

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES – Special meeting  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**

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The **MS4 meeting originally scheduled for 5:30 on 9/6/22 was postponed** until this date, Thursday, September 22, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. This Special MS4 meeting is combined with a Budget Workshop open to the public.

**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 Nick Cost, Bernie Scalzo, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Mayor Ginton, and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan.

Absent: Council members Amy Bean and Tracey Lazier. Solicitor McAndrew was also unavailable.

**MS4 PRESENTATION:**

Councilman DeGonzague introduced Mr. David Lamereaux (KBA engineering) who he has been working with on the MS4 Reporting due by September 30, 2022. Mr. Lamereaux gave a brief overview of what MS4 is about, explaining that one of the Borough’s responsibilities is to adopt a Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) to submit to the DEP with the MS4 application. This permit is renewed every five years, but annual reports must be submitted to be in compliance with the DEP guidelines. The current report is due on September 30, 22. Very simply, MS4 requires that all urbanized areas obtain a permit and follow the EPA recommendations for reducing the sediment that enters streams and rivers and ultimately impact the Chesapeake Bay watershed. The Borough must adopt several methods to reduce sediment from storm water, examples include stream restoration, street sweeping, swales, dog parks, rain gardens, filter bags in storm drains, etc. Education of the general public is also required and can include public presentations at schools and local organizations. It can also include the distribution of printed materials and the inclusion of links on the Borough’s website to the Environmental Protection website for videos and materials that the agency provides for the general public. Mr. Lamereaux explained the mechanism he uses to determine the percentage of sediment that the borough must reduce in 10% increments over a five-year period. Council members asked several questions about tracking and maintaining each of these recommended methods of reduction. Mr. Lamereaux recommended that storm drains & outflows be monitored as certain intervals and that any inspection that results in suspicious outflows should be reported to KBA who can come and determine the nature of a potential contaminant. “See something, say something”. Involve the residents to be conscious of what they’re dumping into the ground. Reach out to local citizens and promote education.

Mention of the state’s responsibility was discussed. Mr. Lamereaux recommended that council reach out to PennDot to provide numbers on sediment removal from Route 247 & 171 as they also have a responsibility to report their efforts to reduce sediment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No Comment offered.

**BUDGET WORKSHOP**

Budget worksheets were distributed with comparisons of 2020, 2021 & 2022 (to date) Actual vs. Budget. Following a brief overview of the worksheet, council members offered their ideas on budgeting for different areas of their specific sections. Councilman Scalzo offered suggestions on increasing the budgeted amounts for vehicle maintenance & repairs. Councilman Cost requested a new line item for Buildings & Grounds to cover marketing and advertising for Pentecost Hall, adding \$2,000. Recommendation to increase the heat from \$3,700 to \$4,000, based on the recent increases in fuel prices,

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sure to impact natural gas as well. Councilman Cost asked that \$2,500 be added to cover flags & poles for 2023, added to the Line item for Shade Trees. Also, he noted that some repairs are needed at the Coal Miners' Memorial and asked that \$1,000 be added to that line item. An increase to police part-time wages was made as well as overtime to \$9K. Police training was increased from \$1K to \$2K. Police uniform allowance was increased from \$3K to \$3,500. in anticipation of an increase for uniforms in the upcoming police contract negotiations. Special Event expenses were increased to \$1,500. Training, Continuing Education & mileage reimbursement was increased from \$1,500 to \$4K. Code Enforcement wage base was increased to \$8K in case a decision is made to hire a part-time Code Enforcement Officer.

At Nick Cost's request, a line item was added to the Ambulance Services for an annual donation of \$5K from Impact Fees.

Councilwoman Matarese requested that money be ear-marked for a storage shed at the Dog Park, but a number was not immediately available, it will be factored into the ARPA funding reserved for outdoor and environmental impact.

Councilman Scalzo asked for an increase to \$800 for repairs on the Recycling truck. With the cost of heating oil on the increase, the allowance for fuel oil at the borough garage was increased to \$850 and Off-road diesel increased to \$650. Public Works vehicle maintenance & vehicle parts were both increased to \$1,000 each. The use of Impact fees to purchase road salt was approved for \$4,500, an increase from last year's \$4K.

Two major projects were discussed – the roof replacement that will have to be re-bid in the new year and the sidewalk project on the East side of Main Street to be funded partially by a PennDot Multimodal grant of \$273K, but will require a match from the Borough. Plans to use a combination of funds from the recently established CD with Edward Jones due to mature in the spring and accumulated Impact funds.

Mayor Ginton requested consideration for a new police vehicle, noting problems with the 2017 SUV, but this request was not considered at this time.

All of these requests will be adjusted into the 2023 worksheets and a revised proposed budget will be presented at the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting for further review. Both General Fund Budget & Sewer Budget will be presented at the November meeting for a final approval and authorization granted to advertise and make available for the public. A final vote to adopt is anticipated for the December 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Cost. All responded "aye". Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.