

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Location: Latin American Club
APRIL 26, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Fenyes called the meeting for Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:32 p.m. and advised the audience the meeting will be audio taped by Ford City Borough, Vicki Schaub and Lisa Bittner. Caroline Hassa was audio and video taping and Nick Vercilla – Leader-Times was audio taping the meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Mary Alice Bryant, Carol Fenyes, Tyson Klukan and Vicki Schaub were present. Josh Adams, Beth Bowser and Mayor Cogley were absent.

ATTENDANCE

Police Chief Haslett, Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri – Babst Calland, and Borough Secretary Lisa Bittner were also present.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There were no comments at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

DUMPSTERS

Bryant made a motion to reject all bids and re-advertise. Seconded by Klukan.
Motion Carried. 3 - 1 Schaub was opposed.

FORD CITY POLICE CIVIL SERVICE RULES & REGULATIONS

Schaub made a motion to table the resolution approving the Ford City Borough Police Civil Service Rules and Regulations to May 10, 2021. Seconded by Klukan.
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

5th AVENUE & 17th STREET WATER LINE PROJECT DISUCSSION

STIFFLER McGRAW – BOROUGH ENGINEERS

John C. Clabaugh , P.E.

Joel E. Romagna, P.E.

Mr. Clabaugh explained Ford City Borough Council reached out to Stiffler McGraw to complete an assessment and provide some technical advice on the operations of the Water Treatment Facility. Upon completion of the assessment Council again reached out to Stiffler McGraw to ask what other services they provide relative to ongoing infra structure problems. Stiffler McGraw was asked about the 5th Avenue project and if they could see it move forward from a technical standpoint. A change of engineers was made for engineers and we were commissioned

to assist with that project. We are well versed on this project and the need for urgency and will see this project thru to completion. There are some significant grant dollars available for this type of project thru WIFTA [Water Infrastructure Funding Transfer Act]. These are fund administered by PENNVEST. The application deadline is 5-5-2021. The operational staff suggested some changes and those are being included in the updated project design. The WIFTA funds are to be used to remove water line components that were lead containing. Assuming the project is viewed favorably and considered an eligible applicant the Borough could expect very near 100% of the construction cost of the project. The project cannot be started prior to the grant award. The grant award is scheduled for mid to late July. The bid documents must equal the funding that is being sought. The goal is to gain permission from PENNVEST to advertise the project, but not award the contract until the notifications arrive indicating the Borough is a grant recipient. The proposed time line would have a bid opening at the July meeting which would occur within six (6) days of the announcement of the funds. If the Borough receives an offer of funding, which is heavily expected, we move forward with the bid opening at the July meeting. We would then request a pre-closing letter from PENNVEST allowing movement to the construction phase of the project without having to await the loan closure. We could then have a construction project underway by early fall. We are very aware of the customer related issues this particular area of town has experienced. We will continue to work with the operational staff to continue with an accelerated flushing plan. They will be flushing more frequently and consistently, from now and until the completion of the project. If it means reaching out to the Department [of Environmental Protection] to gain an exception to the current Water Allocation Permit if necessary to complete the necessary flushing to maintain acceptable water quality. That is what the Borough has committed themselves to and that is what we will be assisting them with. The Borough is facing other significant water related infrastructure projects that will all need to be funded to completely rectify the situation as a system wide solution.

Anya Ferguson spoke about the line flushing schedule and having experienced the water problem since June 2019. Ferguson stated two years is too long to pay for a service that can't be used.

Council President stated a flushing schedule will be created and maintained. It will be posted on Facebook.

Scott Hershberger spoke about having to change their two inline filters every four days, having to take their dog to the vet multiple times, they use bottled water and having their clothes ruined. His shower was replaced with stainless steel and it is now pitted.

Claybaugh stated there is a well-defined area of erosion. By replacing water components at least locally the erosion associated with this portion of the distribution system should be rectified. Not going to say that is the entirety of the solution.

Claybaugh confirmed this is a Reverse Osmosis System.

Ferguson & Hershberger agreed that is when the problem started.

Claybaugh stated that will happen everywhere there are 100 year old lines.

Schaub stated she was on Council back in 2014. At that time they were told by DEP what to build. The Borough at that time was receiving daily fines from DEP. Schaub stated they

[Council] were not told what would happen with changing to the Reverse Osmosis System when the new Water Treatment Plant was built.

Jan T. Lysakowski spoke about having the same problem with dirty water. Explained how they must do their laundry now. It took time for the Borough to identify the problem. Once identified a solution needed to be found and how to pay for the expense of the solution. The Borough is trying to help us. Already having learned to live with this problem, he is willing to wait for the grant funding. He brought a sample of the water from cleaning out his hot water tank. After showering they smell of metal and laundry has to be done twice using the additive “rust out”. He is please the town will be obtaining funding and not having to go deeper in debt.

Mrs. Oresick asked if the project would fix her problem on 4th Avenue?

Claybaugh explained the less 100 year old lines the bigger the benefit is for the community. Whether you will notice as much of a difference as someone connected directly to the new line is a bit hard to tell. At some point all of the lines that have reached their life cycle will be systematically replaced. Because of the borrowing limits, it can't be done all at once.

Claybaugh stated the existing line is 6” Cast Iron. It will be replaced with a non-metallic 8” line. The new line will provide a better service life.

Hershberger asked if this was an open or closed system and asked if all the valves are working.

Claybaugh advised the lines are looped not all valves are currently working. Included in the project will be new lines, new valves, and new fire hydrants. The only water that enters the plant comes directly from the sources.

Council President explained the Borough has a CDBG grant [\$71,651] to replace 10 valves. The grant is under an environmental review.

Lou Vergari stated he has a filter system and does not have any problems.

Vice President Klukan explained the engineers are investigating the water chemistry thought the process. There is a heat map of the locations experiencing water problems. The area known as Bellwood Gardens is showing the most locations.

Claybaugh the next phase would need to be designed in order to submit a project to WIFTA for their next deadline.

Council President explained an estimate of \$13M to \$15M was given to them as the cost to replace all the water lines.

Richard Chimka stated he has pretty good water on 7th Avenue. In the future he will have the same problem they are having now. Is it Council's intention to go along with the plan of the engineer and put a multi-year plan in place for replacing lines?

Council President answered it is and explained Council is considering creating a Municipal Authority possibly a Water/Stormwater Authority. They would follow different lending rules

Minutes 4-26-2021 – Approved 5-10-2021

than a municipality does. There will be a Public Meeting on this subject late Summer or early Fall.

There were no other Citizen Comments.

Klukan made a motion to approve and authorize proper Borough Officials to execute the Short Form of Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services with Stiffler McGraw & Associates, Inc. related to the 5th Avenue & 17th Street Water Line Replacement Project. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous (Attachment)

Schaub made a motion to adopt Resolution 3-2021 declaring the Borough's intent to reimburse General Funds and or short term borrowed funds used to construct the 5th Avenue & 17th Street Water Line Replacement Project with funds received from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority. Seconded by Bryant. (Attachment)
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Bryant made a motion to approve and authorize proper Borough Officials to execute a Letter of Responsibility to the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority related to and required to complete the Borough's application for financial assistance for the 5th Avenue & 17th Street Water Line Replacement Project. Seconded by Klukan. (Attachment)
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Secretary read a list a prepared announcements.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – OPEN COMMENTS AT THIS TIME

Harry Nelson spoke about having received a warning notice about high grass. Mr. Nelson spoke about the property across from his along 2nd Avenue that has not been cut for about the last eight (8) years.

Julie Totos spoke about the fees being charged for the First Friday Food Truck Event.

Council President confirmed the fee applies to everyone. At a future meeting the fees for the First Friday Food Truck Events will be discussed.

Caroline Hassa had no comments at this time.

Lou Vergari asked if Gibson Thomas was not with the Borough.

Council President stated Stiffler McGraw will be doing the Waterline Project.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Vice-President Klukan explained the Borough has a Public/Private Partnership with PNGCO. PNGCO has already mobilized and replacing their gas lines in the 5th Avenue & 17th Street Project. Once the waterlines are installed there will be restoration work.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Monday, May 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Latin American Club

Minutes 4-26-2021 – Approved 5-10-2021

Monday, May 24, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. at the Latin American Club

ADJOURNMENT

Klukan made a motion at 7:36 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Schaub.
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Carol Fenyes
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary