

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH  
MINUTES  
MONDAY - June 5, 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 Bill Orasin, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council Members Joann Matarese Nick Cost, Robert Lesjack, Chris DeGonzague, Ed Pearsall, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, and Secr/Treasurer S. Vannan. Absent: Solicitor Paul Smith

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

John Kameen requested an update on the Main Street completion, "still 6/30?" President Orasin responded, "yes, completion expected by that date."

Tony Wilcox took the floor expressing his disappointment that "nobody's name was on the ballot. What's up with that?" He then tendered his resignation from the Kennedy Park Board. President Orasin thanked him. No one else had any comment.

Joseph Franceski III (Franceski Waste & Recycling) addressed council about his concerns over the garbage situation, stating that was "losing money, no one is putting out garbage and it's impacting on the cost of doing business." Mr. Franceski continued reporting that he had a study done revealing that only 28% of the households in the borough were actually buying bags & putting out their trash. He asked council to come up with a reasonable solution. He did not think he could continue for the three years he had bid. He asked that it be looked at again, admitting that part of this was his own fault. Nick Cost commented, "Is garbage is being taken elsewhere?" Mr. Franceski added, "Well, of all the livable units, 28% putting it out, the numbers are bad, 250 houses/week are putting out bags, it's got to be going somewhere. I know people who have never put out a bag. Why should they? There's no repercussion, the borough needs to enforce participation." Mr. Franceski continued, "I'm losing money every week, \$20 to \$25/week above my fixed costs. The borough contract should be grossing \$100K to \$120K/year, it's a fair system for some, but it's not working." President Orasin asked, "Has something changed since this was just bid by your company in the fall?" Mr. Franceski responded, "No, it's was partly my fault, but I need a solution, a light at the end of the tunnel." Councilman Cost asked if anyone had any ideas or a solution, "we need to meet and discuss the situation." President Orasin suggested a letter to residents reminding them of their responsibility to dispose of their trash properly and warning them of the consequences if the current system fails. Councilman Pearsal agreed with the letter idea but added, "Maybe a set price is needed, like other municipalities, charge a set fee of \$240/year or let residents do garbage on your own." A recent survey taken of other Susquehanna County boroughs & townships found that Forest City is the only local government entity that is providing garbage collection services. Councilman Scalzo added, "The bag system is fair, but it seems residents are taking their garbage to work or elsewhere." President Orasin asked if anyone else had any comments. Stephanie Reisch added, "I know of at least three properties that do not dispose of their garbage, why isn't this the property owners' problem?" Councilman Cost replied, "This is why we need to hire a Code Enforcement Officer, put in your application." President Orasin asked, "Anyone else, if not, we'll do a letter to residents, and meet with Franceski Waste, we'll move on, anyone else."

Mr. Franceski mentioned that there is a sewer line problem at his Smoke Shop/Liquor Store property, asking when it becomes the borough's problem. President Orasin responded, "The property owner is responsible for the entire lateral to the sewer main, please contact Cindy later. Roto-Rooter may be able to determine if it's a crushed line due to sidewalk work."

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Councilwoman Matarese asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes for the regular monthly meeting and if there were any corrections, and then made a motion to accept the minutes for the May 1,

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2017 meeting. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion. All voted aye, the May minutes were accepted.

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for May 2017. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize total disbursements of \$198,716.15, which included the semi-annual payment to the USDA for \$131,010. Cash Receipts totaled \$258,820.71. Councilman DeGonzague seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 7 to 0 in favor of accepting the May report.

The 2016 Audit & Financial Statements and the Auditors findings were distributed to council members. No questions or comments.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve USDA Payment #56 – PennDot Inspection - \$632.43. Councilman Pearsall seconded the motion. It carried with a roll call vote 7 to 0 in favor.

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

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

- Recycling donations collected - \$242;
- Additional donations submitted on 5/31 missed the final deposit, recorded 6/1/17-\$172;
- Repaired Storm drain – Susq. St., St. John's parking lot – 700 lbs. Sakrete;
- Storm drain repair – Higgins St., near Babe Ruth Park – 425 lbs. Sakrete;
- 5/26/17 – rec'd 22 ½ tons of Road Salt from Cargill thru the CoStars program;
- 5/31/17 accepted delivery of 100 Cubic yds.-Zeager Wood Carpet playground mulch.

Bob Tedesco noted on his report that there is a dip in the road and the berm on the 900 block of Susquehanna Street. This has been happening for several years, reason unknown. Gary Wilding had looked at this previously; it is filled in repeatedly and still sinking. Councilman Cost asked if Gary could look at it again and make a recommendation. President Orasin asked Cindy to contact Gary Wilding regarding this issue.

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

Councilman Lesjack began by reporting that Blueberry Hill filled the flowerpots at the entrance of the building coming in under their original quote. Approved for \$200, they charged \$170.

Councilman Lesjack reported that Cindy contacted Dennis Kutch. He hoped that he and Bill would be meeting with Dennis Kutch regarding the exterior of the borough building to see if there are any structural issues. When it is determined what needs to be done, bids will be sought for exterior work, brickwork, gutters, etc.

Councilman Lesjack commented that Bob & Wally did a nice job in the elevator, painting and replacing the floor tiles. Councilman DeGonzague added that better lighting would be a good addition, perhaps LED lights. Lesjack responded, "We'll have to check into it, that's a good suggestion."

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

Councilman Pearsall reported that things are moving forward with the basketball courts; \$20,000 grant money was received and placed in a dedicated account as required. Cindy Stone is meeting with Gary Wilding to revise specs.

Two bids were received for the replacement of the Kennedy Park entrance sign. The sign is updated with the two logos representing the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation & the Land & Water Conversation for their participation in the cooperative project establishing Kennedy Park. "Established in 1968" added to the sign recognizing the year the park was dedicated. Cerra Signs quoted \$375 – Joe Kluck quoted a price of \$450. Cerra signs also quoted a price of \$25 for the "Under Construction" sign needed to be placed at the park while the courts are worked on. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to accept the bid from Cerra Signs for \$375, plus the add'l sign at \$25, total cost \$400. Councilman

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DeGonzague seconded the motion. A roll call vote found seven in favor, none opposed. Bob & Wally will be removing the old sign, painting the frame and assisting with installation.

Council received a request to purchase an enclosed bulletin board for the Pavilion at the park for posting rules, and a calendar of upcoming events. The on-line purchase price \$191.44 with free shipping for the 2' x 3' Plexiglas covered locking unit. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to approve the purchase. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion. All voted aye in a roll call vote and the motion carried, seven to zero.

Councilman Pearsall reported that the playground mulch was delivered and will be shared with Vandling Borough. Vandling has already paid their ½ of the cost and their payment will be transferred from the general fund account into the Kennedy Park Fund with the next disbursements on 6/16/17.

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

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

Councilman DeGonzague provided the monthly Code Enforcement Report listing those violators receiving second notices for grass. He reported that a Code Enforcement Officer has not been found. There was one applicant but the committee was concerned that it could be a "Conflict of Interest". Nick Cost offered a motion to advertise again for the position. Ed Pearsall seconded the motion. All in favor, the motion carried. Ms. Vannan will submit the ad to the F.C. News and get it on the Borough Website. Deadline for response 6/30/17, giving the committee a chance to interview before the next council meeting.

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

Councilman Cost filled everyone in on some of the things that Art McLain has been working on: A letter and a survey form was mailed out to business owners in an effort to compile a database of available storefronts. He has been working with Commissioner Warren, Mayor Wilcox, the GFCBA and FCRSD creating a petition to extend the hours of the F.C. Library. He plans to continue distributing balloons on Saturdays, bringing a festive atmosphere to the Main Street. He is sending stories to the Scranton Times for the "Around the Towns". He is working with Erin Debish to create a new business at Studio 511. He is planning musical entertainment for Main Street & Kennedy Park. Councilman Cost added that the survey sent out is to obtain information about availability, previous use, square footage, any equipment, incentives, etc. Art will be following up with a report on the responses in the future.

**CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)**

President Orasin shared a letter from the Historical Society's Secretary, Juliann Doyle. Ms. Doyle expressed their concerns about the new sidewalk and the condition of the retaining wall along the Main Street in front of the Historical Society Building. They feel that the sidewalk construction has caused some disturbance resulting in separation between the wall and the ground behind. President Orasin said he would be in touch with them soon.

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

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

Mayor Wilcox will be officiating a wedding at Kennedy Park on June 24, 2017.

The Mayor also offered her thanks to Jeff Swiegle for a beautiful service on Memorial Day held at the Legion hall on Dundaff Street. Due to unsavory weather conditions, the usual Main Street service moved to the indoor location.

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

Solicitor Smith was unable to attend the meeting. According to Mayor Wilcox, Solicitor Smith is working on a "Social Media Policy" that he will email out tomorrow.

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**CONTINUED BUSINESS:**

A Committee made up of Nick Cost, Bill Orasin & Bernie Scalzo met on 5/9/17 to discuss and prepare recommendations for the proposal to Union Dale Borough for Police Coverage. Their recommendation as follows:

\$2,400/month – four (4) hours per week – July 1, 2017 thru Dec. 31, 2017. 16 hours per month.

Additional fee for Call-outs (TBD) to include but not limited to after-hour accident/incident response, prisoner transport, travel time and participation in District Magistrate and County Courthouse proceedings.

First four months *free in exchange* for 2010 Ford SUV currently owned by Uniondale Borough (following a thorough inspection and approval by a qualified 3<sup>rd</sup>-party mechanic at a certified dealership and no major repairs required).

Renegotiate contract in November for 2018 renewal.

The Mayor added that patrols would be on Friday & Saturday, additional charge for call-outs and extra for after-hours and down time.

Councilman Cost asked the Mayor for the map confirming the coverage area, which would not include the Beacon. The Mayor said she would get the map from Mayor Foster and get it to council members. Councilman DeGonzague made a motion authorizing the Mayor to present the proposal to the Union Dale Mayor. Ed Pearsall seconded the motion. The motion carried with a five to two vote. Council Members Lesjack and Matarese opposed. Councilman Lesjack was very vocal about concerns about taking police coverage out of the borough. Leaving our own residents unsupported in an emergency. Councilwoman Matarese agreed.

Mayor Wilcox made a strong argument for the purchase of an SUV Ford “Interceptor” vs. a Chevy Tahoe. The price was close, the difference only \$2,183. Specs were provided to the council. Of the three vehicles now in service, the 2007 will be down as of June 30 as it will not pass inspection, so it will be “parked”. At \$40,000, the SUV is coming in at only \$2,000 over the budgeted amount of \$38K. The Mayor commented, “The budget allowed for \$2,000 for clerical staff which was not going to be used and would offset the \$2k difference. The proposal to Union Dale may not go over and we can’t count on getting their SUV”. We will be down to two vehicles; the 2011 already has 115K miles. Councilman Cost made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2017 Ford Interceptor as quoted. Joann Matarese seconded the motion. The roll call vote was six to one, with Councilman DeGonzague the lone dissent. The motion carried, anticipated delivery would be three months.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Council discussed postponing the next regular meeting originally scheduled for July 3, 2017 to Thursday, the July 6 or Monday the July 10 due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Holiday. Bernie Scalzo proposed a motion to have the next regular meeting on Monday, July 10, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. Bob Lesjack seconded the motion. President Orasin asked for all those in favor. The motion carried six to one in favor. Ms. Vannan would advertise the change and post it on the website.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Councilman Ed Pearsall moved to adjourn. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.