

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES– SPECIAL MEETING
FRIDAY – JANUARY 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. All rose for the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: President Lesjack, V.P. Cost, council members Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Tracey Lazier, Mayor Glinton, Solicitor McAndrew & Secretary/Treas. Vannan.

Absent: Council members Bernie Scalzo & Amy Bean.

President Lesjack addressed the group outlining the rules that will be followed for future meetings. Everyone received a copy.

President Lesjack announced a brief break from the meeting to meet privately with Solicitor McAndrew. Upon their return, he opened the floor for comment.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (specific to the purpose of the meeting)

John Kameen of the Forest City News commented, “In all my years attending public meetings, I have never seen anyone take a break to meet privately with anyone outside of the meeting.” President Lesjack said that it was allowed under “Robert’s Rules” and that he would not have taken this brief intermission if it was not allowed. He would provide Mr. Kameen with proof. Mr. Kameen still insisted that it was not allowed. Discussion continued until President Lesjack closed the topic to proceed with the meeting. No other public comment was offered.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING: (President Robert Lesjack)

To approve the proposed Insurance Settlement Agreement and authorize Mayor Glinton to sign on behalf of the Borough. President Lesjack deferred to Solicitor McAndrew to provide information about this agenda item.

Solicitor McAndrew took the floor and explained that this settlement was the result of a complaint filed with the EEOC by Gilbert Diaz claiming racial discrimination, that he had endured racial comments and was refused consideration for advancement based on his race. Solicitor McAndrew said that the Borough’s insurance company that handled the mediation on behalf of the borough strongly recommended that the Borough settle rather than take

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this to court. Although they felt the Borough could win, the cost of legal fees would be excessive and will cost less to settle. The settlement is \$30K, with \$12K going to Mr. Diaz’s attorney, \$9K paid by the insurance company to Mr. Diaz for damages and \$9K for lost wages through the borough’s payroll. The \$9K in wages will be paid to the borough by the Insurance Company. Mr. Diaz will also keep the “fitted” vest recently purchased for him as it could not be refitted to suit another officer. Additionally, this is not a confidential settlement as that would require a court order. Anyone wishing to see the agreement can submit a “Right to Know” request to obtain a copy.

President Lesjack asked if anyone had any questions. No one did so he asked for a motion. Councilwoman Lazier made a motion to approve the settlement and authorize Mayor Glinton to sign the agreement on behalf of the borough. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken finding all in favor – five to zero. The motion carried.

President Lesjack announced that he was still working on Committee appointments and would provide that information at the February 7th meeting.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Lesjack opened the floor for final public comment. None was offered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday, February 7, 2022

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn was offered by Vice President Cost. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Lazier. All voted in favor, none opposed, the meeting ended at 1:40 p.m.