

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES – Special meeting  
Monday – October 23, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.**

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**CALL TO ORDER:** (Robert Lesjack, President).

President Lesjack called the meeting to order at 1:00 a.m., welcomed everyone and all stood for the “**Pledge of Allegiance**”. The meeting began on the third floor, but moved to Council Chambers on the second floor due to the noise from the ceiling heaters. The only member from the public in attendance was John Kameen covering the meeting for the Forest City News.

**ROLL CALL:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no public comment offered.

**PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:**

**First item of business** was to rescind the award of the bid for the borough building roof project that was made in error at the October 2, 2023 meeting. Initially the project was awarded to Dunmore Roofing & Supply (\$496,400) which was not substantially higher but in closer proximity to the building’s location but still higher than the bid received from C & D Waterproofing Corp. of Bloomsburg. On the advice of Solicitor McAndrew, this vote was rescinded with a motion from V.P. Cost and seconded by Councilman Scalzo. The roll-call vote was six to zero (Councilman DeGonzague arrived late and was not available to vote).

Councilman DeGonzague arrived following this first item.

**Second item of business** was to move to accept the lower bid for the borough building roof project that was received from C & D Waterproofing Corp. of Bloomsburg. V.P. Nick Cost offered a motion to accept the bid from C & D Waterproofing for \$487,850, seconded by Council Member Scalzo. A roll-call vote found six in favor, Councilwoman Lazier opposed, the motion carried.

The borough is still waiting for the PP&L to submit their proposal to move electrical wiring that may be affected by the project and to accommodate scaffolding on the Center Street side of the building.

**Third item – 2024 BUDGET WORKSHOP:**

A Budget worksheet that included a 3-yr. review and included the proposed 2024 Budget figures was prepared and distributed by Secretary/Treasurer Vannan. All expense lines were carefully reviewed by Council members and the mayor for over 3 ½ hours. Multiple cuts were proposed. The major expense anticipated for 2024 is the roof replacement on the Borough Building coming in at nearly \$500,000 and likely to go over with the anticipated proposal from PP&L for their part in the project. About \$300K is set aside, the rest may need to be financed as funding for sidewalk projects and (3) drainage issues are likely to be started during the coming year. However, drainage issues connected to road work and storm drains affected by the Sewer project will likely be financed through sewer funds.

Local property and wage taxes are expected to reach around \$550K. Act 13 Impact Fees cannot be determined until after the start of the new year but expected to help with some of the anticipated expenses.

After some debate which initially proposed no raises for borough employees for the 2024 budget, council decided a 2% increase was manageable for full-time non-uniform staff as well as the part-time uniform employees. Full-time Police are guaranteed a 4% increase by their contract that runs through the

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end of 2025. Wages under Comm. & Economic Development which cover the salary of the Main Street Coordinator were reduced indicating that this position would be eliminated for 2024. Expenses for most departments did not change drastically. Most of these expenses are determined by historical data and no major changes are anticipated.

The revised 2024 Budget as well as the 2024 Sewer Budget will be submitted to Council at the November 6, 2023 meeting for final review and a motion to advertise them and make them available for public inspection will be made at that time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was no Public Comment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next regular Council Meeting will be Monday, November 6, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. .

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Council Member Bernie Scalzo offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Vice President Nick Cost. All responded “aye”. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.