

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
“SPECIAL MEETING” MINUTES
WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Orasin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All present participated in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

The following council members were present: President Bill Orasin, Scalzo, Ed Pearsall, Joann Matarese, Robert Lesjack, Nick Cost, and Secretary/Treasurer S. Vannan. Absent: Solicitor Paul Smith, Mayor Wilcox and Council members Scalzo and DeGonzague.

PURPOSE OF SPECIAL MEETING:

Review and discuss the three bids received for the garbage contract. The following worksheets were distributed. (See attached)

President Orasin opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining that this meeting was to review and discuss the three bids presented. There would not be a decision tonight, that will be done at the regular meeting on Monday, October 2, 2017. This is an open work session to avoid the chance of violating the Sunshine Laws. Copies of the bids were distributed to all in attendance. President Orasin asked for thoughts from council members.

Councilman Lesjack began by reporting that several residents had indicated to him that they would like County Waste – the price at around \$14/month for large containers, with recycling and bulk included seems to be the best option.

Councilwoman Matarese agreed, “\$14 is a good price”. Likes the idea of recycling the same day and the mixed (single stream) and bulk every week will clean up the town. She felt that Freddy’s was confusing with too many options and Mascaro’s was too expensive. She thought that \$168/unit seemed fair. Councilman Lesjack added, “No need to buy the bags, reduce the work in the clerical office and everything is done in one day.”

Councilman Cost stated, “The people I talked to want Freddy’s, they don’t want their taxes raised and they don’t want it on the sewer bills”. He asked, “What about Kennedy Park, NEP and the school?”

Councilman Pearsall added, “Between Freddy’s and Co. Waste, more people prefer the per bag system, especially the older citizens and they don’t want their taxes raised.”

Councilwoman Matarese preferred a prepaid system and not buying bags. People still have to pay Freddy’s. Councilman Pearsall said, “It seems that County Waste still comes out cheaper. Councilman Cost added, “With Freddy’s everyone can call on their own, pick their own plan. Council Members Lesjack and Matarese both agreed, “Town would be a dump if people had to arrange collection, not everyone would participate and we’d still be where we are now. Councilman Pearsall added, “No disrespect to the town, but if this is such a big issue, where is everybody? Three people showed up, with so few people, it’s up to council to figure out what will be done.” Councilman Pearsall asked how County Waste’s truck maneuver around parked cars, not everyone has a driveway.

Tony Puorro and Ernie Palmer from County Waste attended. No representative from Freddy’s or Mascaro’s were at the meeting. Tony responded to Ed Pearsall’s concerns about street parking, saying that their trucks are able to collect on streets with parking and if needed, will get out of the truck to make sure that all cans are collected. They offer single stream recycling which simplifies the process and increases the amount of recycling by up to 20% in some communities. County Waste will do a full rollout, providing two bins for each residence, the largest first, then for those people who would prefer a smaller container, they would come back and switch them. They are flexible with the number of participating households and allow for abandoned or vacant properties not participating.

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Councilwoman Matarese added, “Someone else doing the recycling will save the borough, the truck is getting old and the two full-time employees that now spend a full day on the truck, then trips to Throop will be freed up to do other projects in the borough that may have been neglected in the past. Councilman Cost asked again about the school, NEP and Kennedy Park. The County Waste representative said that those are not a problem, confirming that it was just the recycling.

Councilman Pearsall asked about the time. Tony (County Waste) responded, “We start at 6:00 a.m., working the right side, through Vandling and up through F.C., then return for pick-up on the left back down to Lacka. Co. and typically out of town by 9:00 a.m., this is not an all-day process.” Tony added, “These containers do not sit out with your garbage all day, with security issues the way they are today, this gets you private information, credit card bills, insurance info, etc. in the truck and on its way with no person handling your trash and the risk of identity theft.”

President Orasin rapped things up by saying that \$168/year may not be the final price, due to the potential for delinquent accounts; we may have to factor in something to cover that. He asked Cindy what the current Sewer delinquencies looked like. Cindy said she would put the number around 10%. The cost could be added to the tax bill in which case there would be not revenue seen until March 2018 or added to the Sewer bill with a separate line item, which was confirmed with VUB. President Orasin added, “However you pay, you still pay. Nick Cost said he would rather pay in a lump sum, but that may not work. Many would like to put out a bulk item, and that will be an option with this plan.” President Orasin added, “It’s great to get the opinions of the residents, but we’re here to make the tough decisions, whether they’re popular or not.”

Lee Rowan asked, “How much money will you save by not doing the recycling in house? That’s something to consider.” President Orasin, “The savings will only be understood by those people who are here. The monthly charge may have to be increased by about 10% to maybe \$184/year, that’s \$15.33/month.”

What about four unit buildings, will landlords be allowed to provide a dumpster for their tenants? In addition, the Main Street businesses, will owners have to go with the contractor that’s chosen by Council? Tony (County Waste) added, “We have up to 95 gal. containers, that equal a ½-yard dumpster and we can contract with them separately. Councilman Lesjack added, “Yes, there are some businesses that cannot use regular collection, depending on their business, they may need to dispose of “infectious waste” or have some kinds of waste that should not be out on the street.”

At one time, there were 60 storefronts on the Main Street, that’s now reduced, but what about the apartments over the storefronts? Will those tenants have to use the hauler selected by council? John Kameen reported that he pays \$70/month for a business and uses that collector for his personal garbage from his apartment above his storefront.

President Orasin reminded everyone that many of these questions will have to be answered by our Solicitor, can we require multi-unit dwellings to use a certain collection method, can we enforce a ban on dumpsters? Can we require that containers be stored in certain areas and taken from the curb within a certain time? Restrict the use of long-term dumpsters? Charge by the number of units, whether occupied or not? Not charge for abandoned or permanently vacant properties? If we shut down the recycling program, we need to decide what to do with the truck. Eliminate Saturday recycling at the Borough Garage? Ordinances will have to be revised, advertised and adopted.

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PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Orasin opened the floor for public comment:

Jason Obelenus presented information that he found one the state site, reporting on the revenues and expenses linked to the cost of the Borough’s recycling program. The numbers showed that the borough is not making anything by doing their own recycling. The cost of labor, insurance and maintenance on the truck will only continue to increase.

Paul Kalasinski, 803 Lackawanna Street, was moved by the information, he came in believing that he still preferred a bag system, but that hearing the everything, he could understand better.

Councilman Pearsall, “It comes down to this, we’re elected to make the decision for the town, maybe not everyone will like it.”

President Orasin asked which way everyone at the table was leaning, all agreed that County Waste had given them a lot to consider and they liked what they heard. Councilman Cost admitted that he was leaning toward them as well. President Orasin thanked everyone for their participation and asked that Mr. Obelenus and Mr. Kalasinski go out and advocate on our behalf.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Orasin asked, “Someone offer a motion to adjourn?” Councilman Pearsall made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye and the meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.