

**FOREST CITY BOROUGH
MINUTES
MONDAY – August 7, 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, Mayor Pauline Wilcox, Solicitor Paul Smith and Secr/Treasurer S. Vannan. Absent: Councilman DeGonzague.

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

John Kameen asked for information on the delinquent sewer bills. President Orasin asked Cindy Stone to prepare a report. Kameen asked what the borough does about the delinquents. President Orasin said, "A Sewer Committee meets to review any requests from property owners and Cindy works with G.H. Harris to target delinquents. They do a great job at no cost to the borough."

Rachel Habetter, Delaware Street, commented that she was appalled at the disrespect displayed by some residents at the Garbage Meeting. "Council took a lot abuse; a little respect goes a long way." Bob Lesjack and Nick Cost thanked her. Ed Pearsall said, "I've been waiting for four years."

Linda Buck Haney spoke next. She wished to inform Council that she believed Councilman DeGonzague was not in attendance due to personal legal matters. President Orasin stated that council would not address personal legal matters.

Kevin Kane reiterated his position in support of privatization of garbage collection. President Orasin thanked Mr. Kane.

Mr. Franceski (Franceski Waste) asked, "Does Council plan to vote tonight?" President Orasin responded, "The committee has not met and nothing will likely happen tonight." Franceski continued, "This has been going on since April, you've heard from the public, just vote on it." President Orasin responded, "I expect no movement tonight."

Catherine Singer asked, "Have you received my letter about the animal population problem?" President Orasin responded that the Mayor is working on it.

Tammy Schmidt, Railroad Street, asked, "Is the Trailer Park private, will they be required to participate in whatever new garbage collection system is adopted." President Orasin responded, "The trailer owners are part of the borough's garbage contract."

Tony Wilcox commented, "It was nice to see everyone at the park for National Night Out and thanks to all the volunteers who helped to make it such a success."

President Orasin asked if there were any other comments or questions. With no response he said, "Let's move on to regular business."

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. ADMINISTRATION: (Joann Matarese)

Councilwoman Matarese asked if everyone had reviewed the minutes for the regular monthly meeting held July 10, 2017, asked if there were any corrections, and then made a motion to accept the minutes. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. All voted aye, the motion carried. She then presented the minutes for the "Special Meeting" held August 3, 2017 and offered a motion to accept them as written. Councilman Lesjack seconded the motion that carried with a unanimous "aye".

Council members reviewed the Treasurer's Report for July 2017. Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize total disbursements of \$190,524.82. Cash Receipts totaled \$185,365.07. Councilman Cost seconded the motion that carried with a roll call vote of 6 to 0 in favor of accepting the June report.

Councilwoman Matarese made a motion to approve USDA Payment #58– KBA amended invoices totaling - \$53,810.85 and resubmission of previously approved invoices totaling \$12,722.39. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. It carried with a roll call vote six to zero in favor.

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B. PUBLIC WORKS: (Bernie Scalzo)

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

- Repairs on recycling truck - \$262.24;
- 3 cutting blades for zero-turn mower - \$107;
- Aluminum cans to Archbald Wrecking - \$98.40;
- Used the backhoe to work on the road & ditch at the Upper Field at Kennedy Park;
- Used 250 lbs. of Sakrete to repair storm drain at corner of Susquehanna & Maxey Sts.;
- Recycling donations collected - \$327.

Bob Tedesco's report included the following comments – Cones set out by public works are disappearing. This is a safety issue, if anyone witnesses this theft; please report it to the Forest City Police Department. Bob reported again about the holes/sunken pavement in three locations – Vision Park, 900 block of Susquehanna St. and Lower North Main Street. Nick Cost asked, "Did anyone check Susquehanna Street sunken pavement?" Councilman Scalzo replied, "A person came from Mine Subsidence and determined that it is not a mine subsidence based on the maps. Gary Wilding is working on the three locations to help us to determine the best course of action."

The following needed before winter – six tires and chains for the F550 plow truck, four tires for the pickup truck, and two front tires for the recycling truck – will get prices.

Also, please consider the purchase of a new plow truck in the 2018 budget.

President Orasin asked if a motion was ever made to install the pipe at the entrance of the upper field at Kennedy Park in the drainage ditch that has a 24" pipe, but needed to be increased to a 36" pipe. Councilman Scalzo responded that it had not been addressed, and then made a motion to purchase the pipe from Bonham at a cost of around \$500. Ed Pearsall seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

C. BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Robert Lesjack)

Councilman Lesjack reported that Dennis Kutch was here since the last meeting and found several issues that need to be rectified. In the roof, several rafters require attention. Some of the pillars in the basement need to be replaced. He plans to break down each problem into sections for pricing and will report back at the next meeting.

Councilman Lesjack commented that the third Floor has turned into a storage area and has plans to renovate it. He feels that the borough could make money on renting it out for events. "There is nowhere else in town to hold anything. He announced that there is a "Used Furniture" sale on the 3rd floor, Pentecost Hall on August 11 & 12, from 9:00 a.m. to noon. "Please let us know if there is anything anyone wants before then. The ad will go into the Forest City News on Wednesday."

D. PARKS & RECREATION: (Ed Pearsall)

Councilman Pearsall said that a letter and pledge form would be sent out to Forest City and surrounding communities through the USPS Direct Mail service at a cost of \$.17 per piece. Money raised will help to offset some of the cost of the matching funds for the USDA Grant for the basketball courts. The grant was awarded for \$40K, the total estimated cost will be around \$59K. Ed Pearsall offered a motion to advertise for bids for the courts. Joann Matarese seconded the motion. All were in favor, the motion carried. Sharon would get prices for the ad with the Wayne Independent & Carbondale News. Gary Wilding will provide the bid specs to Cindy.

Ed Pearsall added, "It was great to see everyone at the park for the recent events, and thank you to all those who supported the National Night Out and the Fishing Derby and thank you to the volunteers.

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E. CODE ENFORCEMENT: (Chris DeGonzague)

Councilman DeGonzague was unavailable for this meeting. CEO Stephanie Reisch reported that she has been going around town, contacting residents about the grass, garbage and dumpsters. She had not prepared a formal report, but would do that in the future.

Ms. Reisch presented information to council members about the “Quality of Life” code used by other municipalities in the area. It gives the CEO in-house powers that otherwise are controlled by the District Magistrate. President Orasin thanked Ms. Reisch and asked her to tweak it and present it at next month’s meeting. He continued saying that this has been under discussion for several years and needs to be adopted to give the borough “some teeth” rather than depending on the Magistrate. Ms. Reisch added, “For instance, I witnessed a dog going and the owner walked away without cleaning it up, I want to be able to ticket.” Ms. Reisch wants approval to talk to some other people in surrounding communities, meet with them and find out what’s being done elsewhere. Paul Smith added, “John Williams was working on this but it didn’t really get anywhere.” Ms. Reisch added that she would like to look into fees and would be willing to cite violators.

F. COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Nick Cost)

Councilman Cost submitted a letter from Dave Fitch donating the building at 701 Main Street to Forest City “to be used toward the greater good of the community”. President Orasin asked, “Do we want the building?” Both Joann Matarese and Bob Lesjack asked, “What would we use it for?” Councilman Pearsall added, “We could see if there is someone out there who could use it.” President Orasin said, “Personally, I do not think the Borough would have a use for it.” Art McLain said, “Think Salvation Army or some other organization.” President Orasin asked Art McLain to please check into that and get back to Council. Nick Cost has keys to the building if anyone would like to inspect it.

Art McLain reported that he received another business survey. He apologized for missing the last couple of meetings but has continued to work in the background and has several things going on. He continues to submit articles to the Scranton Times. He’s been in touch with Representative Fritz, Rails to Trails, and the school regarding the storefront window-decorating project. He continues to contact 15 to 20 businesses per week. Councilwoman Matarese thanked Mr. McLain.

G. CORRESPONDENCE: (President Bill Orasin)

President Orasin read an invitation from the Susquehanna County Economic Development Board to the Annual Economic Development Breakfast Meeting, Friday August 25, 2017, at the Panorama Golf Course. State Representative Jonathan Fritz is the guest speaker. President Orasin asked if Councilman Cost would be interested in attending. Mayor Wilcox and Cindy Stone would also attend if available.

MAYORS REPORT: (Mayor Pauline Wilcox)

Mayor Wilcox distributed the July 2017 Police Report and the Vandling Invoice for August Patrols and July calls.

Mayor Wilcox thanked everyone for their support at a very successful “National Night Out”, sponsored by the Police Department. “Everyone did a wonderful job and we had a great turn-out! We served 150 hamburgers & 150 hotdogs, in fact we ran out of food.” “We served watermelon, slushies, cotton candy, cupcakes, chips & pretzels. Thank you to the Forest City Police Department, TreHab, Wayne County Children & Youth, the Forest City Area Emergency Services and so many others who made this a successful night. Also, thank you to council, D.J. Disc Jockey, Donna Marz – F.C. Rocks, Red Dragon, Lynette’s Twirlettes, Susquehanna Co. Commissioner Alan Hall, Sheriff Lance Benedict, Bob Klein, Susq. Co. Children & Youth and so many others. Thank you to our corporate sponsors, UGI, Linde Construction and Kartri Mfg. for their generous cash donations.

Saturday’s Fishing Derby, also sponsored by the Police Department, was another great success. 71 fish were caught. 36 children participated, ages 8 to 15. Everyone got a prize. Jacob Gray caught the largest fish, a 15.5” pickerel. Max Urbas caught the most fish, nine.

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Mayor Wilcox asked council to consider renewing the extended warranty service contract from Dell for the two laptops and server purchased last year - a one-year contract at a cost of \$367 or a three-year contract for \$802.93. The three-year contract would save the borough \$99.36 per year. Councilman Cost recommended the borough go with the three-year contract. All agreed. Robert Lesjack made a motion to purchase the three-year contract for \$802.93. Bernie Scalzo seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor, none opposed. The motion carried.

The Mayor addressed the concerns expressed by Catherine Singer regarding wildlife invading the area and reported that anyone with these issues should contact Lee Rowan. The Mayor asked Lee to look into the problem. The Mayor recommended an organization called Wildlifehelp.org that offers information on reducing the threat. She noted that garbage is one large component of the problem. The market price for pelts has dropped and with less trappers, there are more animals. Call the Wildlife Investigator, avail yourself of the education that is out there on what to do. Call the non-emergency number and ask for Lee Rowan and he will report problems to the Game Commission. Ms. Singer said, "These animals are coming out in the day, so that's an indication that they are sick or infected." The Mayor replied, "There have been no reported cases of rabies in the county". Councilman Pearsall added, "There have been reports of skunks in and around large white drainage pipes." Joey Franceski admitted, "Those are mine." Pearsall continued, "There have been reports that several dogs have been sprayed. The pipes need to be moved."

Mayor Wilcox continued, "Thank you to John Kameen for the very nice presentation of the Distinguished Citizens Awards, and the special presentation honoring the Vietnam Veterans." The mayor also recognized the Debish Family for their fund raising efforts, raising \$10K at an event they sponsored on Saturday.

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

Solicitor Smith had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was nothing on the agenda for new business.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

The Uniondale Borough Council rejected the police contract offered by the Borough.

With 117K miles and the need for \$2,000 in repairs, the 2011 Chevy Impala is out of service and replaced with the purchase of the Uniondale SUV for \$10,000. Councilman Cost offered a motion to approve the \$10,000 purchase price for the SUV. Councilwoman Matarese seconded the motion. A roll call vote found six members in favor, none opposed, the motion carried. Councilman Cost offered a motion to advertise the 2011 Chevy Impala for sale after the vehicle has been stripped of all police equipment. Ed Pearsall seconded the motion. All voted aye and the motion carried.

A letter to Robert Fearnley, Susq. County Conservation District Watershed Specialist, was offered for council's approval. Due to the opposition of two property owners located at either end of the proposed work on Forest Lane, the grant for \$21,170 will be turned back. Work in that section was hoped to relieve some of the water drainage issues that plague the Main Street properties below, however, this project is abandoned. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to approve the letter for submission to Mr. Fearnley. Councilman Scalzo seconded the motion. Roll call vote found four in favor and two opposed (Bill Orasin & Nick Cost), the motion carried with the majority in favor.

Mr. Franceski brought up the garbage collection issue again, asking Council to make a decision to rebid the garbage contract, stating, "I cannot continue with the present contract". Councilman Pearsall commented, "It's pretty sad that with more than 700 residential units in town, only 60 people showed up at the special meeting, it's pathetic but typical, people complain but won't show up". Bob Lesjack added, "This is about the welfare of the town." Ms. Vannan asked, "For the record, Mr. Franceski, could you be

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specific as to your intentions.” Solicitor Smith cut off the discussion, saying, “We’re getting into potential legal ramifications.” Councilman Pearsall made a motion to adjourn for an Executive Session. Nick Cost seconded the motion. All members voted “aye”. Council moved to the third floor at 8:20 p.m.

The meeting re-adjourned at 8:35 p.m. Councilman Pearsall offered a motion to re-convene, Joann Matarese seconded the motion. All voted “aye”. Mr. Franceski stated he would not agree to a minimum bag proposal. Councilman Pearsall responded by saying, “in that case, I make a motion to rebid the garbage contract, letting Franceski Waste out of the contract or do you agree to continue?” President Orasin stated, “We can’t just switch.” Franceski offered, “I may continue through the end of the year if the borough switched to the alternate bid, if opening up the bids again, I will be finished at the end of August.” Nick Cost asked, “If the contract is rebid, can you hang in until the end of September?” Solicitor Smith said, “A motion is needed to rebid and advertise.” Franceski asked, “What are you rebidding, pickup per household?” President Orasin didn’t answer directly but noted, “If we open the bids in September, the eff. date would be pushed out two months. Ms. Vannan asked, “What are we supposed to do with the large number of bags we have on hand?” Franceski responded, “I’ll be willing to eat that cost if council can make a decision tonight.” Councilman Pearsall made a motion to advertise for sealed bids for a garbage collection system to include recycling. Solicitor Smith said, “Distinguish between the pay as you go bag system, purchasing a minimum number of bags or, alternately, a specified number of bags/week (tax-based) and all with recycling and a bulk item option.” The current specs will be redone and reviewed by Solicitor Smith, keeping in mind that if the borough opts for a tax-based system, they would see no revenue before March or April, 2018 and still have the end of 2017 to cover. Kevin Kane offered his opinion, “The borough would save money and so would the residents by privatizing and getting out of the garbage business.”

Councilman Pearsall proposed a motion to vote to advertise for garbage collection bids. Joann Matarese seconded the motion. A roll-call vote resulted in four ayes and two no votes (B. Scalzo & W. Orasin). The motion passed. Invitation to Bid ads will be placed in the Forest City News, Wayne Independent and Carbondale News forthwith.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Due to the Labor Day Holiday, the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Pearsall moved to adjourn. Councilman Cost seconded the motion. All responded “aye” and the meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.