

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY JANUARY 6th, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: (President DeGonzague, presiding).

President DeGonzague called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President DeGonzague, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Eileen Lynch, Amy Bean, Sarah Woody, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Sewer Secretary Cindy Stone, Solicitor Marissa McAndrew. Absent was Mayor Glinton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President DeGonzague)

President DeGonzague announced an executive meeting before Council meeting for ligation purposes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (Jason Obelenus)

President DeGonzague made a motion to accept Councilman Lesjack resignation, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to accept letters of interest to fill the vacancy left by Councilwoman Lazier. V.P. Scalzo made the motion for Jason Obelenus to fill the vacancy, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

President DeGonzague asked for a motion to accept letters of interest to fill the vacancy left by Councilman Lesjack. V.P. Scalzo made the motion for Michael Norella to fill the vacancy, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

V.P. Scalzo made a motion to approve Resolution #3-2025 appointing Jason Obelenus to council from 01/06/2025 until 01/05/2026, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

V.P. Scalzo made a motion to approve Resolution #4-2025 appointing Michael Norella to council from 01/06/2025 until 01/05/2026, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

Solicitor McAndrew swore in new council members Jason Obelenus and Michael Norella.

Councilwoman Lynch made a motion to accept the Minutes from December 9th, 2024 seconded by V.P. Scalzo, all responded “Aye”, none opposed.

V.P. Scalzo made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report for December 2024, seconded by Councilwoman Woody. The roll call vote was all in favor, none opposed.

Councilwoman Woody made a motion to accept the resignation of Brandi Stratton, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote 5 in favor, motion carried.

Councilman Obelenus made the motion to approve payment to Mikloiche Timber & Construction invoice for \$7,000 for the emergency snow removal on Main Street due to Proclamation of Disaster on December 5th, 2024 declared by Mayor Glinton.

Solicitor McAndrew suggested if they were going talk snow removal, now is the time to do so. V.P. Scalzo concern was another snow fall and if it was to get tied up in ligation. Councilwoman Woody went on about there was no State of Emergency and that Steven didn’t know that the Mayor does not have finical say when it comes to funds, she suggested to pay under last year’s contract. Councilwoman Lynch looked it what is considered emergency funds and explained it. Councilwoman Lynch said it is council decision to go by last year’s contract. They agreed to pay the \$7000, and also to have V.P. Scalzo, Councilman Obelenus, and

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY JANUARY 6th, 2025**

Councilman Norella to make the decision as to when the snow will be removed. Solicitor McAndrew suggested they make a Resolution as to who has the right to declared a Proclamation, Solicitor McAndrew stated that the county said that the Mayor has the right to declare one and that nobody told us any different. Solicitor McAndrew said to make a resolution and send it to the county and then everyone is on the same page.

The Forest City Emergencies Report was passed out for view by Council.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernard Scalzo)

The Public Works report for December 2024 was offered. V.P. Scalzo read the following into record: 100 tons of anti-skid delivered, put up Main Street Xmas trees, replaced a pin on plow frame for F550, push back snow piles on corners of roads, cleaned both plows after snow storm, pushed snow back behind Adam's Body and Higgins Street, moved snow from NEP lot, pushed snow back on Railroad and South Street.

V.P. Scalzo reported recycling donations were \$164 for December 2024, and we sold 6 buckets of Salt/Cinders to Vandling for \$450 @ \$75 a truck load.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Sarah Woody)

No Updates

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

No updates

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilwoman Lynch read the information about the up coming soup off that will be held on February 22nd, 2025.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (President DeGonzague)

No updates

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

No Updates. When someone question about his payment on the Treasurer's Report, President DeGonzague asked Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, she stated that she has not received a report in two months from him. President DeGonzague then said he will find out what is going on

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

The December 2024 police report and Yearly 2024 report was distributed for review. Chief Foley received a grant from The Bob Jones Dog Trust that helps with the safe capture and control of dogs running at large. His stated about \$1000 worth of items was received by The Forest City Police. Chief also stated that meter enforce is back up and running as of January 6th, 2025.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew stated that her and Cindy are working on sewer delinquent. Sewer Secretary Cindy explained how G.H. Harris works. A council member asked how much is owed, Solicitor McAndrew state \$600,000. Sewer Secretary stated that people just refuse to pay and also there are properties that just sit and it piles up. Sewer Secretary stated that G.H. Harris sends a letter to the residents that are in collections. Sewer Secretary also believes that past council passed a Resolution or Ordinance about collections letters to be sent by G.H. Harris. Solicitor McAndrew said she will send a collection notice of 30 days to pay or we will put on lean on the property. Council and Solicitor McAndrew will hold an executive session and

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY JANUARY 6th, 2025**

hold a meeting with G.H. Harris to straighten things out. They will start with \$2500 and up with letters.

Solicitor McAndrew spoke about a house on Hudson Street that is no longer there. G.H. Harris was sending bills but there is not a mailbox there to receive bills. The owner went to sell the property and was told they have a \$13,000 bill, they refused to pay and then they agreed on a lower amount to pay. This is just an example.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: (President DeGonzague)

No updates

NEW BUSINESS: (President DeGonzague)

Councilwoman Lynch has been working on the water problems on Hudson, Susquehanna Street and the Main Street issue that Paul has with his business with Penn Dot. She said she spoke with Penn Dot and they will do a study on that road to make sure that is safe for the truck to drive down that road. She stated that we need a highway occupancy permit for truck to back in the driveway, but they would handle that. The borough needs to talk to the person that handles liquid fuels for the study for the side street to see if the trucks can use the roads safely and be able to make those turns and block the roads for side and back streets. Councilwoman Lynch registered with LTAP and someone will be coming in a couple of days to do the study and will decide what their professional opinion is for the trucks on this road.

Paul Venditti again mentioned about Honesdale having the same issue that maybe grants would help, he was thankful for the help on the matter.

Councilwoman Lynch stated also on the water problem on Hudson Street that Penn Dot would approve a permit for a storm drain and would probably not be charged for it. The work has to be done by a contractor the borough is using, it should help with the problem if not correct it. She said Penn Dot sent a citation to the property owner because the driveway was dug without a state permit on a state road and cause hazardous conditions. Susquehanna Street water problem was believed to be bid out again and doesn't think it was done. This will be put back on the agenda. V.P. Scalzo said he would give info on JHA who has the drawing for that street.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathryn the new Librarian in Forest City, asked for the first quarter budgeted funds for the programs that they are running. Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas said just to give her a letter requesting the funds every quarter and the check will be written at that request. She mentions all the programs to council that will be happening over the next couple of weeks.

Someone from Parks & Rec's requested that Councilman Norella be the new head of the Parks & Rec's Department, and request was granted.

Paul Venditti again questioned about lengths on sidewalks and roads and was assured that measurements will be taken, that what the study will be doing and once it is back the report will be read. He was also told if truck is holding up the streets that he is the get a Police Officer to sight them.

Carrie Kelleher asked about Amy Bean having a vote for the snow removal when she would have a financial gain from him. Councilwoman Bean spoke with the Solicitor and told her that her boyfriend does not work for him anymore. Carrie also had a letter written to Judge Legg as to why Councilwoman Bean is still on council. Carrie is hoping for answer by next council meeting.

A resident from Vandling asked why after last month's meeting he was videotaped by a council member. President DeGonzague said he would discuss this after the meeting.

Resident Vaughn said he still has a 4-foot water issue, he is glad to hear something is being done about a storm drain going on Hudson Street. Penn Dot cited them the neighbors 4

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY JANUARY 6th, 2025**

times. V.P. Scalzo said for whatever reason Penn Dot does not like that road. Solicitor McAndrew said to add that problem to the bid also. She also stated it a public hazard so it has go to on the bid. A storm drain needs to go there asap, she added. Solicitor McAndrew will meet with them privately. To many people where speaking to make the last minutes of meeting out.

President DeGonzague stated the sewer bill will go down to \$29.25 and garbage bill is going up \$19.75.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President DeGonzague)

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be, Monday February 3rd, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilwoman Lynch made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Norella, all in favor, none opposed. President DeGonzague adjourned the meeting at 7:34 p.m.