

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – October 2, 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, Ed Pearsall, Chris DeGonzague, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secr/Treasurer Sharon Vannan.

OPENING REMARKS/AWARD PRESENTATION:

President Orasin began by requesting a “Moment of Silence” for the victims of the Las Vegas Shooting, noting, “This is quite a tragedy with no easy solution, but we must all be vigilant members of our community.” He then turned the floor over to Mayor Wilcox. Mayor Wilcox read a statement in support of the First Responders. She presented the Forest City Emergency Services with a Letter of Commendation, a Unit Citation Award and a personal donation of \$500 from her family, exemplifying the company’s teamwork, collaboration, dedication, poise and control under pressure as well as their expertise in the field and their selfless efforts.

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

Paul Dovin asked if a decision was made on the garbage collection. President Orasin said that would be discussed later in the meeting with a vote by council at that time. Mr. Dovin commented, “Why is the Borough in the garbage business?” President Orasin responded, “This will all be discussed later in the meeting.”

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes for the regular monthly meeting held September 5, 2017 and the “Special Meeting” held September 26, 2017. “Are there any comments or corrections?” No one offered any comment 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 September 2017. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report and authorize total disbursements of \$85,132.44. Cash Receipts totaled \$85,070.78. Councilman Cost seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 7 to 0 in favor of accepting the September report.

PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

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

- Aluminum cans taken to Archbald Wrecking netted \$110;
- Installed the Town Clock in front of the Borough building;
- Finished painting the street signs & poles;
- Used 1,500 lbs. of Sakrete to repair a storm drain near 136 Center Street;
- Painted crosswalks at Turkey Hill and the North Street & Main intersection;

We’re still looking for permanent fixes for Vision Park (monitoring it), and repairs for Caryl Street. The Ford F550 Dump truck may need work, it’s showing signs of age, not a lot of miles but it’s seven years old and getting a lot of rust. Hope to budget for a replacement with a plow for 2018.

President Orasin thanked Councilman Scalzo and commented, “It’s good to see the clock back again.”

B. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that he is making progress with his plans for the second floor bathrooms. He is shopping around and has found most of the items needed. He hopes to start that shortly and hoping to get the Pentecost Hall Floor started soon as well.

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He also noted that he has looked into the cost of a generator requested by the Mayor for the Police department and found that it may run around \$20K with an additional \$20K for installation. Will look into the cost of a portable generator that can be used at the sight of an emergency where the men are more likely to be needed rather than in the office. No idea on the price but will continue to look into it.

C. PARKS & RECREATION: (Ed Pearsall)

Councilman Pearsall reported that as of this date the mail drive has brought in \$2,245, which will help with matching funds needed for the basketball courts. Expressed his thanks to the people of Forest City, Browndale and Vandling, noting how very generous so many people have been.

D. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague shared Stephanie Reisch's report for council's review. Some of the highlights included updates on Hudson Street property (formerly Maxie's) slated for demolition. She reported that she has been working on getting every property in compliance with the requirement for house numbers. She submitted an article to the Forest City News about the importance of identifying your address. She has created door hangers and is working on getting the demolition started at 746 Delaware St. After the house numbers are completed, plan to work next on visibility issues at several intersections due to bushes that are obstructing the view of oncoming traffic. Plans for a committee meeting on the "Quality of Life" will be sometime this month.

E. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Nick Cost)

Councilman Cost thanked the fire and emergency crews that responded to the recent fires on Main Street. "Thank you to all the first responders for their dedication and to anyone who provided assistance. Councilman Cost also commented on the restoration and replacement of the Town Clock.

The "Brush Hog" work is completed. They did a great job.

Cost also reported that the Safety Committee recently met with Paul Mihelc. "Mr. Mihelc offered some great ideas and what we need to get going. We have a page and a half of notes and will set up a plan. This will cover everything from snow emergencies to fires. Thank you to Mr. Mihelc." Councilwoman Matarese will contact Bob Thatcher at the Susq. Co. Emergency Management to get a more recent copy of the "Emergency Management Manual for Public Officials". The one we have is the 2010 version. Councilman Cost added, "We will plan another meeting to start putting together some of the plans."

He turned the floor over to Art McLain, Main Street Coordinator, who reported, "The festival at Creekside would provide some assistance to the victims of the fire with tickets selling for \$15 in advance and \$25 at the gate." He also mentioned that Commissioner Warren indicated that there may know of an interested buyer for these properties. Some of the owners (Erin Debish and the Rosal owners) suggested the possibility of a "green space". Looking for ideas for development of the Spano building. Mr. McLain also reported that he had spoken to Mayor Justin Taylor (Carbondale) about attending a round table discussion with other communities including Scranton, to try to mesh the municipalities together. Mr. McLain said that he had prepared a letter and with Council's approval, he planned to approach some businesses like Dunkin Donuts, Maliatessi Winery and Gertrude Hawk to try to get them interested in locating in Forest City.

CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)

President Orasin read an invitation to the "Mystical Masquerade Ball" on October 28, 2017 in support of the Susquehanna County Recreation Center. Tickets are \$100 per person and it will be at the Heart Lake Lodge in Scott Township. The deadline is 10/15/17.

Susq. Co. Dept. of Public Safety is holding a meeting to update the Hazard Mitigation Plan for the County on Thursday, October 26 at the Montrose County Office Building. RSVP by 10/13/17. President Orasin asked Ms. Vannan and Councilwoman Matarese to attend.

The Susq. County Township Officials Association's annual convention is on 10/19/17 in Montrose. If any councilperson plans to attend, please respond by 10/10/17. The borough will cover the \$10 cost per person. Dinner is included and there will be speakers from PSATS, PennDot and several County Officials.

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MAYORS REPORT: (Mayor Pauline Wilcox)

Mayor Wilcox distributed the September 2017 police report and the Vandling Borough invoice for October patrols.

A Memo of Understanding (MOU) between FCRHS and FCPD for event coverage at the school was presented. The District has agreed to increase the current charge from \$75 per event to \$85. Councilman Lesjack offered a motion to accept the MOU. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All voted aye to a roll call vote and the motion carried. The signed MOU will be returned to Superintendent Aquilina.

The Mayor announced that the new SUV will be ready on October 24.

Mayor Wilcox reported that there are several upcoming events for the Halloween holiday. She is co-sponsoring with the GFCBA the “Trunk or Treat” planned for the Friday, 10/27 on Main Street. There is also a “Haunted House” planned for the Spano Building to be held the Thursday, 10/26 and Friday, 10/2. Councilwoman Matarese said she also was planning to participate in the “Trunk or Treat” and would welcome candy donations, “I have a great costume, funny, not scary”.

Chief Johnson updated everyone on the upcoming Steamtown Marathon plans. Volunteers are needed at the Fire Hall and should report at 6:30 a.m. Fliers are being put on the cars the night before to remind everyone that parking is prohibited on Main Street for the event. He asked council to approve a donation of \$75 (from the P.D. donations left from the National Night Out) to the F. C. Emergency Services for refreshments.

Chief Johnson also reported that now that the crosswalks are painted the department plans to enforce the stop for pedestrian law. “Motorists take notice; you must stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks”. The ticket for a violation is \$129.50. There are penalties for “jay-walking” as well. Chief Johnson plans to speak to Chauncey about telling his customers, especially the elderly, that they must use the crosswalks, which are about ten feet from the entrance to the parking lot.

Mayor Wilcox announced that the schedule for regular Trick or Treating would be on 10/31/17 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Mayor Wilcox asked council to approve approximately \$4,900 for the purchase of firearms and ammunition. There is \$7,000 still left in their budget for this purpose. Councilman Cost made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. A roll call vote was six in favor. Councilman DeGonzague who questioned the purchase of the ammunition, indicating the “middle of the road” ammo would serve the same purpose, made the one opposing vote. Chief Johnson responded that for training and qualifying purposes, “you have to use what will be use in the field”. The motion carried. Chief Johnson anticipated that it would be received by October 8.

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

Solicitor Smith presented the “Young Lungs at Play Policy” to be adopted in conjunction with an Ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco products in all recreational area, parks, playgrounds, and athletic fields and the penalties for violation. Councilman Pearsall made a motion to advertise the new ordinance. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. Six members voted yes, the lone opposing vote was from Councilman Scalzo. The ad will run in the next publication of the Forest City News.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Orasin presented a quote from Schaedler-Yesco for 13 lampposts and the decorative lamps at a cost of \$36K. Councilman Lesjack made a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. It carried with a unanimous roll call vote, seven for, none opposed. An electrician is needed to install. Estimated cost of around \$5K meant telephone bids would be permitted. Councilman Cost made a motion to seek bids. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All members voted yes in a roll call vote, the motion carried. Gary Wilding at KBA would be contacted for recommendations.

President Orasin reported that extension on the PennDot permits was approved and the parking meters will be re-installed.

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Everyone received a breakdown of the bids received for the garbage bid. The three bids were from Freddy's Refuse, County Waste and J.P. Mascaro & Sons. County Waste came out on top with a flat rate of \$168 per residential unit per year that included garbage, recycling and one bulk item per week. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to contract with County Waste for a three-year contract to begin November 1, 2017. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. A roll call vote found five members voting yes and two opposed. The opposing votes were from Council members Scalzo and Cost. The motion carried.

Solicitor Smith presented the new Garbage Ordinance supporting the change from the current system. He hi-lighted some of the specifics. President Orasin asked about enforcement issues and if it included any reference to dumpsters. Attorney Smith noted that the dumpster adopted in 2010 covered this and would be unnecessary to add it to the garbage ordinance, which will cover all residential units whether they are single, or multiple dwellings. A motion to advertise the Ordinance was made by Councilman Pearsall and seconded by Councilman DeGonzague. All members voted yes by roll call.

What to charge and how? Discussion continued about the best way to bill residents. Adding it to the monthly sewer bill or putting it into the borough tax bill in 2018. A combination of both was suggested, starting initially with a monthly charge on the sewer bill, and then adding a pro-rated amount to the Borough Real Estate bill that comes out in early spring. It would be on the annual Real Estate bill from then on. Councilman Pearsall made a motion to adopt this method. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. All members voted yes in a roll call vote. Further information would be gathered to see if this could be done at the county level. Cindy Stone indicated that she had already gotten information on adapting the current sewer invoice to accommodate the first five months for garbage bills. She had also begun to put together the address lists needed to identify the customer base for billing purposes. President Orasin noted that the final cost to residents was yet to be determined. Solicitor Smith stated that only actual hard costs could be added to the fee.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular meeting will be on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Pearsall moved to adjourn. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All responded "aye" and the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.