

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
LOCATION: FORD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
JUNE 29, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Bartuccio called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

AUDIO OR VIDEO TAPING

Council President Bartuccio advised the audience the meeting will be audio taped by Ford City Borough and Lisa Bittner and televised by Family Life TV. Bartuccio asked if anyone else is audio or video taping the meeting?

Julie Martin – Leader-Times is audio taping the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bartuccio lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Gene Banks, Kathy Bartuccio, Jerry Miklos, Vicki Schaub and Mayor Mantini were present. Josh Abernathy was absent.

ATTENDANCE

Borough Manager Eden Ratliff, Borough Secretary Lisa Bittner, Caroline Hassa, Gary Stivason, Tyson Klukan – Ford City Planning Commission, Carol Fenyes, Marlene Szymanski, Tom Ondrusek, David Milito, Jamie Thompson, Richard Wakefield, Dean Hutchison, Anita Bowser, Tina Bowser, Bill McMasters, Julie Martin – Leader-Times and Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Bartuccio announced there was an Executive Session held on Thursday June 25, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ford City Borough Office to discuss personnel matters.

Bartuccio announced there was an Executive Session held on Monday June 29, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ford City Library to discuss personnel matters.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Schaub made a motion to approve the June 29, 2015 agenda. Seconded by Miklos.
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

COUNCIL VACANCY

Bartuccio explained that on May 11, 2015 Scott Gaiser submitted a letter resigning himself from Council. On June 25, 2015 the resignation was deemed accepted after 45 days per the Borough Code. [Until the vacancy is filled Council shall consist of five (5) members.]

On behalf of Borough Council Bartuccio thanked Mr. Gaiser for his dedicated service to the Public and wished him the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Bartuccio explained Registered Electors of the Second Ward interested in filling this vacancy are encouraged to submit letters of interest to the Borough Office – Attention Kathy Bartuccio.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no Citizen Comments at this time.

ACCOUNTANT

Schaub made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the employment agreement with Virginia Finnegan hiring her as the Borough Treasurer/Accountant at the rate of \$35.00 for an hour for the first month and \$42.50 thereafter. Seconded by Banks.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Mayor asks why is Council changing Accountants in the middle of the stream? I understand this is an ill-advised thing to do right now.

Schaub asked Council to table this motion. Information was provided today and Council has not had an opportunity to check it out.

Banks agreed with the Mayor. There are a lot of things on Council's plate right now. The Water Plant, Paving, a new Accountant might not be able to jump right in.

Miklos asked Mayor why thinks this is ill advised.

Mayor explains over two decades ago there was a problem and a large amount of money vanished. A large amount of money. It was Tax Payer's money. Susan [Accountant Susan Thompson] came in and did a wonderful job. Right now we have the Early Intervention Group here. How does this seat with the Early Intervention Group? We are going to change [accountants] right now in the middle of the stream? Please explain that to the Public?

Banks agrees with Mayor.

Mayor states that at the Town Hall meeting he brought this up. I knew nothing about this Virginia Finnegan, her credentials. I think right now we should be explaining this. How does this seat with the Early Intervention Group? Does this seat well with them?

Schaub explained every person on Council had the opportunity to sit in on all interviews for that position? If you want to know anything about the person.....

Mayor states he was not invited.

Schaub stated that is a matter of Council to decide that. There were questions raised about the CRA Group. We received extra information today and that is the reason I want Council to table this motion at this time. Mayor thanks Schaub for being forthright with the Public. Mayor stated he understood the CRA Group made a comment on this too. Mayor explained previous Councils would invite him to sit in on the hiring process. Mayor thanked Schaub for the explanation.

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Approved 7-13-2015

Miklos asked Mayor how he knew what CRA's

Mayor stated it was none of Miklos's concern right now, but I did hear this through the grape vine. Mayor speaks to Miklos that he should have known this.

Miklos stated he did not. I am not aware, that's why I'm asking how you learned it.

Mayor states he heard it through a reliable source and would rather not say right now. There are a lot of things here not made known to the Public. We had a deadline on money that is coming up. Right now that's \$581,000. The interest going to accrue on that is approx. \$15,000 at 2.2%.

Miklos asked how he knew that?

Mayor stated because he read the paper that was brought to my house. If you do the simple math, it is \$15,000.00 interest.

Schaub stated that is not an issue we are discussing tonight. Schaub explained information from CRA was brought to Council at approx. 5:30 p.m. today. So, it's not hard to guess where you heard through the grape vine.

Banks spoke to Schaub, so you made a motion to table this?

Borough Manager explained there is a motion on the floor to appoint Ms. Finnegan to the Treasurer/Accountant. Then Ms. Schaub you said wanted to table. Council needs to vote on the first motion because there is a first and a second on action item number (1) one. Then we can go from there.

Council President Bartuccio called for a vote. 0 – 4 All are opposed. Motion Fails.

Borough Manager explained they can move on to item #2 or you could table.

MINUTES

Schaub made a motion to accept draft #3 of the 5-27-2014 Special Council Meeting Minutes as presented, this is the Final Draft.

Miklos asked are we going to table the first motion before we move on?

ACCOUNTANT

Miklos made a motion to table this [to authorize the Council President to sign the employment agreement with Virginia Finnegan hiring her as the Borough Treasurer/Accountant at the rate of \$35.00 for an hour for the first month and \$42.50 thereafter.] until the next meeting [July 13, 2015]. Seconded by Schaub.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

MINUTES

Schaub made a motion to accept draft #3 of the 5-27-2014 Special Council Meeting Minutes as presented, this is the Final Draft. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

PAYMENT RATIFICATION

Minutes 6-29-2015

Approved 7-13-2015

Miklos made a motion to ratify payment to Gibson-Thomas on 6-24-2015 in the amount of \$1,903.50 for Engineering Services for the Meter Vault Installation Project. Seconded by Schaub.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

OVR EMPLOYEE - HIRING

Miklos made a motion to hire Logan Sergline [Logan Serafine] as Summer help in the Street Department effective June 30, 2015 at the rate of \$8.50 an hour through the Occupational Vocational Rehabilitation program and authorize the Council President to sign the agreement with OVR pending Solicitor approval, a physical, a drug test, and a background check. Seconded by Schaub.

Schaub asked to correct the spelling of the last name to Serafine.

Schaub asked Borough Manager to explain the program.

Borough Manager explained 90% of the wages will be paid by the State Program. We will only pay 10% on the other side after being reimbursed by the state.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

SUMMER HELP - HIRING

Banks made a motion to hire Tucker Barrett as Summer help in the Street Department at the rate of \$8.50 an hour effective June 30, 2015 and not work more than 120 days pending a physical, drug test, and a background check. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

SUMMER HELP - HIRING

Schaub made a motion to hire Joshua Dinus as Summer help in the Street Department at the rate of \$8.50 an hour effective June 30, 2015 and not work more than 120 days pending physical, drug test, and background checked. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

GIBSON-THOMAS ENGINEERING AGREEMENT

Banks made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the Contract for Engineering Services for the Borough of Ford City Water Treatment Plant Construction Project pending Solicitor approval. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous (Attachment)

SUMMERFEST – FOURTH OF JULY PARADE

Miklos made a motion to authorize Summerfest to have their annual parade on Saturday July 4, 2015 in Ford City Borough beginning at 6:00 p.m. and to notify the Ford City Police Department, Fire Department, and State Police of all road closures, which will be authorized by the Borough Manager. Seconded by Schaub

Banks asked if anybody was here from the Committee that could give us a synopsis? No Summerfest members were present at the meeting.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Miklos asked the Borough Manager if he has a contact for Summerfest. Borough Manager answered he did and he will provide the contact number to Council.

PENNSYLVANIA STATE FLOOD MITIGATION GRANT

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Approved 7-13-2015

Schaub made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign a letter for the Pennsylvania State Flood Mitigation Grant committing \$75,000 which is 15% of the total grant amount which will come from the 2016 budget. Seconded by Miklos.

Miklos explained the grant is in the amount of \$500,000.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Mayor asks if this could be explained to the Public?

Borough Manager explained the maximum amount is being applied for in the amount of \$500,000. This grant is through DCED – Department of Community & Economic Development. Gibson-Thomas Engineering is helping develop the application. If awarded, the money will be used to rehabilitate the Pump Houses, which are very old and outdated.

Miklos explained we have had a great deal of issues with these old antiquated Pump Stations over the years. When our previous Borough Superintendent left, we asked a previous Borough Superintendent to help us out because they were in quite disarray. There were parts all over the station. We had an expert come in and he advised us most of the equipment in there is so antiquated that we would not be able to get parts for.

Borough Manager agreed and explained we have been in situations where we had to come up with unique ways to fix things. We can't get a lot of the parts. Hopefully, we are successful in our application.

Schaub explained when she was at the Pump House when the gentleman was there repairing everything, I was told by one of the Borough Employees that only one person had keys for the Pump Houses and that was Mr. Coffey. There is also a ledger kept at the Pump House and any time anybody goes in and does any service or anything and those pages were all missing.

Miklos agreed that was the case, and stated it was not a good situation. Miklos stated I heard we are bringing him back.

Banks asked who?

Miklos answered Mr. Coffey. Miklos stated that is what he heard through the grape vine.

Banks stated he's in jail, isn't he?

CANON

Miklos made a motion to authorize the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post #4843, to restore the canon, donated by Armstrong School District, before it is placed in the Ford City Park. Seconded by Schaub.

Schaub explained when Council requested the canon from the School District I got a call from the Commander at the Pattonville VFW, they were wanting to get the canon too. They were happy that Ford City is getting it. The Commander offered to the Borough restoration of the canon by the VFW. The VFW would pay to have it restored. The Borough Manager was to coordinate this. Schaub stated it would be wonderful if the VFW is still considering to do that for the Borough.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

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COUNCIL VACANCY

Miklos made a motion to advertise for letters of interest from registered electors of the 2nd Ward of Ford City Borough to fill the unexpired term on Council vacated by Scott Gaiser. Seconded by Schaub.

Banks asked if any letters been received?

Bartuccio stated three (3) have been received.

Mayor asked if the 45 day time constraint is coming up on this?

Miklos stated it is over. Miklos explained the 45 days was the 25th [of June] and we had our Town Hall Meeting on the 22nd [of June]. We were scheduled to have a Special Meeting to follow the Town Hall Meeting, we were unable to do that because we were left without a quorum. That was the meeting that we were planning on doing it. So, obviously the 25th [of June] had expired. This is the 29th [of June] and the deadline has come and gone.

Schaub stated if it would have been on the agenda to vote to accept it, I personally would not have accepted it. For the simple reason, when somebody says they are going to do something, their whatever position or anything, I understand there sometimes there's illnesses or something that happens that you can't fulfill your obligation, but every person should make every attempt to totally fulfill any obligation you have.

[See below for conclusion.]

PAYMENT APPROVAL

Schaub made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$44.00 to the Pizzeria, which is for pizza....

COUNCIL VACANCY

Bartuccio called for a vote. [On above motion – to advertise for Council Vacancy Replacement]

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

PAYMENT APPROVAL

Schaub made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$44.00 to the Pizzeria, which is for pizza to feed the volunteers putting up signs for the 5k race and parade under the direction of the Police Department. Seconded by Miklos.

Schaub asked if the police and fire department have been notified of the 5K Race.

Borough Manager explained all the emergency services have been notified. Borough Manager added the 5K Race was approved last year.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library.

NEXT PUBLIC WORK SESSION: Monday, July 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library.

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CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no Citizens Comments at this time.

BOROUGH MANAGER COMMENTS

Borough Manager announced there would be a Street Closure on July 10, 2015 of the 700 Block of 6th Avenue will be closed for a Block Party. The closure will begin around 5:30 p.m. When the party ends the street will be re-opened and all the neighbors are aware. The Fire Dept. and Police Dept. are aware of this.

Schaub asked what is the ending time? We need to know the ending time of the party?

Borough Manger will ask for a firm time [of the end of the Street Closure].

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor thanked members of Summerfest and anybody affiliated with Summerfest for putting this on. Members of the Parade Committee, Race Committee, these are all a positive things for the Borough. Thanks Ford City Fire Dept. for helping out the Police Dept. with traffic control. Also, thanked the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #4843 for salvaging this canon and volunteering to do the work on it. This canon probably goes back to pre-World War 1. Hopefully we can find out the country of origin, how we came to acquire it, it's probably an interesting story. Somebody said it was a French Gun. Maybe we can find this all out, the history, how the thing came to Ford City. Wishes everyone a happy Summerfest and happy Fourth of July. God Bless.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Schaub stated she wished everyone a safe happy Independence Day.

Banks commended his colleagues on the job he's seeing done in Ford City. We are getting a new Water Plant, we have a company in here trying to get our Finances in order. I've been with two Councils since I've been on Council. This Council here is the one I'm seeing the most progress. I want to commend them. Because in the last three (3) months I've been out of the biosphere. I'm having medical problems and I really haven't been around. On the night of the Town Hall meeting I had another commitment, which I relayed to the Borough Manager, but he didn't tell the rest of Council. I had said I was leaving at nine (9) no matter what. I want to thank my colleagues for picking up the ball and running with it.

Borough Manager asked to respectfully respond [to Banks], you notified me that you had an obligation, but you didn't notify me, you said you needed to make a phone call regarding it.

Banks explained he never got up to make it.

Borough Manager stated Banks didn't say you were leaving.

Banks explained he thought the Borough Manger would automatically know he was leaving.

Borough Manager stated he didn't assume Banks was leaving.

Banks explained he went to the President and said he was leaving.

Borough Manager stated he didn't assume Banks was leaving.

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Banks asked the President, didn't I say I was leaving.

President Bartuccio said not until that night.

Banks explained he thought because he was sitting next to the Borough Manager, he would have known Banks did not get up to make a call.

Miklos explained he was asked today what the status of the No Solicitation List is. Miklos answered he was waiting to hear back from the Mayor. It has been in the Mayor's hand now for a couple of years. I brought it up at the last Council meeting and haven't heard anything. If anyone has any questions I guess this is something we will have to press the Mayor on. I would like to ask the Mayor what the protocol is when someone comes in to town and wishes to do solicitation. What is the process Mayor?

Mayor answers they have to go to the Police Station and they have to obtain a permit. I don't know the cost of a permit. If they don't have a permit then they've broken the Borough Ordinance.

Miklos asked what is the cost?

Mayor answers he believes it is \$10.00.

Miklos asked, approximately, how many permits are issued?

Mayor explains he does not know.

Miklos says so the Police issue permits for everyone that comes in? Is there criteria?

Mayor explained he does not know.

Miklos reminds the Mayor he just did not start yesterday, you have been here for 10 years. I would think in 10 years you might be able to pick up a little bit of information pertaining to these questions because...we are kind of stymied here.

Mayor said he will take the blame.

Miklos said that doesn't help our case or the Public. Miklos asked Mayor to please try to be a little more informed. Would you please try to help Council do its job? You're a Public Servant as well and we need this information. We have had to ask and we have even had to file Right to Know requests and we still can't get this information from you. How do we learn who is issued solicitation permits, who isn't? Where does this information go once it is filed in the Police Dept.? Do you know any of that?

Mayor answers it stays in the Police Dept.

Banks asks if they wear a tag? Mayor answers no, if you maybe want to alter this and maybe have tag that is a Council prerogative.

Schaub explained the Mayor called her the day before the Town Hall meeting was held. We were trying to meet about 2:00 p.m. Which I didn't know we had a previous engagement with CRA at that time. I have

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found out that President Bartuccio is available on June 2 [date should be July 2]. Would you [Mayor] be available on July 2 to meet the Finance Committee?

Mayor will be available.

Schaub asked the President to set a time, maybe get some of this resolved with the Right to Know and the permits and also to meet with the Finance Committee?

Bartuccio said 9:00 a.m. would be good.

Miklos asked if there has been any solicitation permits issued in the last two (2) weeks?

Mayor does not know. Mayor will ask.

Miklos asked the Borough Manger to check in to a Dog Ordinance because at the Town Hall Meeting some information was given by Stacy [Klukan] and Miklos would like to thank her for some of the information she provided, specifically in regard to Leechburg's Dog Ordinance. I think the Borough Manger has done some research and maybe that is something that we could use as a model.

Borough Manger explained he has not done as much research as he would have liked to do. Certainly not prepared to make a proposal. But I did call Leechburg and they have an extensive Ordinance. It regards, Dogs, Cats, Reptiles, Livestock, Poultry, Cattle all that kind of stuff. It talks about when they can bark, when they can't, picking up after them. It say you can receive up to a \$600 fine. A great model. My next step is to look at all our Animal Ordinances. Compare them to Leechburg's Ordinance. What will be a good fit for Ford City. Work with the Solicitor and make a proposal to Council. The law states \$600 to be the maximum fine. This is working well for Leechburg. Borough Manager will have more next month.

Schaub explained she went to the Planning Office in Kittanning. Because there are a few properties here in town that need to come down. I was told to go to Leechburg and talk to them because they had recently taken down a few buildings that were blighted and things. They didn't get any funding. The County has no funding for this. The reason Leechburg did take these down, it was through Eminent Domain because of their Sewer System.

Marlene Szymanski explained there is a lot of burning going on in town, are there any rules for that? It's going on at all hours. Smoke all through the yards.

Schaub explained there is a Burning Ordinance, 10:00 p.m. is the latest time on that. Council is working on Burning, Nuisance, Trash, and Dogs.

Miklos added the Police have drawn a distinction between the Burning Ordinance and recreational burning.

Mayor agreed and added that it has to be clarified. This burning, fire pits, this is all new and I don't know much about it. Mayor advised Ms. Szymanski if there is too much smoke coming from a fire she is to call the police.

Bartuccio thanked everyone for supporting the Farmer's Market, every Thursday from 3:00 p.m. until dusk. They have different things every week.

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Miklos added he believed the Farmer's Market is a very good thing for the Borough. It brings people in to town. It is a little early, there is not a lot of produce available yet. We look forward to this thing growing. Miklos suggested to the Fire Dept. and to other non-profit organizations in town, there's plenty of room along the Farmer's Market. Maybe the Fire Dept. would be interested BBQ Chicken, Fish Fry, whatever. Any organization, the Library, any church organization, it's free. That would be helpful to promoting Borough and your organization in helping to raise money.

Schaub added someone suggested to me since I do a lot of baking, why don't I just bake and bring things up there. I just haven't had time.

Miklos added this is an excellent opportunity for all the non-profits.

Bill McMasters asked if that included raffle tickets?

Miklos answered he does not know what the law is pertaining to raffles.

Schaub asked if he has a small games of chance license?

McMasters answered yes.

Schaub stated she did not see why not.

McMasters invited everyone to the Crime Watch meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Latin American Club.

ADJOURNMENT

Miklos made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Seconded by Schaub.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Kathy Bartuccio
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary