

**MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
Location: Latin American Club
NOVEMBER 30, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER (Wear masks when moving around, while seated they may be removed.)

Council President Fenyes called the meeting for Monday, November 30, 2020 to order at 6:30 p.m. and advised the audience the meeting will be audio taped by Ford City Borough, Lisa Bittner and Nick Vercilla – Leader-Times.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council President Fenyes led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

ATTENDANCE

Police Chief Scott Haslett, Treasurer’s MaryLouise Bittner by telephone and Secretary Lisa Bittner were also present.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

OLD BUSINESS

1. BUDGET – 2021

Treasurer MaryLouise Bittner presented the proposed 2021 Budget. Total Revenue are approximately \$2,683,000 and Total Expenses are approximately \$2,918,000. For a deficit of approximately \$235,000.

ML Bittner stated she is recommending a tax increase for General Fund purposes. A study/ review of all the fees and should be completed in 2021. 1 mill is approximately \$30,000. With the new accounting software that will be implemented in 2021 the Department Heads will be able to access their information. A Capital Improvement Plan needs to be created and projects need to be prioritized. Suggested shifting some of the surplus from Street Lighting to General Purpose. Possibly a quarter of a mill. The refuse collection has been outsourced. That will be included in the rate study too. There will be a \$5 increase in the Utility Bill as a requirement from the bank for a loan. A Tax Anticipation Loan is not needed this year.

ATTENDANCE

Marylouise Bittner left the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

2. TAX ORDINANCE – 2021

Discussed later in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

3. FEE SCHEDULE

Council President spoke about the existing fees. There are fees from 1991 and 2003. Some are long overdue for an increase. Vice-President Klukan has reached out to DCED to start the process for a fee study.

A long discussion took place about budget line items and potential projects.

TAX ORDINANCE – 2021

Schaub is opposed to any Tax increase. Studies need to be done.

Adams stated by not doing an increase, the Borough continues to be handicapped.

Fenyas stated she is in favor of a modest increase. Can't support a 3.5 increase without the rate studies. The General Fund needs some relief. Fenyas suggested a 2 mill increase. Complete the rate studies in 2021.

Bryant stated an increase is almost a necessity.

Klukan suggested moving .25 from Street Lighting to General Fund.

	2020 Tax Rates	.25 Adjustment	2.00 Mill Increase
General Fund	11.90 Mills	12.15 Mills	14.15 Mills
Borough Pension Savings	.50 Mills	.50 Mills	.50 Mills
Street Lighting	1.75 Mills	1.50 Mills	1.50 Mills
Fire	2.25 Mills	2.25 Mills	2.25 Mills
Library	1.00 Mills	1.00 Mills	1.00 Mills
TOTAL	17.40 Mills	17.40 Mills	19.40 Mills

FEE SCHEDULE

Schaub stated the Landlord License fees should be increase across the board. \$75 for the first unit and \$75 for all additional units. An inspection should be done when there is a change in ownership [landlord selling to another landlord]. This is an opportunity to inspect the unit. Cost for this inspection \$35. Schaub suggested adding a fee for having to return to do an inspection. For no shows or a failure a \$50 charge. Schaub spoke about the potential Special Event Fee. The host may not always be doing it to make money. There may be [Borough] services that need to be covered. Klukan stated some may be discouraged and some may not. Borough Secretary explained historically schools were never charged for use of the Parks or Gazebo or groups like the Ford City Lions would not be charged either.

A short discussion was held about charging for the Food Trucks during the Food Truck event. Daily \$25 and First Friday \$50.

Fenyas stated fees were added for Non-Sufficient Fund Checks, Zoning Permit Applications, and Flood Plain Application.

Minutes – Approved 1-25-2021

Klukan suggested Council consider three (3) levels of fees, Residential, Commercial and Industrial for Zoning.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning potential Zoning Fees.

Klukan stated the garbage charge will be \$20.58 per month. It will increase each year during the [Vogel] contract.

Fenyas summarized there are to be No Special Event Fee and no Flood Plain Fee.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no meeting announcements.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

A short discussion took place about selling the Street Sweeper, Garbage Truck and pickup truck. No decision was made at this time.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – OPEN COMMENTS AT THIS TIME

Unknown female spoke about the garbage not being picked up.

Monday, December 14, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Latin American Club

Monday, December 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Latin American Club

ADJOURNMENT

Schaub made a motion at 8:22 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Adams.
Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Carol Fenyas
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary