

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017**

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

**ROLLCALL:** Present: V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council Members Nick Cost, Robert Lesjack, Chris DeGonzague, Ed Pearsall, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Solicitor Smith and Secr/Treasurer S. Vannan. Absent: President Orasin and Councilwomen Joann Matarese.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Vice President Scalzo welcomed everyone, and opened the floor for public comment.

John Kameen asked for an update on the schedule for the completion of the storm drain and streetscape project. V.P. Scalzo replied, "Completion of Main St., North St. and the punch list will begin mid-May to be completed by June 30, 2017. South Street by Mid-June. Cindy is waiting on a response for the Streetscape Grant for the West Side of Main Street. The East Side of Main Street will be in a separate grant. Sidewalks completed within two weeks of the start date.

There was no additional public comment.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)**

Covering for Councilwoman Matarese, V.P. Scalzo asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes for the regular monthly meeting, held on April 3 and if there were any corrections. Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. All voted aye, the April minutes were accepted.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for April 2017. Councilman Cost made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize total disbursements of \$133,157.77. \$77,163.75 was a payment to Leeward Construction from the Landmark Bank Construction Account. Cash Receipts totaled \$176,748.13. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 5 to 0 in favor of accepting the report as submitted.

Permission requested to attend an upcoming Municipal Budget Training – June 8, 2017 in Clarks Summit for Secr/Treasurer Vannan and Councilwoman Matarese. Cost \$80 per person – total cost \$160. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to approve attendance. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. Roll call vote 5 to 0, motion carried.

**B. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)**

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

- Recycling donations collected - \$114;
- Used the new broom attachment on Dundaff, Main Street, and several other streets;
- Purchased 2 front tires for the zero turn mower - \$100;
- Worked on sink hole on Depot Street, dug it out with the backhoe to find another 18" terra cotta pipe broken by Leeward and poorly repaired with a small 8" pipe and stuffed with rocks and chunks of pavement;
- Bob, Wally & Bernie Scalzo looked at the problems with flooding on the Kennedy Park road caused by the size of the current pipe – 24". Asking for approval to purchase a 36" pipe at a cost of about \$520. Bob & Wally will complete installation. Heavy rains cause debris to block the existing pipe. V.P. Scalzo tabled the request and asked Councilman Pearsall to investigate the situation further.
- Collected 8 loads of yard waste;
- Pitting noticed in the new sidewalk in front of the borough building. Gary Wilding inspected the area and he will discuss with Leeward. Council member Cost added, "Is Leeward covering the cost of their mistakes, we're sick of their blunders?"
- Aluminum cans netted \$101 at Archbald Wrecking;

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- Installed two new letter boards at Kennedy Park.

Councilman Scalzo presented a revised quote from B. Kilpatrick for paving on Delaware Street. The new price reduced to \$3,000. No other bids received. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to accept the bid and have the paving completed. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five for, none opposed. Bid approved.

Councilman Scalzo asked for approval to purchase three or four, 4'x12' concrete barriers at a cost of \$95. Chris Degonzague made a motion to authorize the purchase of four barriers at a total cost of \$380. Bob Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote taken, the motion carried with five in favor, none opposed.

**C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)**

Councilman Lesjack thanked John Kameen for his coverage of the April Council meeting and publishing the picture of the new Council Chambers. Mr. Kameen reported that a record amount of papers sold that week.

Councilman Lesjack reported that he would like to have the planters placed in front of the borough building and asked council to approve the purchase of plants from Blueberry Hill at a cost of approximately \$200. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase not to exceed \$200. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. Roll call vote taken – five in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Councilman Lesjack added that his plan is to start on the next phase of building renovations with the bathrooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, then consult an engineer and seek bids for renovations on the outside of the building to eliminate the snow and ice buildup on the sidewalk.

**D. PARKS & RECREATION: (Ed Pearsall)**

Councilman Pearsall presented two bids for Woodcarpet Mulch for Kennedy Park. Two bids – Zeager Bros, Inc. Middletown, PA - 100 cubic yds. - \$2,586.82 includes delivery or Lyons Recreation - \$2,496.30 includes delivery. Fran Pantzar, Vandling Council President, has committed to sharing the cost of the mulch. Councilman Pearsall made a motion to accept the bid from Lyons Recreation at \$2,496.30. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll-call vote – five members in favor, none opposed.

Councilman Pearsall proposed a motion to adopt Resolution #3\_2017 to open an interest bearing checking account for the administration of the DCNR Grant for the Kennedy Park Basketball Court project as specified by DCNR regulations. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Roll call vote – five in favor, none opposed. Resolution #3\_2017 adopted, open account upon receipt of the Grant funds.

**E. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Chris DeGonzague)**

Councilman DeGonzague distributed the April Residential Rental Unit (RRU) Activity report for review.

Councilman DeGonzague reported that he received one application for the Code Enforcement Officer position. The applicant was interviewed on April 26. The Personnel Committee will make a recommendation at the next regular meeting on June 5.

**F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Nick Cost)**

Councilman Cost shared an email from Art McLain, Main Street Coordinator, reporting his activities for April. On April 29, helium balloons were distributed at several locations on Main Street. Balloons were given to Chief Johnson for distribution. Thank you to Melissa Rushworth of HNB and Scott Miskovsky from Red Cross Pharmacy for their donations toward this effort.

An article was published in the Around the Towns column in the Scranton Sunday Times publicizing the good things happening in Forest City, “a great place to live and have a business”.

Mr. McLain sent a letter to Superintendent Aquilina at FCR asking for student participation decorating windows of the vacant storefronts, performing at the “Music in the Park”, a weekly family walk on Main Street, Balloons on Saturday project and several other activities. Mr. McLain met with Commissioner Warren and State Rep. Jonathan Fritz and communicated the efforts to revitalize the town.

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He spoke to Commissioner Warren about getting her help to extend the library hours. A comprehensive list of available businesses locations will be available soon. Discussions with two ice cream businesses to advance the possibility of reopening Mavis' Ice Cream are in progress.

Councilman Cost reported that State and U.S. flags are available for Kennedy Park and the Coal Miners' Memorial. There are two new reader boards at Kennedy Park and ready for announcements. Contact the Borough office for information.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)**

Vice President Scalzo shared an email announcing that the Susquehanna County Commissioners approved the 2017 Burn Ban from Saturday, April 22 through Monday, May 21, 2017.

American Legion Post 524 notified the borough that they would be sponsoring a parade and memorial services on Memorial Day, May 29, 2017. The parade will begin at the Franceski Lumber at 10:30 and proceed to the Dough Boy in a rolling road closure. Mayor Wilcox asked John Kameen to ask for participants in the News and encouraged Council Members to walk in the parade. Councilman Scalzo said he would have the maintenance crew clean up around the memorial. Mayor Wilcox confirmed that they would use the sound system from the school and would make sure it was available. The school band, chorus and Lynette's Twirlers would be participating. Tents needed in case of extreme weather, either rain or too much sun. John Kameen offered to provide a tent. Karen Ligus also volunteered a tent if needed. There will not be food served at the Legion this year. Vice President Scalzo added, "We'd like to see everyone join in, hope to see you all there."

**MAYORS REPORT: (Mayor Pauline Wilcox)**

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

Mayor Wilcox recommended two new hires – both part-time at \$12/hour - Jefferson Ramirez and Joseph Crouse. Councilman Cost made a motion to approve hiring both candidates as part-time officers at \$12/hour effective 5/1/17. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. Roll call vote – 5 in favor, none opposed. The motion carried. Mayor Wilcox swore in both officers immediately following the vote.

Mayor Wilcox asked Council to consider the purchase of a 2017 Police Interceptor AWD vehicle. The quote from Koch 33 Ford, a CoStars dealer, is \$38,389 plus \$2,100 for a 5 year/100,000 mile extended warranty. Total purchase price is \$40,489.09. The mayor noted that council had budgeted \$38,000 to purchase a vehicle, knowing that one of the police cars would be out of service in June. She noted that, "\$2,000 budgeted for clerical support and not used would cover the difference". Delivery would take about three months from the date ordered. Councilman Pearsall made a motion to approve the purchase. Discussion followed concluding with the recommendation to table the motion until President Orasin and Councilwoman Matarese were present. A special meeting may be held if necessary.

The Mayor reported that the Drug Take-back manned by Chief Johnson & Officer Telesco was very successful. They collected a large amount of liquids and pills.

Repairs needed on Vehicle #2 – 2011. Brake work done in April for \$500, now additional work for rear brakes & struts at a cost of \$987. Councilman Cost offered a motion to approve the additional work done by Kost Tire for \$987.19. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. Council approved the motion with a roll call vote of five in favor, none opposed.

Mayor Wilcox announced that the police "will participate in Transportation Days at the Forest City Regional School". This is a program aimed at K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> grade to give kids an opportunity to see police, fire and emergency vehicles in operation.

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

Solicitor Smith presented the deed he prepared for Kennedy Park as required by the DCNR Grant process that confirms that the property "was acquired, developed or donated as a match for funds provided by the PA DCNR under the Land & Water Conservation Fund Act". Councilman Nick Cost

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offered a motion to authorize President Orasin to sign on behalf of the Borough. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

Resolution #2\_2017 presented opposing the elimination of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from the Federal Fiscal year 2017-18 Budget. Bobby Jo Turner at Susquehanna County Housing & Redevelopment has administered this grant for the benefit of the Borough. Copies of this resolution will go to the PSAB, the County office and our State Representative. Ms. Turner will be including a copy of it with other communities to submit as a group to our local Congressman and U.S. Senator's office. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion to adopt Resolution #2\_2017. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Condemned structure at 309 Delaware is down. The demolition is complete. Now the question, "Who will maintain it?" Vice President Scalzo replied, "We have to look into it."

Mayor Wilcox asked Council to try to get together to discuss the Uniondale Police Agreement, "It's not fair to keep them waiting." Councilman Cost replied, "We've been trying to get together for two months, hopefully we can when President Orasin gets back."

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, June 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman DeGonzague moved to adjourn. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All responded "aye" and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.