

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Location: Ford City Public Library
August 10, 2015 6:00pm

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Bartuccio called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and advised the audience that the meeting for Monday, August 10, 2015 will be audio taped by Ford City Borough. Family Life Media will be audio and video taping the meeting.

Is anyone audio or video taping the meeting? Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper and Julie Martin – Leader-Times are audio taping the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bartuccio led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Josh Abernathy, Kathy Bartuccio, Beth Bowser, Jerry Miklos, Vicki Schaub and Mayor Mantini were present. Gene Banks was absent [because of illness].

ATTENDANCE

Solicitor Tony Vigilante, Borough Manager [BM] Eden Ratliff, Borough Secretary Lisa Bittner, Caroline Hassa, Marlene Szymanski, Carol Fenyas, Tyson Klukan, Tom Ondrusek, Dean Hutchison, Anita Bowers, Christina Bowser, Charles Fouse, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper and Julie Martin – Leader-Times, and David Croyle – Family Life Media were also present.

CTIZENS COMMENTS

There were no Citizen Comments at this time.

MINUTES

Miklos made a motion to approve Special Council Meeting Minutes of 1-24-2015 draft #3. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

REPORTS

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Mantini read the FCPD and PSP Police Reports for July 2015. (Attachments)

Schaub made a motion to accept the Police Reports for July 2015. Seconded by Abernathy.

Abernathy ask the Mayor what was the number of Parking Tickets issued last month? Mayor answered that was the Borough Meter Maid and she's under the jurisdiction of Eden [Borough Manager]. Abernathy stated he knows that, but it comes under your Police Report. Abernathy explained it's on the report under number 26 [Parking Tickets Issued]. Mayor answers the number is 282. Abernathy asked how much Parking Meter Revenue came in? Mayor answers he does not know. Abernathy explains that is on the report too, look under Parking Receipts. Mayor answers \$2,480.

Schaub stated it has been asked before if they could obtain the Expediter Reports and asked the Mayor to reconsider providing them? Mayor answered he would get them and asked Schaub to “stop up”.

Schaub stated there were two Compliance routed to you back in April 2015 and asked why they haven't been routed back to the Manager. Mayor asked the Borough Manager didn't they go over those? Borough Manager asked for the dates. Schaub answered April. Borough Manger explained he is not sure if those were in the batch they went over. Borough Manger stated all the ones he and Mayor went over were resolved. Schaub asked would they be in the book. Borough Manager stated he would have to look at the book. If they are not in the book, then they were not responded to.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried 5-0 Unanimous

WATER COMMITTEE

Abernathy made a motion to approve the Water Reports from CWM for July 2015, samples were taken on 7-6-2015, 7-13-2015, 7-20-2015, & 7-27-2015, all samples passed the Pennsylvania Dept. of Environmental Protection standards for Safe Drinking Water for total Coliform and E. Coli, reports are available in the Borough Office. Seconded by Schaub. (Attachments)

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Water Treatment Plant Bid Tabulation

Borough Manager [BM] explained there was a bid opening last week [Wednesday, August 5] for the Water Plant Project. Bid Tabulations are available at the Borough Office. BOROUGH MANAGER RATLIFF explained the Engineer [Gibson-Thomas] is not here, but had explained all the bids were complete and is satisfied with the bids that did come in over the [project] estimate of what we were expecting. Council will have to take action later tonight in regard to that. [Attachments]

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Miklos reads the Treasurer's Report for June 2015. (Attachment)

Schaub made a motion to accept the June 2015 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Abernathy.

Schaub stated there are no longer any Boiler Loan Payments at S & T Bank. It has been paid off.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried 5-0 Unanimous

Miklos made a motion to approve paying the bills in the amount of \$38,235.37 as approved by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Schaub. (Attachment)

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Miklos made a motion to ratify payment of the regular recurring insurance and utility bills in the amount of \$1,029.85 as approved by the Borough Manager. Seconded by Abernathy (Attachment)

Motion Carried 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to ratify payment to Gibson-Thomas Engineering in the amount of \$1,952.50 invoice #56862 for the Meter Vault Project. Seconded by Abernathy. (Attachment)
Motion Carried 5-0 Unanimous

Boiler Loan Update

Schaub stated we no longer have a Loan at S & T Bank. The Boiler [loan] has been paid off.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE - Non-profit organization meeting

Council Vice-President Miklos explained there was a meeting with Non-profit organizations who were invited to the Latin American Club on Monday, August 3, 2015. There were a number of items discussed and everyone felt it was a very good session. There was a lot of dialog and the meeting was over two (2) hours. A lot of ideas that were presented.

- Interest in expanding the Farmer's Market.
- Tie the Farmer's Market into something associate with the Trail
- Discussion about a drawing
- Having food vendors
- Anita the Librarian offered to set up some type of instructional process to enlighten everyone who is interested in selling food. As to what kind of hoops you have to jump through in terms of the license

Schaub continued with the ideas.

- Citizens to do a one day painting project – focused on Ford Street and must get in touch with the property owners. Need to make sure they are qualified people and protect the sidewalks and brick
- Get the Ford Street store fronts looking better and more appealing

Bowser continued with the ideas.

- What she took away from the meeting and resonated with her was the people in attendance still take pride in their town. They want to beautify Ford City. It starts with your own yard. Look beyond your own yard. If you have an elderly neighbor and they aren't able to keep up, I urge you take care of your neighbors too. It may seem mundane, your yard is such a little part, but you put everyone's yard together, it does help to make Ford City a beautiful place to live.
- Forming a basic Citizen Volunteer Committee
- Following up the meeting with thank you note. Also, asking if you have any interest in putting committees together, either in your church or non-profit organization. Let us know who you are and if you are interested in helping form this committee. As projects and ideas flow in then we may have to create sub committees in terms of the projects.
- Possible Dog Park. We have four (4) playgrounds and need a census of the playgrounds. If they are being utilized by the children. Maybe convert a low attendance one to a Dog Park, just to see if there is interest. To see if it would be used before we sink funds in to a major up haul.
- Suggested to speak with Mr. Pinkerton in Butler County at Alameda Park. He was a big figure in creating one.
- Talk to the Parks & Rec. Committee, speak to the Playground Supervisors, get feedback from them.

Miklos added:

- Canoe or boating events along the River

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Bowser added:

- Creating a Ford City Kayak for availability and a little bit of education prior. Rosston is a great place to push off. There is calm water right up to Crooked Creek.

Schaub added we have to get this volunteer committee together and see what avenues we want to go to and where the most interest is and start working from there.

Miklos added there was no shortage for ideas.

- A suggestion for a Camp Ground
- New Street Signs
- Have Ford Street look similar to Saxonburg
- A giant Flea Market on the Brownfield similar to Hazen and Rogers, Ohio

Schaub added there are utilities by Belleflex.

Bowser stated it was well worth having. There were a lot of wonderful ideas. Just the fact that people do care about this town that live in it. It is nice to see that and the interest.

Miklos stated there was well over 30 people in attendance. It was a good evening.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Abernathy made a motion to approve the Borough Manager Report for July 2015. Seconded by Bowser. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous (Attachment)

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION

Schaub explained all the Citizens from Ridge Avenue submitted a petition questing the road be paved and repaired. Immediately the Street Committee (Miklos and Schaub), BOROUGH MANAGER RATLIFF and Dan Schmitt – Engineer [Gibson-Thomas] checked all of Ridge Avenue out. The problem is the storm drains are higher than the elevation of the road. The brick is higher than what most of the road is. Just putting a coating of blacktop on, is not going to solve the problem. It needs an all new drain system, the brick taken out and a whole new base put in. Dan [Schmitt] estimated the cost at well above \$200,000. It's not something we can just jump in and do. We don't want to just put a band-aid on it and just cover it up for now. The Street Dept. has filled in some of the pot holes. We need a long term plan. The Planning Commission is working on some things. We need to get the infrastructure problems resolved before we really start thinking about paving everything.

Miklos repeated most of what Schaub explained. Miklos asked Borough Manager if he had spoken to anyone on Ridge Avenue. BM answered no.

Abernathy suggested sending the Ridge Avenue residents a letter explaining what is being done with regard to their petition.

Schaub added she had suggested that, so they know and understand why we can't and to understand it would just be a waste of money to skim coat it.

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Borough Manager stated it would be a good discussion point to be include in a news letter sent to all residents.

Schaub stated the “No Solicitation List” was something asked of the Mayor. Schaub explained we are not required to do a “No Solicitation [List]” by Ordinance. Schaub is researching and looking for a template for somebody who does not want bothered by somebody coming to their door. They can sign up with their address and things and then when any Solicitation Permit is handed out we would hope the Mayor would have the Police Officers include a copy of that too to be used in hopes that they don’t go to their homes. If that ends up being a problem then we will have to readdress it and go by Ordinance.

