

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017**

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**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, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, and Secy/Treasurer S. Vannan. Solicitor Paul Smith and Council Member Ed Pearsall were unavailable.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

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

Resident Kevin Kane took the floor to ask, "When will Main Street be finished?" President Orasin replied, "Completion is anticipated for June 30, 2017".

John Kameen reported the contractors had requested the use of the Industrial Park as a staging area during the UGI pipeline installation. Mr. Kameen recommended that the borough post a Road Bond for any potential damage to the road, owned by the borough. President Orasin thanked John for the information and said Paul Smith would be consulted on what is involved in a road bond. President Orasin added that he has been trying to get something for the borough from UGI. This installation is affecting all of the communities up and down the Rails Trails without any consideration for our towns. President Orasin vowed to continue to pursue UGI.

**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 February 6, 2017. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted aye, the February minutes were accepted.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for February 2017. Council Member Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize total disbursements of \$67,654.27. Cash Receipts totaled \$54,241.96. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. The motion carried with a roll call vote of 6 to 0 in favor of accepting the report as submitted.

A request for payment of the Attorney's fees was presented – balance due \$3,000 for the settlement on the condemnation of Yucca Flats as previously negotiated. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve payment. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. President Orasin requested a roll-call vote that found five members in favor of authorizing the payment and with President Orasin, the lone opposition, the motion carried.

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 February 2017 citing the following items:

- Purchased four (4) cutting blades – 2 for each plow – Bonhams - \$445.
- Had the Ford F550 truck serviced on 2/6/17 – oil & filter;
- 2/12/17 – Sunday – Icy conditions on Dundaff Street – PennDot no show – plowed & salted from Main Street to Maple Street and Hudson Street (which is also a state road) from Dundaff St. to Richmondale;
- Dropped off aluminum cans at Archbald Wrecking – netted \$105.
- Salt/cinder sales to Vandling for February – 10 bucket loads – invoice attached - \$650.

Councilman Scalzo added that everyone's patience is appreciated when conditions are bad – complaints vary, no easy answer for driveways being plowed in, it happens even on the state roads. Bob & Wally did a lot of work in the borough building, patching & painting. The rain brought some flooding

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on North Main St. There was a blocked storm drain – still on the punch list. Kennedy Park experienced flooding across Rt. 247, “The weather is unpredictable”.

Street sweeping will begin soon. The no parking ban is still in effect until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Parking on the streets is still causing problems, but there is no simple solution. Councilman Cost said, “It would be nice if people could work with us.” Councilman Scalzo says he will continue to talk to our crew to work around some of the parking issues.

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

Councilman Lesjack provided an update on the building renovations, “things are progressing, and the next meeting on April 3 will be in the newly renovated Council Chambers on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Work continues on the chairs. The table is finished and will be delivered one night this coming week. The pictures are done and ready to hang. A small reception is planned for the unveiling.”

The discussion turned to the gutters on the front of the building. Councilman Lesjack admitted he was not sure what could be done. He will consult an expert to evaluate the situation and offer a proposal. Main issue is the existing gutters are not preventing ice buildup and not channeling the water away from the front of the building causing icy conditions on the ground in front of the library, senior center and borough entrances.

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

Councilman Pearsall was unavailable for this meeting. Cindy Stone reported that she received the formal agreement from the DCNR and she will call to schedule a conference call between Gary Wilding and the grant people.

Tony Wilcox reported that he has secured an agreement with Sherwin Williams to help with the cost of the paint for the courts.

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

Councilman DeGonzague had nothing to report on Code Enforcement. The Rental Inspection Report for February was distributed.

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

Council member Cost reported that the Reader Boards have arrived and will be installed as soon as the weather breaks. He recommended that the charge to post on both sides be \$10 for the week, still \$5 for one side. He requested permission to order 40 flags at a cost of \$900, 6 brackets - \$90 and one extra 5’x8’ flag for Kennedy Park. Total cost \$1,040. Mr. Kane expressed concern about the flags twisting around poles & wires. President Orasin answered, “We’re working on a solution.” Councilman DeGonzague offered a motion to approve the purchase of flags & poles at an estimated cost of \$1,040. Joann Matarese seconded the motion. All six members voted to accept the motion, with none opposed the motion carried.

Councilman Cost reported that the committee to select a Main Street Coordinator had decided to recommend Art McLain for the position. “It was a tough decision; there were two very qualified applicants.” Councilman Cost made a motion to approve Art McLain for the position of Main Street Coordinator at a monthly salary of \$215, with hopes to expand his position in the future. “This first year will be a crucial one and hopefully we’ll see a big impact over the next five years.” Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. The roll call vote resulted in six ayes and none opposed. The motion carried. Art was introduced and then offered a brief summary of his qualifications. Councilman Cost added, “Art will work with me, council and the local businesses, there are a lot of empty buildings we need to fill.” One of the first projects will be locating an amp system for the Memorial Day Services and Art offered his help. This was tabled for the moment and will be discussed further at the April meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)**

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President Orasin shared a letter from Barbara Giovagnoli, Lacka. Co. Recycling Coordinator asking municipalities to join the county in an effort to get state legislators to “fix the Electronic Recycling Act”. Due to the constraints of the current law, no one is accepting electronic waste without charging by weight and as a result, much of this material is ending up on the roadside. President Orasin recommended that the borough participate in this effort and communicate our concerns to our state representatives. President Orasin concurred with the concerns about the current E-cycling issues and said, “A letter will be drafted”.

KBA Engineering invited the borough to send representative(s) to a meeting about the upcoming MS4 Permit requirements. DEP is requiring municipalities to adopt an ordinance that puts more of the onus on the municipality to provide educational training, reporting, & stormwater maintenance in order to continue to qualify for this permit. Ms. Vannan, Bob Tedesco & Wally Miller will attend the meeting in Mayfield on March 8, 2017 at 7:30 p.m.

President Orasin read a letter of support to UGI prepared at the request of Rails Trails echoing their concerns about possible damage to the trails during the course of UGI’s pipeline installation. The letter is addressed to UGI Manager Anthony Rymar and copied to Rail Trails, county commissioners, state representatives & Senator Baker. The letter is asking UGI to offer their assurances that all damage to the trails and surrounding area be repaired as needed.

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

Mayor Wilcox distributed the February 2017 Police Report and Vandaling Invoice for March Patrols and February calls.

Mayor Wilcox requested approval for Officer Telesco and Asst. Chief Rowan to attend a “Traffic Safety Law Enforcement Seminar on 3/23/17 at a cost of \$30 per officer. No mileage reimbursement needed, as a police vehicle will be used. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the cost of the training - \$60 for two officers. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. President Orasin asked for “All those in Favor”, all responded aye, the training was approved.

Mayor Wilcox asked council to approve covering the cost of a four-night hotel stay & mileage reimbursement for Adam Telesco to attend a training in Ft. Indian Town Gap, estimated at \$450. Officer Telesco is covering the cost of the training and requesting only the hotel plus mileage. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve hotel & mileage expenses. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members voting yes, none opposed. The motion carried.

Mayor Wilcox asked permission to submit a letter to Clifford Township requesting a “Memorandum of Understanding” granting full police powers to Forest City Police officers traveling through Clifford Twp. via Rt. 171 to provide coverage to Uniondale. President Orasin asked, “Why is a formal request needed?” The Mayor explained, “This is needed before we can enter into negotiations with Uniondale”. The Mayor continued, “We need to get this to Clifford Twp. Supervisors before they meet on March 14, so that this part of the process is complete. The State Police will continue to cover Clifford Twp, but the department needs the authority to have police powers going up Rt. #171 in case they come upon something that requires their involvement.” President Orasin added, “It needs to be reviewed by Solicitor Smith before going to Clifford Twp.” and asked for Council’s thoughts. Bernie Scalzo agreed. Bob Lesjack added, “It needs to be contingent upon everything else.” Councilman Scalzo asked, “This is only for Rt. #171, right?” Chief Johnson responded, “Yes.” Councilman Scalzo offered a motion to support the MOU letter to Clifford Twp. contingent upon an agreement with Uniondale. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion, no one opposed. The motion carried.

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

In Solicitor Smith’s absence, President Orasin presented Sidewalk Ordinance #506\_2017 with the changes proposed at the February meeting. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to advertise Sidewalk Ordinance #506\_2017. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. Six voted yes, none opposed, the motion carried.

Council approved Ordinance #507 at the “Special Meeting” held this date at 6:45 p.m., prior to the regular meeting.

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**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

President Orasin announced the re-appointment of William Orasin, Sr., Robert Trusky and Thomas Fitzsimmons to the Zoning Hearing Board for a three-year term. President Orasin noted that Mr. Orasin, Sr. had served for 15 years, Mr. Fitzsimmons and Mr. Trusky are both serving their second 3-year term. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion approving the appointments. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All council members voted aye and the motion carried.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, April 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the newly renovated Council Chambers on the second floor. Light refreshments will be served.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Scalzo moved to adjourn. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.