

**MINUTES**  
**FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**Location: Latin American Club**  
**AUGUST 10, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Fenyes called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and advised the audience The meeting for Monday, August 10, 2020 will be audio taped by Ford City Borough, Caroline Hassa and Lisa Bittner. Nick Vercilla – Leader-Times is audio taping the meeting.

**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 was absent.

**ATTENDANCE**

Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri – Babst Calland, Manager Donna Piper, Police Chief Scott Haslett, and Secretary Lisa Bittner were also present.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS - AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY**

**Jerry Miklos** spoke about the Bobcat and the Police Promotion.

Mayor Cogley stated this Full Time hire is a replacement. There will be three (3) Full Time Police Officers. Miklos asked if a Solicitor was consulted and how does that affect the potential to unionize the police force. The Solicitor was consulted. Mayor stated one officer can unionize. Solicitor Golfieri agreed. The implication of Civil Service was discussed. Civil Service does not kick in until there are more than three officers. Golfieri stated unionization has nothing to do with the hiring of an officer. As confirmed one officer can unionize. Miklos asked if that has changed? Golfieri stated she is not familiar with a change. Schaub stated back in 2014/2015 it would take three (3) officers per the FOP to unionize. Schaub stated to her knowledge that has not changed. Mayor stated they don't have to unionize through the FOP, they can join any union they want. Schaub agreed.

A discussion begins about the Chief's ability to join a union. Solicitor Golfieri stated every organization has their own rules, there is no way to prevent that from happening even if you have one officer. Solicitor Golfieri stated she would have to look to see how the Chief is classified. Defer to their labor counsel to determine if a Chief is excluded on the ability to be part of the union. Golfieri doesn't know if an exception exists. Generally there is no minimum number of officers needed to unionize.

Miklos stated they were told the exact opposite by your firm [Babst-Calland]. Schaub agreed.

Solicitor Golfieri stated she was not part of that discussion. She would like to see that in writing to see if there were some qualifications made. Qualifications are the same or the facts are the same.

Miklos stated the advice they were given was the magic number was three. They are eligible to unionize. Solicitor Golfieri stated there may be confusion with Civil Service. There is a three person requirement for Civil Service. Miklos stated the officers were not hired under Civil Service. Golfieri agreed, above three you would have to. Civil Service requirements are triggered after a force has three officers. If the Borough would want to hire a fourth officer, the Civil Service Commission would have to be used.

Miklos stated that was not his understanding.

Schaub stated McCreary had told them anytime you have three, you set yourself up for a union. Schaub stated she still has all the emails and documentation from John [McCreary] at that time.

Solicitor Golfieri stated she can't comment on what advice McCreary gave at that time or under what circumstances. There is no general rule for a minimum.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes 6-22-2020
2. Payment to Ratify – June 2020
3. Water Reports – June 2020
4. Police Report – May 2020 & June 2020
5. Treasurer's Report – June 2020

Council President asked if there were any objections to the Consent Agenda items. There was no response. Council President stated since there were no objections, these items are adopted

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### BOB CAT – UPDATE LEASE

Bryant made a motion to authorize the lease of an E35 25 HP R-Series Bobcat Compact Excavator through Costars as listed on Quotation Number HMM-18125v1 by Bobcat of Indiana County for the total amount of \$52,171.46 and to authorize appropriate Borough officials to execute a 48-month lease with payments of \$734.85 per month and any other documentation necessary to effectuate the lease. Seconded by Klukan. (Attachment)  
Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### FORD CITY POLICE – PROMOTION TO FULL TIME

Adams made a motion to promote Eric McAlpine to a full time Police Officer position based on the recommendation of Mayor Cogley at a rate of \$21.00. Seconded by Bryant.

Schaub stated she has met and dealt with Eric a few times. Glad to see him walking thru the park and not hanging with another officer. He's a well-liked person and thinks he will do great in the Borough. However, from her dealings when the union got broke, the year and a half she's been on council dealing with this, she doesn't want to set us up for another union. Unless something is in black and white telling her otherwise that is all.

Motion Carried. 4-1 Schaub is opposed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – COPIES OF THE REPORTS ON THE ENTRY TABLE

Reports submitted are attached.

Fire Department	<b>Library</b>	Parks & Recreation	Finance
Planning Commission	<b>Shade Tree</b>	Police Report	Public Works
Fleet Advisory Committee	UCC	Mayor	<b>EMC</b>
Business Assoc.	Stormwater Ad Hoc	Sewage Authority	MCTA
Flood Task Force			

MANAGER’S REPORT

Manager Piper read from a prepared report. (Attachment)

A discussion was held regarding the Recycling Trailers. Klukan and Schaub are in favor of the Recycling Trailers returning. Adams is in favor of the County doing the hauling and entering into a partnership with Manor Twp.

RECYCLING TRAILERS & COUNTY MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Schaub made a motion for Ford City Borough to move forward with the MOU with Armstrong County for a Recycling Trailer with an agreement with Manor Twp. to pay half and all to the specifications of Ford City Borough Solicitor, Manor Twp. Solicitor and Armstrong County. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. 5-0 Carried.

BOULDER PARK GRANT – INSTALLTION QUOTE

Adams asked if proposal from Shady Surfacing is ready for action? Manager Piper asked for action to be taken. The contractor would take 3 – 5 days. Piper will be coordinating the excavation with the contractor’s schedule.

Adams made a motion to award Shady Surfacing & More LLC with the installation of the play structures in Boulder Park. Seconded by Bryant. (Attachment)  
Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Klukan asked if Solicitor Golfieri and Manager Piper were working together on the Public/Private Partnership [with Peoples Gas]. Piper added a change has been made. The apron on O’Connor Street was added to the project. After the preconstruction meeting the gas company added that section. After all the costs are obtained the agreement will be put in place. The gas company will prepare the agreement, it will then be forwarded to Solicitor Golfieri for review.

Adams asked if any formal action was needed for the Waterline Replacement Project? Council Fenyes stated once the estimates are obtained then financing will be arranged. Schaub asked what dollar amount will be knocked off because they will be going under sidewalks rather than 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue? Council President explained the line item for ditchline paving could be removed.

Mayor asked how soon the Codes/Zoning position will be filled? Council President explained the Personnel Committee must meet and discuss a rate.

Approved 9-28-2020

CTIZEN COMMENTS – OPEN COMMENTS AT THIS TIME

**Caroline Hassa** spoke about the Codes position, Landlord Tenant Ordinance, First Friday, former FCHS property, 1423 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, FCPD police coverage and the WTP.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Secretary read from a prepared list of announcements.

Monday, August 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the Latin American Club

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President stated an Executive Session will follow the meeting to discuss personnel.

ADJOURNMENT

Klukan made a motion at 7:14 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 5-0 Unanimous

Carol Fenyes  
Council President

Lisa Bittner  
Secretary