

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – NOVEMBER 6, 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 Joann Matarese, Nick Cost, Robert Lesjack, Chris DeGonzague, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secr/Treasurer Sharon Vannan. Councilman Ed Pearsall was unavailable.

AWARD PRESENTATION:

President Orasin began by welcoming everyone and asking Mayor Wilcox to proceed with a presentation to Officer John Foley. Mayor Wilcox passed the honor to Chief Johnson who read a statement that included remarks made by President Obama at the Presentation of the Medal of Valor on May 16, 2016. Chief Johnson proclaimed his pride in Officer Foley who has been a member of the FCPD since the fall of 2011. The Chief thanked Officer Foley for his service to the Community and Department as he presented with the Medal of Valor. Officer Foley received this honor with a round of applause from those in attendance and a standing ovation.

PUBLIC COMMENT: President Orasin opened the floor for public comment:

Mr. Paul Vendetti of 512 Main Street seeking advice on where to store the garbage/recycling bins for his tenants. Prefers not to keep them on the sidewalk but no access to the rear of the building and the elderly cannot carry waste to the back of the building. Councilman Cost suggested putting them out on Higgins St. but again Mr. Vendetti indicated that this would be very difficult particularly in the winter months. President Orasin asked Solicitor Smith to look into the exception when there are four or more apartments. President Orasin asked Councilman Cost to help find a solution.

Mr. Mark Novak of Hudson Street insisted that his landlord wants to opt out. Mr. Novak claims he is one of two tenants in the building that have taken care of their own disposal and feel that this is a case of “taxation without representation, we recycle, burn, take garbage out of town”. President Orasin warned, “This is in violation of the ordinance and no burning is permitted in town.” President Orasin thanked him and recognized Mr. Vendetti again, who asked, “How do I opt out?” President Orasin asked, “Is your building uninhabitable or has four or more apartments? Please contact the office.”

Mr. Vendetti went on to report, “The streetlight that was replaced at 511 Main Street is not an LED, it is the older version, and please call PPL.”

Mr. Paul Kulasinsky asked, “Are any penalties being imposed on Franceski Waste for pulling out of the contract?” Solicitor Smith cut this discussion short saying, “Anything regarding a contract dispute may involve potential litigation and could not be discussed at a public meeting.”

Ms. Catherine Singer of Delaware Street commented that containers have been dropped in front of vacant abandoned houses that are boarded up. She went on to say that she witnessed County Waste driving up one side of the street, bypassing some cans. Church has 8:30 a.m. services and they need to schedule collections around these things. President Orasin replied, “It’s been one week, I did not expect perfection on the first time out and things will improve as they figure it out.” We will follow-up on the collection of the medium cans that will be replaced with smaller containers upon request. “Please have patience.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes for the regular monthly meeting held October 2, 2017. No one offered any comment or corrections so Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the minutes. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer’s Report for October 2017. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize total disbursements of \$271,089, which

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included the semi-annual loan payment to the USDA. Cash Receipts totaled \$60,954.09. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 6 to 0 in favor of accepting the October Treasurer's Report.

Councilwoman Matarese presented a motion to adopt Resolution #5_2017 to establish a checking account at HNB for the deposit of "Fire Escrow Insurance Proceeds". Councilman Cost seconded the motion. The roll call vote was 6 to 0 in favor, the motion carried.

The 2018 Draft General Fund and 2018 Draft Sewer Budget was distributed. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to advertise the General Fund Budget. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. President Orasin noted that there was no tax rate increase again this year and that existing funds are allocated to several projects for 2018. All members were in favor so the motion carried. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to advertise the 2018 Sewer Budget. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion to advertise the Sewer Budget. All voted aye and the motion carried.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

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

- Recycling donations for Sept. \$278 and for October \$235;
- Received 22.5 tons road salt from Cargill (CoStars contract);
- Repaired and/or cleaned out storm drains on Delaware St and at Lacka. & Grand – used 1,900 lbs. Sakrete;
- Received 161 Tons anti-skid – Simpson Quarry, delivered by the Prince Brothers.

The Gazebo at Kennedy Park is in need of repairs, Nick & Bernie will meet with Bob Tedesco. They will also look at the trees on Center Street that need to be trimmed or cut and determine what repairs are needed for that sidewalk which has heaved from the tree roots.

Councilman Scalzo also reported that he looked at the storm drain on Railroad Street at the Emergency Services building and got a price from the Prince Brothers for \$1,186. Due to the onset of winter and the critical need for these repairs, he asked that this estimate be accepted. Councilman Cost offered a motion to accept the bid using Impact Fees. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion that carried with a 6 to 0 roll call vote. Councilman Scalzo visited the area at Caryl and White Streets and feels that the sinkhole is related to a drainpipe that is diverting water from the field above and into a drainpipe under Susquehanna Street. There also continues to be problems on Lower North Main Street. Councilman Scalzo assured council that these would be addressed. Prince Excavating provided a bid for work on the hole near 906 Susquehanna Street for \$3,295; however, that bid was not accepted. Other bids will be sought.

B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that he is making progress with his plans for the second floor bathrooms. Everything is purchased for the second floor bathrooms and will be completed by the end of next week. Councilwoman Matarese asked, "Will it be handicap accessible?" Councilman Lesjack replied, "No, will not be making any major changes, so it will be grandfathered in, the third floor bathrooms are accessible." Councilman Lesjack stated that he would use \$5K on the bathrooms, which leaves \$6K for the third floor that will be used to refinish the floor. The quote is around \$5,700, so barring any unforeseen problems; the \$6K will cover it. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to accept the quote for sanding and refinishing the Pentecost Hall floor and approve \$7K to include eight chandeliers at around \$1,000. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

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C. PARKS & RECREATION: (Ed Pearsall) Councilman Pearsall was unavailable.

Councilwoman Matarese said that her husband noticed that the gazebo needs repairs. He will meet with Nick Cost to discuss. Mayor Wilcox offered her husband's help with painting.

D. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague turned the floor over to Stephanie Reisch. Ms. Reisch reported that she is continuing with her efforts to get all properties properly numbered. This was reported in the F. C. News and fliers went out with the Sewer Bills. A demolition permit was issued to Mr. Montefort for the burned out building on Hudson St. formerly Maxi's. She still hopes to schedule meetings about the "Quality of Life" policy that will give code enforcement a little more bite. Ms. Reisch thanked Chief Johnson and one of his part-time officers for recently accompanying her to a property to speak to the owner about code violations. Mayor Wilcox added on behalf of the police department, "Anytime, safety is paramount." Ms. Reisch reported that she is still working on getting the structure at 746 Delaware demolished. She is looking into several complaints she received about bushes on corners that are blocking the view of cars entering Dundaff Street. Councilman Lesjack recommended that she be more aggressive and call the owners of the properties. Ms. Reisch said she would do her best and continue to work on the problem.

E. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Nick Cost)

Councilman Cost turned over the floor to Main Street Coordinator, Art McLain, who reported that \$3,000 was raised by the group ArkHelps and donated to victims of the recent fires on Main Street. He asked that a letter of thanks be sent to them on behalf of the borough. Mr. McLain added that the "Trunk or Treat" event was a big success and thanked all those who participated. He reported that Rails Trails is planning an event for 2018 and plans for the 2018 Old Week Days and possibly fireworks continue. Mr. McLain is working with the school on a project to get kids involved in coming up with ideas to re-invent the Main Street. He quoted Jim Richards as saying that more young people are moving into the area, which is promising.

On another note, Mr. McLain reported that Maiolatesi wineries would not be opening a store. However, a plan to use Spano's building for recreational events is also in the works, i.e. karate, dances, etc.

President Orasin thanked Mr. McLain and suggested he work with Ms. Vannan to draft a letter to ArkHelps and schedule a meeting with the fire victims and Nick Cost and Mayor Wilcox before the end of the year.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)

President Orasin presented the following:

- A letter from the Greater Carbondale Area YMCA that included their Annual Community Benefit Statement;
- A letter from the GFCBA transferring ownership of the Forest City Christmas Lights and wreaths to the borough and a monetary donation of \$450.46, the balance of funds held for the upkeep of the lights & wreaths;
- An announcement from Joseph Franceski III regarding the sale of Franceski Waste & Recycling to County Waste;
- Dianna Junior and the Forest City Borough Library sent council a Thank You Card for the congratulatory ad in the Forest City News commemorating the Library's 50th Anniversary.

MAYORS REPORT: (Mayor Pauline Wilcox)

Mayor Wilcox distributed the October 2017 police report and the Vandling Borough invoice for November patrols. She announced a grant award "Bulletproof Vest Partnership" for \$3,190.55 for the purchase of eight vests for the police department. The grant covers half the cost and Impact Fees will be

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used to match the grant. She offered her thanks to all those who contributed to the Main Street fire victims. In addition to household goods, \$4,778 in monetary contributions was collected. Mayor Wilcox and Chief Johnson will be picking up the new SUV on October 20, 2017. The Mayor asked council to approve the purchase of rifle sights and a pellet gun order that would be around \$1,200 total. Council member Cost asked, "Why pellet guns, will they be kept in the vehicles?" Chief Johnson responded, "They would not be kept in the cars and that the cost of the sights was most of the amount requested. Pellet guns are needed to respond to animal issues." Councilman Cost made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

Mayor Wilcox reported that "Trunk or Treat" was well received. Thank you to all who contributed candy and/or their time. The Mayor offered a special note of thanks to Councilman Matarese who appeared in costume as a dancing hippopotamus. The mayor added that she and her family were dressed as Dr. Seuss characters. The Haunted House was a great success as well. Thank to Mr. Spano, all the volunteers and the Forest City Teachers who participated in the event.

Mayor Wilcox stated that the police department is in need of storage space for things like informational paperwork and gas masks. They anticipate an inspection of their evidence closet and there are things in there that should not be. There are firearms that need a secure area and it's getting very tight. Councilman Lesjack asked if there was stuff they could just get rid of. The Mayor asked about building a closet. President Orasin said, "Mr. Lesjack will meet with you and look for space and/or available options.

The Mayor requested the purchase of floor mats for the new vehicles at \$120 and \$75. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

The Mayor reminded everyone that winter parking begins November 1 and runs through March 31. No parking on Main Street between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Parking Tickets will be issued.

Mayor Wilcox asked permission to inquire about the feasibility of switching to Susq. County Comm. Center for 911 dispatching. We currently use Wayne County, but that means tax money goes to Wayne County and we would prefer to keep the money in Susquehanna County. A new Comm. Center is about to be up and running and would like to know what it would take to transfer back to Susquehanna Co. FCPD is with Wayne County because of the radios, but all of those have been upgraded. Chief Johnson reported that the Comm. Center is moving to Gibson and needs a letter from Council to inquire about a switch. Councilman Cost asked, "The radios are okay?" Chief Johnson responded, "Yes, we can hit the Susquehanna Comm. Center from all the way down in the valley and it will accept digital. Susquehanna can scramble, Wayne County cannot. Susquehanna County got grants to move to Gibson and they are in the process of making the move. President Orasin asked if anyone had a problem with pursuing this information. All agreed to make the request. Chief Johnson would draft the letter and Ms. Vannan would follow-up.

The mayor asked approval to purchase three (3) Medical Shooter bags at \$140 each. Councilman Cost asked, "How long are they good for." Chief Johnson responded, "They have a 10 year expiration date." Councilman Cost made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted "Aye" to approve the purchase.

The GFCBA submitted a written request for a road closure for the 500 block of Main Street on Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. for the tree lighting ceremony. The Mayor added, "There will be crafts from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m., seven small trees will be decorated by the school children. The Forest City Band will perform at 6:00 p.m. Councilwoman Matarese offered a motion to approve the event and road closure. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried. Ms. Vannan will submit the request to PennDot.

Mayor Wilcox submitted a request to purchase 20 Knit beanies and 10 baseball caps from Cerra Signs for the police Department at a cost of \$185. This is budgeted for in the Police Department uniform

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expenses. Councilman Cost offered a motion to approve the purchase of the hats. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted “aye” and the motion carried.

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

Solicitor Smith presented the previously reviewed and advertised “Young Lungs at Play” policy and Ordinance #509 prohibiting the use of all tobacco products in the Borough’s park and recreation areas. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to adopt the policy and Ordinance #509. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote resulted in five members in favor of the ordinance and one opposed (Councilman Scalzo). The motion carried.

Next Solicitor Smith presented the previously reviewed and advertised Ordinance #508, the municipal solid waste management ordinance. Councilman Scalzo made a motion to approve and adopt Ordinance #508. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All voted yes and the motion carried with a six to zero roll call vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Orasin then turned to new business submitting to council an estimate for the electrical installation of 13 lampposts with the control panel on Main Street not to exceed \$10,125 from Critelli Electric. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the quote from Critelli not to exceed \$10,125. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor and none opposed. The motion carried.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

President Orasin reported that the “Garbage Committee” had met and asked Councilman Cost to share their final recommendations. Councilman Cost said that the committee decided that the fee will be on the monthly sewer bill as a separate line item. The fee is \$15.50 per residential unit bringing the average single family home’s monthly invoice to \$45.50. The garbage collection fee would appear on the sewer bill in December, for November collections. Failure to pay would result in a 10% delinquent fee after 30 days and 2% interest after 90 days. Anyone requesting relief from these charges would have to fill out a request form and may be subject to a \$25 inspection fee to verify the owner’s eligibility. Refunds will be issued for previously purchased garbage bags, but they must be submitted to the office by Thursday, November 30, 2017. Residents will have a choice for a credit on their future bill(s) or a refund check to be issued on December 15, 2017. No cash refunds. No decision was made about recycling cans yet, but President Orasin noted, “They are the property of the Borough.” Yard waste can still be taken to the borough garage, curbside pickup for yard waste yet to be determined. Saturday Recycling drop-off at the borough garage will continue through the end of 2017. Councilman Cost offered a motion for council to adopt the committee’s recommendations and the fee of \$15.50 per unit added to the sewer bill. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor of the recommendations and no one opposed. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Orasin reminded everyone to “Get out to Vote tomorrow, and think very carefully about how you vote”.

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, December 4, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Lesjack moved to adjourn and reminded everyone that Veteran’s Day is celebrated on November 10. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.