

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: President Orasin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLLCALL:

Present: President Orasin, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council Members Nick Cost, Robert Lesjack, Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague, Ed Pearsall, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, and Secy/Treasurer S. Vannan. Solicitor Paul Smith was unavailable.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Orasin welcomed everyone, and opened the floor for public comment:

John Kameen provided an update on the Greater Forest City Industries efforts to get a gas line installed into the Vision 2000 Park. Grant approval received and UGI may start in June. The installation of the line should take approximately a month. The gas line will run from 247 through Rails Trails, along Commerce Blvd. up to the first cul-de-sac section along the guiderails on the west side where a couple hundred feet will have to be excavated because of the culvert. The necessary pave cuts will be repaired to their present condition. UGI will apply for Pave cut permits. President Orasin thanked Mr. Kameen for the update and said, "It sounds like very good news".

Donna Marz from 822 Susquehanna Street introduced herself, explaining that she had just returned from Florida and brought back an idea for a community project that she wanted to share. This started in Florida as a way of memorializing the death of two little girls. The idea to paint rocks and leave them for others to find in public areas like playgrounds, parks, any community gathering spot where they would be found and shared, "If you like the one you find, you replace it with one you've painted in another spot and so on". Take a picture of the rock you find and post it on Facebook. Check out their Facebook page "FCROCKS".

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes and then made a motion to accept the Minutes for the regular monthly meeting, held on March 6 and the "Special Meeting" held on March 6 prior to the regular meeting. Councilman Nick Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye, the March Regular meeting & Special Meeting minutes were accepted.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for March 2017. Council Member Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize total disbursements of \$82,991.04. Cash Receipts totaled \$104,917.74, which included the Liquid Fuels allocation \$60,567.35. Councilman Ed Pearsal seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 7 to 0 in favor of accepting the report as submitted.

Councilwoman Matarese then reminded everyone that May 1 is the deadline for the "Statement of Financial Interests", "So if you haven't gotten one in, please do so."

B. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

Vice President Scalzo read the report for March 2017 citing the following items:

- Recycling donations collected \$169; purchased a new strobe light for the F550 truck - \$152; Bob & Wally attended the MS4 Stormwater presentation sponsored by KBA on 3/8/17, nine other municipalities attended, they learned that one way to mitigate stormwater run-off is the use of the street sweeper recently purchased;
- Started painting street signs again; Spreader motor failed on the F550, had it repaired at Northeast Hydraulics at a cost of \$490.
- Bob & Wally continued to come out during the night to work on clearing snow on the corners and widening the streets; refilled the off-road diesel tank at the garage - \$537; heating oil for the garage purchased for \$505; and Barhites repaired the snow blower for \$55.

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

- Vandling Borough purchased 2-bucket loads of Salt/Cinder mix for which they paid \$130;
- Received a paving bid from B. Kilpatrick for Delaware Street for \$3,250. Nick Cost recommended tabling the decision until he could get more bids. President Orasin agreed saying, “Add it to the May agenda.”

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack provided an update on the building renovations, “All he had set out to do had been accomplished for this phase of his vision.” He had a list of people to thank and noted the great job done by Wm. Penn Home Improvements on the council desk and everyone else who had been so instrumental in the completion of this project. Mr. Lesjack jokingly added, “If there’s anything here you don’t like, (pause) tell Bill!” President Orasin commended Mr. Lesjack for a job well done. “This is a far cry from anything that’s been done in the last decade. This is an historic building and so much more to be proud of, rather than ending up in a “tin” building on a corner. Bob had the vision – Glad to have you, Bob! Thank you for a job well-done!” President Orasin added, “Take a look around, we found some interesting things, a letter from Ted Kennedy about the dedication of Kennedy Park, framed and on the wall. Please stay and enjoy the refreshments. Bob Lesjack took some before & after pictures, only thing left on this floor are the bathrooms and the hallway behind Council Chambers to the elevator. Restoration of the outside of the building is also planned, there is still more to do, but it will be here for generations to come and it’s something we want to preserve.”

D. PARKS & RECREATION: (Ed Pearsall)

Councilman Pearsall reported that he, Bill Orasin, & Tony Wilcox had met to discuss the progress on the Kennedy Park Grant. Cindy has scheduled a conference call for Friday, April 7, and we will get more information at that time. The courts are planned for 2017 completion and the 2018 grant will be used for the concession stand and bathrooms. Councilman Pearsall added that he is working with the high school to coordinate a Spring cleanup with the public works crew, which will be held in conjunction with the Forest City Regional Watershed Program. The F.C. Girls’ Basketball team also wants to organize a cleanup of the town.

President Orasin asked if the Rotary has announced their Wine Festival plans, would it be in September. He suggested that Ed contact Stephanie Newak to remind them that they need to get their application in for the permit.

E. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague had nothing to report on Code Enforcement. No RRU report for March. Councilman DeGonzague informed Council that Kristian Short had submitted his resignation for personal reasons and other professional commitments. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to accept the resignation and Nick Cost seconded it. All voted aye. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to advertise the position in the Forest City News. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye. The ad will run in the Forest City News with a deadline for applications on April 28.

F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Nick Cost)

Council member Cost thanked Bob Lesjack and Bill Penn for all their work. In addition, he congratulated everyone who participated in the efforts. Thanks Buddy Kilpatrick for the cleanup of snow on the Main Street.

Art McLain then offered council information on some of his ongoing efforts, thanking everyone for their trust. One of his main goals is to turn attitudes around. He offered thanks for the business cards he was given and a page on the Borough Website. He thanked the crew for their efforts in clearing snow during the recent storm. He attended a recent GFCBA meeting where he was introduced to some of the other business leaders. He did a tour up and down the Main Street, identifying many of the areas that need

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

help. He met with Kelly Gilinsky, F.C. Regional's Art Teacher and they came up with an idea to paint the storefront windows with permission from the property owners. He planned to draft a letter to the School District asking them to join this project. He plans to take inventory of all available properties to share with Council and the leaders of the other borough organizations. Mr. McLain is sure that there are things that can be done to bring people into town, "like maybe a concert series at Kennedy Park or Wm. Penn Apartments". "We need to encourage the Main Street property owners to do some repairs", Art added, "for example, Nick & I noticed a cracked window at 701 Main Street, one of the biggest eyesores is the former ABC Market."

Mr. McLain offered some other ideas, for example, participate in the Memorial Day activities; sponsor a community wide yard sale, a baking contest, a talent show, or an art contest. "We could ask Rock 107 to do a live broadcast." Many things we can do will bring people here from neighboring communities. Art also said he planned to send out letter to other local businesses in the area, maybe get a local winery to open in town. Art spoke to the owners of the former ice cream shop and that business is available if anyone is interested in trying to make a go of it. President Orasin thanked Art for his efforts and said whatever you need to do "make it happen". Mr. McLain asked if fund raising is an option. President Orasin asked Ms. Vannan to call and discuss this with the auditors, then if necessary establish a separate account to isolate any funds specific to the Main Street efforts.

Councilman Kost reported that the flags & poles were received and that the cost was \$54 more than originally proposed, but was still within budget.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)

President Orasin shared the UGI response to the borough's concerns about the pipeline restoration in a letter to UGI dated March 8, 2017. Their start date will be in mid to late April. UGI plans a kick-off meeting in the near future and the borough will be invited to attend. Contact information for the Senior Manager of Major projects was included in the correspondence. President Orasin's only comment, "this seems to be a side-stepping response".

President Orasin read an invitation to the Northern Tier Regional Planning & Development Commission's 2017 Annual Meeting on Friday, April 21, 2017 at the Wysox Fire Hall. Please rsvp by April 13, 2017.

President Orasin announced that there is an "Open House" hosted by State Rep. Jonathan Fritz at the Montrose District Office on Thursday, April 27, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. – no advance registration required.

MAYORS REPORT: (Mayor Pauline Wilcox)

Mayor Wilcox distributed the March 2017 Police Report and the Vandling Invoice for April Patrols and March calls.

Mayor Wilcox reported that the response from Clifford Twp. To the MOU letter was "yes", Township Supervisors voted to approve the F.C. Police passing through Clifford Twp. to get to Uniondale. Nick Cost, Bernie Scalzo & Bill will meet to review and discuss the proposal to provide police coverage for Uniondale Borough.

The mayor asked for Council's approval to adopt the Heart & Lung Policy as part of the Police Department Policies. John Kameen asked, "Is this State Policy?" President Orasin responded, "We previously had no official policy and it has been reviewed by the Borough Solicitor and recommended for adoption to avoid issues like the borough faced in the past". Mayor Wilcox added that she recently participated in a webinar on the subject and this policy agrees with information given. The mayor's FOP contact reviewed the policy and it met with his approval. Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to accept the Heart & Lung Policy. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion and all members responded "aye". The motion carried.

Chief Johnson shared a letter from the PA Commission on Crime explaining the commitment of the "Victims Compensation Assistance Program (VCAP) to help victims & their families by easing their

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 3, 2017**

financial burden. The letter commends the 575 police departments who responded to requests for police reports. Forest City Police Depart was among the 47% (or 272) who responded to requests in 15 days or less, expediting the process. The letter was from the office of Jeffrey A. Blystone, Manager, VCAP.

Chief Johnson reported that Car 3 is back – modification was successful. The new radios – Kenwood’s – they do not need a car to transmit, they will provide access to the Comm. Center from everywhere needed. Chief Johnson offered a Green light on the system that will keep our officers safe. Mayor Wilcox agreed saying, “This is very important for safety and we are thankful for the system.” Councilman Cost asked, “How many were purchased?” Johnson responded, “One on hand right now for testing, 7 additional portables to come, they hit every tower. We have applied for a grant through the D.A.’s office, if that goes through; we will get a 100 watt that will hit Uniondale.

Mayor Wilcox thanked Chief Johnson for his recent participation in the “Transition Fair” at Forest City Regional School. Over 800 kids participated. The topic was “What are you going to do when you get out of High School?” Sandy Monahan sent a letter of appreciation to the officers for their participation.

Wrapping it up, the Mayor said, “Happy Easter to all”.

SOLICITORS REPORT: (Paul E. Smith, Esq.)

In Solicitor Smith’s absence, President Orasin presented Sidewalk Ordinance #506_2017 that was previously changed to eliminate reference to snow removal and lengthen the distance it covered on Main Street on the West side to the 707 Main Street property line. Joann Matarese offered a motion to adopt Ordinance #506-Sidewalk Repair. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All seven council members vote “yes” to a roll call vote. None opposed. The motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilman Lesjack asked to be removed from the Safety Committee. With no opposition, President Orasin accepted Councilman Lesjack’s withdrawal and asked Councilman Nick Cost to replace him. Council Members Joann Matarese, Chris DeGonzague and Nick Cost will serve on the Committee.

Resolution #1_2017 =DCNR Grant official authorization form for signatures on the documents connected to the grant for the concession stand and restroom upgrades at Kennedy Park, required as part of the grant application process. Councilman Pearsall made a motion to accept Resolution #1_2017. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted yes in a roll call vote and motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

President Orasin invited all those in attendance to “stay and enjoy the refreshments set up out in the lobby in celebration of the completion of the renovations”.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Ed Pearsall moved to adjourn. Councilman Nick Cost seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.