Council meetings.

The Action Team asked Council to approve their application for a grant through the Endless Mts. Visitor’s Bureau due on 9/25/22 to begin the creation of a Sculpture Trail from the F.C. Trailhead leading up to the Main Street Businesses. Deb McNamara provided information about the project, noting that the GFCBA had agreed to provide funding, so there would be no cost to the borough. The sculptures would be abstract and there would be information as well about the WiFi access on the trail. Councilwoman Bean offered a motion to grant permission for the Borough to approve the grant application. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded “aye”, none opposed. The motion carried.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Councilman Cost)

Councilman Cost was unavailable, in his absence Councilman Scalzo shared his notes. The Chicken BBQ was a sell-out. There were 36 kids participating in the Fishing Derby. The largest fish caught was 12.5” catfish.

Joe Vasquez offered to paint Pickle Ball Lines on the Tennis court. Parks & Rec approved. The upcoming Vendor market and last for 2022 will be on September 18th. Trunk or Treat will be held at Kennedy Park on Saturday, October 29 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Next year’s vendor markets will be held in May July & September, dates to be determined later. Plowing at Kennedy Park this winter will be continued. The entrance to the circle and around will be done to benefit those who use the park in winter months.

A ceremony honoring Stan Meheletz for all the years he volunteered at Kennedy Park. A plaque will be hung on the building at Noon on September 17th.

The new playground equipment will be delivered and installed the week of September 12th.

Parks & Rec is requesting approval to purchase yellow perch not to exceed \$500 to stock the pond in October. A motion was offered, then it was noted by President Lesjack that this item was not on our agenda and therefor could not be voted on. Solicitor McAndrew agreed, so the request was tabled. It will be on the October agenda.

A new bridge will replace the existing bridge at the park over the spillway. Pleasant Mount Welding is donating their time and materials. It will be completed within three weeks and will include aluminum handrails and steps.

The public beach is closed effective Wednesday, September 7, 2022 – swimming should return around Memorial Day, 2023.

Bids for the K.P. restrooms will be advertised as soon as the final specs are received. Have not been finalized at this time.

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COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (Councilman DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague reported the our annual MS4 Report (Stormwater management) is due on 9/30/2022. He has been working with Dave Lamereaux (who unfortunately was not able to attend tonight's meeting as planned). Revisions to the PRP (Pollutant Reduction Plan) which includes the borough's efforts to reduce sediment and run-off into the Lackawanna River. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve this plan. Seconded by Councilwoman Matarese, all responded "aye". Mr. Lamereaux will attend the next scheduled "Special Public Meeting" to be held on Thursday, 9/22/22 at 6:00 p.m. to answer questions and provide information about the Borough's responsibilities with respect to reducing the pollution created by stormwater. With that goal in mind, Councilman DeGonzague asked Council to approve the purchase of (4) storm drain filters at a cost of around \$350, (2) 2x4 and (2) smaller, size to be determined. These are placed inside the storm drains to collect debris, rocks, sediment to reduce and/or eliminate blockages. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All responded in favor with a roll-call vote of five to zero, the motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

The August 2022 police report was distributed. Discussion on the direction Code Enforcement should take. Assist. Chief Dzanis commented that they are happy to help in the Code Enforcement efforts, but that the amount of follow-up is more than they can handle effectively and that it is a distraction from other police matters that must take precedence over Code Enforcement. Mayor Ginton added that he and the police are working on some guidelines that will be presented soon.

Mayor Ginton commended the police for a "Job well-done!". "They had quite an interesting weekend". He offered not addition details, but suggested that everyone read the Sunday Times to see an account of their involvement.

Asst. Chief Dzanis reported that requests have gone out to local agencies for assistance with the upcoming Steamtown Marathon. Response has been disappointing, but there is still time.

A letter from Mayor Ginton requesting a road closure from PennDot for the 500 Block of Main Street (Rt. #171) for "Witches on Main" event to be held on Wednesday, 10/26/22 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. was approved by Council. A motion from Councilwoman Bean was seconded by Councilman Scalzo and all members replied "aye", none opposed. The mayor's request was approved.

Mayor Ginton asked council to approve the use of Impact Fees to purchase (20) A-frame barricades for road safety & control at a cost of \$2,098 from Traffic Safety Warehouse. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve the purchase. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bean. The roll-call vote found five in favor, none opposed. The purchase was approved.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Marissa McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew had nothing to report.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Catherine Singer of Delaware Street, read from a letter she had prepared regarding the recent parking tickets that were being issued on Delaware Street. She complained about one officer in particular and argued that a warning should have issued before a ticket, "People have been parking that way forever, why all of sudden are tickets being issued?" Asst. Chief Dzanis defended the practice, "She is a very good officer who is permitted to use her discretion as are all officers, to ticket when there is a violation. Cars should be parked with the passenger side to the curb for safety reasons and so that a vehicle is not pulling out against the flow of traffic." Ms. Singer went on to ask the Borough to remove trees in the 700 block of Delaware that she was concerned were about to fall over. She said that there are wires running through the trees and so was advised to contact PP&L. Resident John Kowalewski also complained about the parking tickets asking, "Then what side of the street are we supposed to park on?"

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Jason Obelenus, a borough resident and Browndale volunteer Firefighter, asked if any decision was made about contributing to the FC Ambulance. President Lesjack replied that no decision has been made yet, but that it appeared that Vandling and Browndale were not likely to share the burden. Discussion continued with many comments pro and con. Mr. Obelenus offered information about “Volunteer Financial Services” who could analyze the current state of the Ambulance Services’ needs for a fee and provide a report for the Borough with their recommendations.

Deanna Flood, not a Forest City resident, added that Council needed to deal with this situation, that residents don’t get paid to make these decisions. President Lesjack suggested that a town meeting to get input from residents before just raising taxes was needed. President Lesjack said, “We are working on it and will continue to come up with a plan.” Councilwoman Bean added, “A committee needs to be created with one elected official from each borough and/or township to get together to act as a team, to weigh options and come up with a plan before any kind of public meeting is held.

CORRESPONDANCE:

An invitation to the Annual Susquehanna County Officials Convention for October 20, 2022 was distributed to council members. Cost of the dinner is \$10, rsvp by 10/10/22. Return the form to Ms. Vannan to process at the October 3rd meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President announced that a Special Public Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22 at 6:00 p.m. The two topics will be the MS4 Permit – Stormwater Management and a 2023 Budget workshop.

The next regularly scheduled Council Meeting will be Monday, October 3, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Bean. All responded “aye”. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.