Borough Manager asked if Schaub is suggesting this be done by the honor system. The only reason an Ordinance would be needed would be to enforce it? Schaub answered yes.

BM asked who will be creating this list? The Borough Office or the Police Dept.?

A short discussion took place.

The Borough Office will create and maintain the list and provide a copy to the Police Dept.

BM explained there have been conversations during Council Meetings and Work Sessions about Ordinances Council would like to see updated, proposed or amended. Including but not limited to Nuisance, Animal, Occupancy, Burning, and Property Maintenance. BM has been working with Solicitor Vigilante’s office and there are a few samples and this will be discussed at the next work session. Hopefully, get them advertised in September and get them enacted in early Fall.

MULTIMODAL GRANT

Schaub made a motion to ratify the authorization of \$145,650 from the 2016 budget for the Multimodal Grant Handicap Ramp Project. Seconded by Miklos. (Attachment)

Borough Manager explained all corners will be replaced and become ADA compliant. The Borough must contribute a certain percentage and that amount is \$145,650. The Finance Committee authorized this amount to be committed to the grant out of the 2016 Budget.

Miklos added the total grant amount is \$500,000. BM stated it is more than that.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to ratify payment [application fee] of \$100 to Commonwealth Financing Authority for the Multi- Modal Grant application. Seconded by Miklos.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

POLICE EQUIPMENT

Schaub made a motion to authorize the transfer of aged police equipment from the Ford City Police Department to Hose Company No. 1 as approved by the Mayor (List #081015). Seconded by Abernathy. (Attachment)

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Miklos asked what is the Fire Dept. going to do? Borough Manager explained the idea is they would be able to raise some money for themselves.

Abernathy asked Mayor to give them an idea of what the items are. Mayor answered old helmets, very long night sticks, and gas masks.

Miklos asked if anyone from the Fire Dept. knows what the plan is? Tyson Klukan answered he is not a line officer and suggested asking a line officer.

Schaub suggested hanging on to the camera because we don't know if it was paid for with grant money [received from a grant].

BM added we don't know if any of it was paid for with grant money. That is why we are going through with this entire documentation process. Some of this stuff is pretty old.

Schaub stated she did look over the items and they are very deteriorated. Dry rotted more than anything.

Carol Fenyes stated she thought Council voted to dispose of ? Schaub agreed, but now we are giving it to the Fire Company.

BM stated he thought that the vote was taken pending approval of a certain committee.

Miklos asked what is the difference from the original list number (071315) and list number (081015)? Borough Manger answered without the camera.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Abernathy made a motion to authorize application to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority in the amount of \$704,792, totaling \$3,901,592.00, and for the Borough Secretary to sign and execute all necessary documents, for the Water Treatment Plant Construction project. Seconded by Miklos.

Miklos added the amount the bids came in over was \$704,792 for a total of \$3,901,592.

Abernathy explained Council is going back to Pennvest so everything will be wrapped under the same loan. They meet again in October. DEP is aware of what is going on and are in support of this. So, it's us going back and hopefully get a higher amount and be able to do the complete project.

Schaub asked them to take a look at the median household income. Schaub researched and the numbers that Pennvest used were all of 16226 zip code area. That includes Manor Twp. Abernathy added North Buffalo and Kittanning Twp. too. Schaub if you take just the Borough itself that number drops by \$10,000.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to authorize the Council President and Borough Secretary to sign the Letter of Responsibility requesting an additional \$704,792 from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority for the Water Treatment Plant construction project. Seconded by Abernathy. (Attachment) Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to authorize advertisement for the LGUDA Ordinance and Rate Increase Ordinance per Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority requirements. Seconded by Bowser. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Miklos asked Solicitor Vigilante if there is a specific amount attached to it?

Solicitor answered not yet. This just gives the Borough Manager the authority to put the advertisement in. The specific amount will come later when the Ordinance is advertised. Just so everybody realizes, this is going to push things back somewhat, obviously. So, we will have to re-advertise. Once we get funding approval from Pennvest for the new amount including the additional funds we will have to re-advertise the LGUDA – Local Government Unit Debt Act. So, we will have to re-advertise that. I can either say it now or later, based on what happened and the fact we are going to have to ask for more money, it makes no sense to really go forward with the Special Meeting tomorrow [8-11-2015] to authorize the Rate Ordinance. That number could change theoretically based on the change in the construction costs and other factors. So, I would suggest we cancel the meeting tomorrow and re-address it later.

Miklos asked if there was any way around that to save any time?

Solicitor Vigilante explained in order to go forward we have to take the funding application, get the LGUDA documents, advertise three (3) days in advance, approve it, wait 15 days, advertise again, get the whole package to DCED. That takes 15 to 20 days. They won't look at it without the proper exhibits attached to the Ordinance. So, to say we are half way towards the end and now we have to start back again isn't an overstatement. We gotta do a lot of this stuff over again. It's just going to push time back. There is no way around that. We had calls into DCED to see if there was a way around it, and there is not. They won't accept anything without the funding approval attached to the LGUDA Ordinance that has been approved. We can't do that until we get, so if they won't accept it, we have to have the funding approval attached to it.

Miklos stated we are still exploring grant possibilities. Whether we're successful, we're still looking. Schaub added diligently. Miklos stated that will not hold anything up. We are continuing to move forward. Although this bid coming in a little over or significantly over, however you want to look at it will push it back a couple of months.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Bartuccio asked for those in favor.

Schaub asked if a motion needs to be made to cancel tomorrow's meeting?

Bartuccio asked if anyone is opposed [to the motion]? Nobody answered.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Solicitor Vigilante explained there are specific requirements to schedule a meeting, unfortunately there is no specific requirement in canceling a meeting. Just announce it at the end of the meeting that it has been canceled and post at the location that the meeting has been canceled. If you want to do a Borough Resolution that is fine as well. It's not absolutely required.

SALT BIDS

Miklos made a motion to reject all bids. Seconded by Abernathy.

Schaub asked if Miklos could tell a little bit about the bids.

Miklos stated he thinks we can do better.

Schaub asked how many bids did we get? Borough Manager answered three (3) bids and one (1) no bid.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Next motion on the printed agenda - Motion to advertise for Salt Bids and a Public Bid Opening.

Miklos says before the next motion is made.

Miklos stated we will be spending less than \$10,000. Miklos asked Solicitor Vigilante if he would suggest we continue advertising?

Vigilante asked how much are you planning on spending? It's less than \$10K?

Miklos and BM stated it's less than 10 [\$10K]. Miklos stated significantly less than 10 [\$10K] and that's the threshold.

Vigilante stated you don't have to advertise, you can get telephonic quotes. But keep in mind if it's going to be a situation where you keep buying and that number keeps growing over time based on the initial purchase you can't piece mill it and break it apart. Here it's less than 10 [\$10K] and then you buy an additional 10 [\$10K] I don't know how much you buy a year But, if the ultimate number is going to be over the threshold for bidding then just bid it now.

Schaub stated we are not locked in. This way we are locked in.

Vigilante stated he does not know what is spent on Salt in a year.

Borough Manger stated we did not even spend \$10K last year.

Miklos asked Vigilante is he is good with that?

Vigilante stated he is fine.

[No action is taken on this agenda item - Motion to advertise for Salt Bids and a Public Bid Opening.]

Schaub asked to move the next agenda items to the end of the meeting. There were no objections.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION Parking request from Allegheny Health Network [Moved to end of meeting.]
Leader Times [Moved to end of meeting.]

HANDICAP SIGN

Schaub made a motion to authorize a Handicap Sign to be placed on the West side of the 900 Block of 7th Avenue as recommended by the Handicap Committee. Seconded by Abernathy.

Schaub asked if there was some reason why the house number was not included?

Borough Manager explained that would violate the privacy of the person applying for the handicap sign.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to authorize a Handicap Sign to be placed on the East side of the 800 Block of 5th Avenue as recommended by the Handicap Committee. Seconded by Abernathy.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to authorize a Handicap Sign to be placed on the East side of the 1400 Block of 4th Avenue as recommended by the Handicap Committee. Seconded by Bowser.

Miklos stated he wants to make sure we are monitoring all the Handicap spots in town, so that when they are no longer needed, is that being done?

BM answers yes to the best of our ability. Usually when they are no longer needed is when someone moves out or someone passes away, there is not a for sure way of knowing. When we find out, or when we learn, however it is we go and retrieve our Handicap Sign.

Miklos asks who actually does that?

BM asked goes and retrieves? The Street Dept.

Miklos asked who monitors?

BM stated all of us employees make ourselves aware of who is using these signs. If they are no longer begin used or who's sign it is.

Schaub asked when we put them out we don't have that resident sign off or anything? They aren't told when it is no longer needed to call the Borough Office?

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

BM explained if they are the one applying for it and they no longer needed it, like they are moving out, usually they would call and tell us. But, in the event they pass away, which is more likely to be what happens, they can't call and tell us so we can get our sign back.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

PART TIME EMPLOYEE

Abernathy made a motion to advertise for part time employees to work in the Street Department. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Miklos asked how many?

Borough Manager stated that is up to the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to Council. Last time we only received two (2) applications.

Solicitor Vigilante stated you are not obligating yourselves to hire any certain number based on advertising.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

PLAYGROUND SUPERVISORS

Abernathy made a motion to approve payment in the amount of \$20.00 to each Playground Supervisor for the phone use totaling \$100.00. Seconded by Schaub.

Schaub stated there needs to be a crackdown at the parks. It is her understanding the Supervisors should be interacting with children. Getting games out, or doing something. Schaub stated she see a lot of cell phone usage going on. Borough Manager stated ok.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

HOUSE AT 543 NEALE AVENUE

Miklos made a motion to authorize Ford City Hose Company No. 1 to burn down the house and garage at 543 Neale Avenue pending Engineer approval. That is the old house on the Water Plant property that probably should have come down years ago. Seconded by Abernathy.

Abernathy stated this is the one that the Borough Workers boarded up because of all the glass being broken out of. We want people to fix their properties up, but yet we own the top of the hill that when we walk through it it's leaking and the roof is falling in on the insides. Whatever we have to do to help the Hose Co. to be able to use it for training it's a good thing.

Miklos thanked Abernathy for doing an inspection.

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

BROWN FIELD CLEANUP

Schaub made a motion to advertise for request for proposals for someone to brush hog the Brown Field property. Seconded by Abernathy.

Abernathy stated he would like to see, once those proposals are received, how much it would be to rent a Bobcat with a brush hog from the rental company and have one of our Borough Workers do it. So, we could compare those hours, even if it is overtime it's cheaper for us to do it and rent a machine.

Solicitor Vigilante stated just to interject, we are not required to bid, why are you bidding it?

Miklos stated that is a good question.

Borough Manager answered we are not bidding it out, just advertising.

Miklos stated he has another idea. How about the Fire Dept. doing a control burn?

Borough Manager stated the Fire Dept. expressed to him that would be unsafe and would probable cause more problems than what we are looking for.

Miklos asked why is it unsafe?

Tom Ondrusek explained there is a main gas line that runs through there.

Tyson Klukan stated there is a high pressure gas line.

Ondrusek explained the gas line runs under the [Allegheny] River to the other side. It is clearly marked on the Brownfield. Right across the river you can see where it comes up.

Miklos asked if the line is far enough South to do any of the upper end?

Ondrusek stated you can't burn anything.

TAPE BREAK at 6:56 p.m.

MEETING RESUMES

Council President Bartuccio explained Councilman Abernathy had to leave the meeting.

Charles Fouse suggested, because of the idea of holding a flea market [on the Brownfield], instead of wasting money brush hogging it would be better to take a skid loader or something down there and smooth the field out. Taking care of the brush at the same time. Then you can take care of the field and get it in a position that when it grows back up, it would be in a mow able position. Someone could come in, even the Borough employees, and mow it at whatever times you wanted. This would put you in a situation for a flea market. Instead of wasting money brush hogging, just go in and level it. That takes

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

care of your brush problem right now. Gets it leveled off and closer to having a flea market. Which is an ideal scenario. I do go to Hazen and several of the other ones [flea markets]. That would be an ideal situation down there.

The Borough already has a backhoe. If you already have an operator that knows how to use it, you would not have to rent a machine. You can do it with a backhoe. If a guy knows how to run it, he can properly smooth it out and back drag that. That would save you the cost of renting the machine. So, now you are using your own equipment and your own employees at your own discretion.

Miklos asked Mr. Fouse if he is familiar with the property, is it uneven?

Fouse explained from what he understands, it is pretty rocky, it's uneven. The last fellow that brush hogged it broke his machine several times and took him a long time to do it. The reason I was inquiring, I have equipment that I could mow that with. But it is such deplorable condition that I would not chance in breaking my equipment.

Schaub added that "Smoke" [Borough Employee] motioned three times his equipment.

Schaub asked who can operate the Backhoe? Ondrusek answered Dave, Bruce.

BIKE DAY DONATIONS

Bowser made a motion to accept bike day donations \$1,745.00 to be used to purchase bikes as prizes for Bike Day on Saturday August 15, 2015. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Bowser made a motion to authorize payment in the amount of \$1,745.00 for Bike Day prizes to be approved by the Mayor. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

JANITOR – ITEM NOT ON THE AGENDA

Schaub made a motion to hire Dennis Geary as a part-time Janitor at the rate of \$14.26 per hour which is the Union negotiated wage. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion that if Dennis Geary is no longer available to hire Kayla Shaffer as part-time Janitor at \$14.26 per hour. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Borough Manager stated the next Council meeting will not be on Tuesday, August 11, 2015.

NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2015 at 6:00pm 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.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ALLEGHENY HEALTH NETWORK

Schaub explained Council received a parking request from Allegheny Health Network. They are requesting three (3) parking places on Ford [Street]. They are moving some of their therapists into the building [former Greenbaum building]. They also deliver scooters and things. The

delivery trucks would not stay there throughout the day. They would just be making their drop offs and leaving. People coming in for appointments would be throughout the day and into the evening hours. There needs to be more discussion on the details.

BOROUGH MANAGER RATLIFF added there needs to be some discussion about a fee for having a designated parking spot in the heart of the Business District. We also need to discuss with the Solicitor.

Solicitor Vigilante explained he looked at some the Borough Ordinances, and there is permit parking. Citizens can get permit to park but they pay per month. Vigilante explained he can't see doing that for a Business and not getting something out of it. If you do it for free, he's sure every Business will want preferential parking in front of their building. That's what I would want. You need to sit down and think about it and make a recommendation.

Schaub explained they were requesting three and thought what if they had two (2) on Ford [Street] and one (1) around the corner on 4th [Avenue]. The equipment they would be pulling in the power scooters and things there is not enough room to make the swings with the railings on the corners. But, I didn't want to tie up too many spaces on Ford Street either. We wanted to get Ford Street opened up and so now we don't want to tie it up. If anybody has any thoughts or ideas or opinions we'll listen to them.

LEADER TIMES

Council President Bartuccio read from a prepared statement regarding the Leader Times coverage of Ford City Borough. Councilman Miklos and Councilwoman Schaub read sections of the prepared statement too. (Attachment)

Miklos stated we [Council] has taken a lot of heat especially from the Leader-Times. The vast majority is unwarranted. I don't know of any Council I have ever seen that has gone to the effort this Council has to bring Citizen Awareness to Council meetings, Work Sessions, Town Hall meetings. All issues of Public importance. We give meeting notices to the newspapers, the radio stations. We have even made flyers and delivered them personally. Council people have delivered them personally, door to door. What Council has done this in the past? I think it is disgraceful the way we have been treated by the Leader-Times. I don't believe this Council will allow the leaderless times to make our decisions for us.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Anita Bowser – Director at Ford City Library explained they sponsor a program at Boulder Park every Thursday called "Library on the Move". It gives Citizens an opportunity at that end of town, who can't make it to the Library to borrow some materials. They have had modest success and would like more people to participate. There is material for both children and adults. They are having a program called "Power Down" on [Wednesday] August 19 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. It is a fund raising event for the Library. This is an opportunity for kids in the community to disconnect from electronics. It will be similar to a bike-a-thon or a read-a-thon. They will need sponsors to pledge and amount for the number of hours they spend off line or off of the electronics. There are a lot of things for them to do that day. Kids are needed to participate between the ages of 10 to 17. They will need to obtain a registration packet. Sponsors are needed too. Prizes will be given to the top earners. Bowers suggested a possible amount to pledge would be \$1 for every half hour. The maximum would be \$12.

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

Schaub thanked Bower and the Library for their services, because they do a lot for the community.

Miklos stated they do a terrific job.

The audience claps in agreement.

Carol Fenyes explained at a recent Council meeting Citizens were admonished to not to listen to rumors and come directly to Council to get things clarified. Fenyes asked where we stand with the appeal to the EDA on the \$581,000 grant? BOROUGH MANAGER RATLIFF explained we have not heard anything back from the request for reconsideration that was filed on June 22. Fenyes asked if a response was anticipated? BOROUGH MANAGER RATLIFF answered yes. At this point we are playing a waiting game. The request for reconsideration was worked on by multiple people. Don Mains certainly helped us as far as educating us on the process and evaluation that EDA was probably going to go through. But at this point we are waiting for a response. Fenyes asked about the buyout for the Police Officers, Brice and Atherton, why is a buyout being discussed when an arbitration ruling in December stated there should be a third full time officer?.

Solicitor Vigilante stated he hadn't heard that rumor, he is not in town, but he thinks that is a personnel matter regarding specific employees that aren't going to be discussed in public.

Schaub stated because it is personnel, that's the reason it can't be discussed in public.

Miklos stated that is common sense.

Chuck Fouse explained he is here to answer any questions Council may have. Borough Manager explained Mr. Fouse is paid by the softball league to maintain the fields [located across the Allegheny River in North Buffalo Twp.] An email was sent to the personnel committee about meeting with Mr. Fouse. BM explained Mr. Fouse would like to be named or titled volunteer Supervisor at the softball fields. He would like to enforce the rules and regulations at the softball fields. He feels personally connected to because of the work he does there. He is not looking to be compensated. He just wants the softball fields and park to be taken care of. There are simple rules to enforce, places you can park, places you cannot. People are taking things that are property of the park and therefore property of the Borough. He would like to see those things enforced. His status right now is only someone who maintains and takes care of the park. If someone goes in there and is destroying it or abusing it he can't really do anything about it. BM explained Fouse would like a title given to him by the Borough Council allowing him to enforce these things and say "Hey, you really can't park there, you need to move."

Fouse stated he would be answering to Mr. Ratliff. Fouse explained anything he proposes to do would be run through with Mr. Ratliff to make sure it is correct by Borough standards. Fouse has been attending for 10 years and taking care of for five (5) years. My only means of funding is, other than what I get paid for by the Softball people for mowing, I do a lot of extra work up there to improve that park, is what I collect out of recycling cans and my wallet. Just last week I spent 2.5 days cleaning up a mess that was left up there from a dugout being torn down. I still haven't finished it and have been paying a guy out of my own pocket along with the use of my equipment and my time and fuel. I would like to be able to continue to do this. I think it can be a very nice park again, like it used to be. I want to put some more picnic tables in the grove. I believe there was a picnic area there at one time. I'm in the process of talking to several lumber yards for donation of materials to repair the bleachers and possibly

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

the roofs on the dug outs. Making contact with Bauer Block for a donation of rejected wall stones for making decent fire pits. Just trying to make it a park. It's become like a hobby. I'm in the process of gathering enough money to put a playground in for the kids. Most of that is coming out of my pocket. Five (5) years ago it was nothing but a pile of weeds. Fouse explained Mayor is aware of the work he has done.

Mayor stated the ballparks are an honor to the Borough. With all the hard work you people have all done and have turned this...I think it was a little more than five (5) maybe six (6)... the grass was three (3) feet high.

Fouse stated it has grown in usage. They originally had five (5) or six (6) softball teams. Now they have about 15. There are several volleyball teams. In the paved parking lot, I want to put in a basketball hoop. There was a building torn down and it shouldn't have been, there is a nice cement pad. On the other side of the park I would like to put another basketball hoop. Then to control the lower end of the park, where the cable crosses, I have material that I will use to build a metal gate. The area will need posted and have everyone out of that area by sunset. Somehow figure out how to enforce it.

Mayor explained that area was used as a dumping ground. It was a tremendous expense to the Borough to get all the trash that was dumped out of there. The Northern end of it.

Fouse stated he has been dozing and cleaning that area up. Basically, I have been making that area a park. I bought "No Dumping" signs to install. If I catch the idiot who's dumping, he's in big trouble.

Solicitor Vigilante stated he thinks it is great what Mr. Fouse is doing. It is a good idea to give Mr. Fouse some authority. Vigilante suggested the Borough has a Labor attorney and these options should be discussed with him before they go forward. It sound pretty simple, but there is insurance considerations, collective bargaining agreement with employees. All that needs thought through to make sure everyone is on the same page.

Fouse explained at this point the Borough does not put any money in that park other than carrying insurance.

Vigilante stated a conversation needs to be had that if you are going to have a title, are going to be considered an employee are we going to have to insure you things like that. Those are my....

Fouse stated if I have to have insurance, I will pay for the insurance.

Vigilante explained he did not say that. I'm saying they should ask the question of the attorney who handles the employees.

Borough Manager stated he did not think any decisions would be made tonight. Mr. Fouse is just here to answer any questions, Council may have. We will have our conversation with the Labor attorney and hopefully have something for the September meeting.

Mayor thanked Mr. Fouse for all he has down out there.

Schaub stated she drives to the rifle range a few times a week, so she has noticed it does look very nice. Schaub suggested possibly a putting green.

Fouse explained that was a thought he had, because he is constantly picking up golf balls while he is mowing. There are a lot of ideas of what can be done with the park. Trying to talk Softball League into semi sponsoring a car show for next year. Have a classic car show and make in an annual event.

Schaub explained Council has to check with the attorneys.

Fouse stated he understands and right now he is technically mowing for the softball teams. I am trying to get in a position to enforce rules. Like people clean up after their dogs. Who wants to tramp in it?

Schaub asked if we could get you in the Borough?

Miklos asked what Fouse thought of the suggestion to move all the fields to the Brown Field area?

Fouse explained there would be a lot of cleaning up to do.

Miklos stated even lighting was envisioned on this site here. People in town could walk over.

Fouse asked what would be done with the 12 acres up there? Let it grow back to weeds? Fouse explained when he grew up there was no place like that to go play. He is trying to give back as a community thing. A place for people to go play safe and keep away from the drugs and everything else. It's giving some of the adults and some of the kids that come with their parents to safely play ball and have a decent place. I live in Elderton. I spend between \$400 & \$500 per month in mowing that place. It's a project.

Bower asked Mr. Fouse to tell his wife thanks. There are way worse things to be addicted to besides ballparks. I would like to commend your spirit of the community. That is what we are trying to incorporate with this new committee, Citizens Volunteer Group, to do other projects like that in the Borough. Bower asked Mr. Fouse, after we find out where we stand in terms of litigation wise with the lawyer would it be possible to put in writing a list of desires you wish to have or the jobs you would like to do. Then possibly meet with the Parks & Recreation Committee?

Fouse stated whatever you need. Mr. Ratliff has my number. I think we can all work together toward an amicable goal, make a decent park up there.

Tyson Klukan explained he had sent some information to Council, and isn't sure if Council has had time to review it. The Planning Commission was asked several months ago to assist Council in some proposals for the web site. That is a really big marketing key for our town. I wasn't sure if Council saw the proposals. Hopefully, there is progress on it and take a good hard look at it.

Miklos stated he thinks Council all saw it.

Schaub explained it was just advertised also.

Klukan stated those proposal prices were back in March or April. Klukan stated if you contact the companies and negotiate they would hold those prices.

Miklos stated he thought they were a little on the high side.

Klukan explained they were a little high, but those were all professional firms.

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Vigilante asked to try and be patient with Pennvest, this will obviously be pushed back somewhat because of the reapplication.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Borough Manager Ratliff had no comments at this time.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor explained there was a shooting and stated the young man is recovering. Thanked the Ford City Ambulance Company, they were on site immediately. Thanked all the Police Departments involved, Life Flight and anybody else I forgot to thank. Keep this young man in your prayers please. Also, thanked all the organizations involved in the National Night Out. This Saturday is bicycle day in the park, August 15, 2015. Much work goes in to this and helps many people in the community. Many unfortunate people don't have money to buy helmets and things they need for safe operation of their bicycles

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bowser referenced the letter of accolades read by her three (3) fellow councilmembers [Bartuccio, Miklos and Schaub], stay tuned, there is more good stuff coming.

Schaub posed a question to Julie Martin [reporter for the Leader-Times], in the newspaper there were four (4) candidates for the appointment position [Second Ward Council Vacancy] Tyson [Klukan], [Richard] Wakefield and Lou Vergari. I didn't even know who all they were, could you tell us how you found out or who told you? Where did you get their names?

Martin explained some of them told me themselves.

Miklos stated that is not what they told us. Two of the three said they never told you.

Solicitor Vigilante stated this is probably bad practice if you want to make statements about the newspaper that is fine. To put her on the spot and ask question directly when she is not allowed to ask the Borough questions, coz you don't live in the Borough, right? I think it is bad forum to ask her and put her on the spot when she can't in the future ask you.

Schaub thanked [Fouse] for all he does for the parks over there. This is something that we picked up on with the non-profit organizations that attended the little meeting thing, there are a lot of people around there that do want to get involved and do things. It is just a case of getting everything combined together and letting people put themselves into a spot they felt they will be most useful to the Borough. Thanked all of them for their ideas and suggestions.

Miklos had no comments at this time.

Bartuccio asked everyone to please support your local Businesses. Some like to shop out of town, but asked everyone to support the local Business as much as you can. They are struggling. I know you can't buy everything in town, but it would be nice if you would try to shop locally. The Farmers Market

8-10-2015 - Minutes

Approved 3-14-2016

is open from 3:00 p.m. to dusk every Thursday. There are changes every week and not always the same vendors. Thanked Bea and St. Vincent DePaul for their support. Please support them they are in Kittanning too. Local restaurant's, they are struggling. Please support them as much as you possibly can.

ADJOURNMENT

Schaub made a motion at 7:51 p.m. to adjourn. Seconded by Miklos.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Kathy Bartuccio
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary