

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH
SPECIAL MEETING
Location: Ford City Borough Office
August 1, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Bartuccio called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. and advised the audience that the meeting for Saturday, August 1, 2015 will be audio taped by Ford City Borough and Lisa Bittner. Is anyone audio or video taping the meeting? There were no others taping the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bartuccio led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Gene Banks, Kathy Bartuccio, Beth Bowser, Jerry Miklos, Vicki Schaub [arrived at 8:43 a.m.] and Mayor Mantini. Josh Abernathy was absent.

ATTENDANCE

Solicitor Anthony Vigilante [arrived at 8:36 a.m.], Borough Manager Eden Ratliff, Borough Secretary Lisa Bittner, and Carol Fenyes were also present.

CTIZENS COMMENTS

There were no Citizen Comments at this time.

PENNVEST LOAN

Banks made a motion to approve the Ordinance increasing the indebtedness of the Borough by maximum principal amount of \$3,196,800.00 for the purposes of the construction of the new Water Treatment Plant. Seconded by Bowser.

Banks asked what is the sinking fund?

Solicitor Vigilante arrives.

Solicitor Vigilante explains the money will be put in there [a bank] and held until it is needed.

Borough Manager explained this Ordinance is only for the authorization for the Borough to take on \$3,000,000 in debt. Whereas the Rate Increase, which was also advertised as an Ordinance that is a separate Ordinance. That has to be voted on at a later time. That later time is coming quickly.

Banks asked if the 3% figure will change. Borough Manager answered it will still be 3%.

Miklos stated, but that is not anything we are dealing with today? Borough Manager answered no.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Banks, Bartuccio, Bowser, and Schaub vote in the affirmative. Miklos is asking a question when they are voting.

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Miklos asked if we are able to get any grant money, will it come off the loan? Solicitor Vigilante that is what he has been told.

Miklos stated that clear right, then votes in the affirmative too.

Bartuccio calls for a vote again.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, August 10, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library

NEXT PUBLIC WORK SESSION

Monday, August 24, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library

CITIZENS COMMENTS

There were no Citizen Comments at this time.

Banks asked when will we see some actual ground breaking? Borough Manager answers there is a bid opening this week. Miklos states the bid opening is Wednesday.

Banks asks when will we actually see some action? Miklos answers this year probably.

Solicitor Vigilante added the Pennvest closing is scheduled for late September. Hopefully, sometime after that. You will end up paying for part of it out of your own funding until you are reimbursed from Pennvest. But, I'm sure you won't break ground until you know everything closes and you are getting the money. I would assume it will be sometime after the end of September.

Miklos added hopefully before the end of the year.

BOROUGH MANAGER COMMENTS

Borough Manager Ratliff explained now that this Ordinance passed, as long as the Mayor signs it, the next Ordinance needed is the [Water] Rate Ordinance, which is a 3% increase. The earliest this Rate Ordinance can be placed in the paper is Tuesday [August 4, 2015]. This must be advertised no less than seven (7) days before the next Council meeting. The next meeting is August 10. The seven (7) day mark would be August 11. That [Rate] Ordinance needs passed with urgency, just like this one. That is so all the documents can be submitted before the Pennvest closing and still close on time.

Solicitor Vigilante explained the Ordinance passed today is governed by LUGDA – Local Government Unit Debt Act. They supersede Borough Code in terms of how much advance notice is needed before you vote on the Ordinance. How much advertisement time, it was three (3) days. This Rate Ordinance is a typical Ordinance and it is not governed by anything else except the Borough Code. That one needs advertised for seven (7) days.

Solicitor Vigilante explained there are a couple of options, advertise a change in the Council meeting date and do it all at one time, there could be a separate meeting to just do that [vote on the Rate Ordinance].

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A discussion was held concerning when a meeting could be held to vote on the Rate Ordinance.

Carol Fenyes suggested postponing the meeting [8-10-2015] until the following Monday?

Schaub arrives at 8:43 a.m.

Solicitor Vigilante explained the documents need turned in to Pennvest to get approved.

Vigilante explains there is not enough time to wait and hold a meeting on 8-17-2015. Today's Ordinance must be advertised. The closing is scheduled for Sept. but is unsure of the date, it could be held up.

The discussion continues.

Vigilante stated Pennvest wants everything immediately.

Schaub suggested getting it in Tuesday's paper and asked what date can a meeting be held? Borough Manager answered asked the [August] 11th.

Borough Manager asked if they want the Regular Meeting on the 11th or a Second meeting on the 11th?

Schaub stated we can't stall on this, we need to move.

Mayor stated that is why we have an Attorney and he said it is a matter of expediency. That is why we have Counsel.

Schaub suggested keeping the Regular Meeting and scheduling a Special Meeting for Tuesday. It will be brief and take just a couple of minutes to do.

Borough Manager asked what time and who is available?

The time would be 4:30 and Bowser, Banks, Bartuccio, Schaub and Mayor are available.

Mayor stated this is what the Public wanted and we have to serve the Public. They spoke many times, rather than dilly dally. Our Attorney said this has to be

Miklos stated this Water Plant and he know the Mayor is trying to make a political statement here and it upsets me

Council President is banging the gavel.

Miklos stated to the Mayor the Water Plant he was on Council 10 years why didn't you push it for the last 10 years. You were the Mayor for the last 10 years.

Bowser made a motion for Tuesday, August 11, 2015 to have a Special Meeting at the Borough Building at 4:30 p.m. to vote on the Ordinance for the Rate Increase for the Water Plant. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Mantini had no comments at this time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bowser had no comments at this time.

Miklos asked how long have we waited to have anything done on the Water Plant or to repair our old Plant? Years, 2006 the DEP said they started. Miklos asked Mayor if he was here in 2006?

Mayor answered let's not make this a statement here. I want to go home.

Miklos continues and explained no one has been able to get anything done on the Water Plant until this Council came together. This Council came together in January of 2014. Eighteen months later we are ready to open bids on the Water Plant. That is quite an accomplishment. Especially in light of what has transpired here in the past. Where people have done absolutely zero in regard to the Water Plant. Yet there is room for criticism, incredible.

Schaub state she is glad we are moving forward with this project as quickly as we can. So we can get moving on to more important things we have to deal with.

Banks stated he agrees with Miklos. This Council has done a little bit more than past Councils. Very proud of the people we have serving here. Water Plant has been a long time coming and glad it happened on my watch. We are getting it done. Kudos to his colleagues for getting this project underway.

Bartuccio stated we need to keep moving on and we don't need to argue all the time.

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Vigilante thanked Council for holding the Special Meeting. It may turn out that Pennvest would have been willing to have that Rate Ordinance a little bit later. But, the inference I got from them was everything should be done ASAP. He didn't want to take any chances.

ADJOURNMENT

Bowser made a motion at 8:53 a.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Banks.
Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Kathy Bartuccio
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary