

MINUTES
Ford City Borough Council
Regular Meeting
Location: Ford City Public Library
June 8, 2015

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Bartuccio called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and advised the audience that the meeting for Monday, June 8, 2015 will be audio taped by Ford City Borough and Lisa Bittner. It will be audio & videotaped by Family Life TV.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Bartuccio lead everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Joshua Abernathy, Kathy Bartuccio, Jerry Miklos, Vicki Schaub and Mayor Mantini. Gene Banks was absent. [Scott Gaiser submitted his resignation from Council on 5-11-2015.]

ATTENDANCE

Solicitor Paula Willyard, Borough Manager Eden Ratliff, Borough Secretary Lisa Bittner, Caroline Hassa, Adam Bugoslawski, Carol Fenyes, Lou Vergari, Sgt. John Atherton, Denise Lasher, Rich Croyle, Dean Hutchison, Jason Warner and Julie Martin – Leader Times, Jonathan Weaver – Kittanning Paper, Tom Ondrusek were also present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Borough Manager explains this agenda approval item is new and was recommended by the Solicitor. Council will have an opportunity to make changes to the agenda. Once any changes are made that will be the finalized agenda. Borough Manager explained one suggestion, made by the Solicitor, was to place the Citizen Comment section before the Finance Committee.

AUDIO TAPING MEETING

Council President Bartuccio asked the audience if anyone was audio or video taping the meeting. Julie Martin – Leader Times is audio taping.

Schaub made a motion to approve the June 8, 2015 agenda. Seconded by Abernathy.
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Richard Croyle – explained he is the property owner at a tree fell down at Ridge Avenue. Trees fell down from 8th Street on his property.

Solicitor Willyard explained that topic is not on the printed agenda. Citizen will have an opportunity to speak at the end of the meeting.

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Miklos made a motion to approve the regularly recurring bill list in the amount of \$7,076.06 as approved by the Borough Manager. Seconded by Schaub. (Attachment)

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Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Schaub made a motion to authorize payment of the bill list in the amount of \$93,098.31 as approved by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Abernathy.

Miklos asks if this is a change from the original bill list in the amount of \$92,533.91. Borough Manager answers yes. Borough Manager explained the invoice for Morton was removed, as was discussed late last week. This afternoon there were some other invoices that came in that we weren't expecting. One was a Solicitor Vigilante invoice, and explained he did not recall all the others. Maybe the Secretary wants to weigh in. The invoices are available for review at this time.

Schaub explains she reviewed the invoices today. One was for plywood and did not get an answer as to what it was for.

Miklos explained his concern is that Council is given adequate time to review. Borough Manager agrees and explains the plywood is to be used to board up the windows and doors at the [Borough owned] Neale Avenue house next to the WTP. Abernathy explained, two weeks ago, he accompanied the Borough Manager during a review of the Neale Avenue house and observed broken glass, broken doors it was wide open. Abernathy explained to Borough Manager this was a liability and needed boarded up. Shortly after the Borough Manager had the Borough Workers secure the building.

Borough Manager explains one of the invoices, in the amount of \$72, is for the Police Dept. Post Office box. CWM was another invoice in the amount of \$382.

Schaub added six (6) brooms were purchased from Janny Paul's. Schaub explained she questioned this before signing off. Her first thought was why are we buying brooms from Janny Paul's, it's not a logical place to buy them. Actually we are supporting the Lions Club. The Lion's Club sell those brooms. I don't have a problem paying that for that reason.

Miklos explained he has a problem with the detail on the bill list. Miklos stated he has mentioned this many times. Using the broom purchase, how many, how do we know that. Miklos explains it would be very simple to put a little more description so that Council does not have to question these.

Schaub asked why was Morton removed?

Miklos explained last year when an order was placed for Salt and it was canceled either that day or the next day because they [Eden and Josh] found a new supplier that was less expensive. Morton acknowledged cancellation of that order, but never the less, they shipped that Salt to us anyway. Which was a little more costly than what Eden and Josh found.

Abernathy stated it wasn't the next day. We were going on two weeks without getting it. . . .

Miklos was saying when it was canceled. They delivered it anyway and that was after you guys found the other Salt that was less expensive. Miklos explained he has called them several times and is waiting for the sales manager to call me back. The sales managers has not called and Miklos is not willing to pay the bill until they call us back.

Schaub suggested sending them a letter to make contact. Because, if not and we owe the bill we need to pay the bill.

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Miklos stated he doesn't feel we owe it under the circumstance. Miklos states there should be some price adjustment made on that, because it was in fact their error. Miklos stated if the Borough Secretary or the Borough Manager wants to write a letter, Lisa [Borough Secretary] and I have discussed this previously. She is well versed with it.

Schaub stated they may not want to put a bid in too [for the Winter Salt season 2015-2016] if our bill is not paid. That's what I'm looking at.

Miklos states he views it as the ball being in their court because we made several calls to them. They said they were going to get back.

Schaub explained for some time now there has been a bills for Nichols & Slagle Engineering. [former Borough Engineer]. I have a problem with that

Abernathy stated there is more than one bill. There are six (6) bills ranging from 2010 to there is one in 2015 on here. Is that correct?

Miklos states that can't be right. Because, Nichols & Slagle was gone in 2011.

Abernathy stated there is a 2014 and 2015 on here.

Miklos states he does not see [2014] 14.

Abernathy agrees, just 2015. Is that an error date?

Miklos states it has to be an error.

Schaub asked the Borough Secretary if that is an error. [It is an invoice from Microbac and entered incorrectly.]

Schaub stated the problem with this bill is none of us were on Council. We don't know what the problems were.

Abernathy stated these are bills that are owed and we need to get them taken care of.

Schaub agrees they still need taken care of. Schaub was hoping the Mayor could enlighten us on the problem, and asked why did they not get paid. Schaub asked the Mayor if he had any clue any idea?

Mayor stated that is a Council prerogative. He has no clue.

Abernathy stated there is already a motion to accept all the bills. We would have to be amended it.

Solicitor Willyard advised to vote on the motion before the board. Let it either pass or be rejected. Then present a new motion with that information. Then if it seconded, there can be discussion. The first motion needs voted on.

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Miklos asked if the invoice from Shred-It USA in the amount of \$506 could be explained? Borough Manager explains it includes the list of documents Council voted, a few months ago, to destroy. It also includes their bi-weekly removal charges.

Miklos stated we pay for it and their insurance cover it? Is that correct Mayor? Borough Manager explained we have the money, they reimbursed us.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Fails. 0-4 All opposed.

Miklos makes a motion to pay the \$93,098.31 minus the charge under Nichols & Slagle for annual sample of \$1434 dated January 9, 2015. Seconded by Abernathy.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Miklos explained we are incurring an incredible amount of expenses associated with a couple of riding mowers that we purchased a couple of years ago. Miklos explained there is probably five (5) times the cost in repairs of these mowers.

Abernathy asked the Borough Manager what was just approved on the bill list for repairs of these? Borough Manager answered he does not recall what invoice is being talked about. We are frequently replacing belts and pulleys, things like that. The tractors are old and get a lot of use.

Abernathy and Miklos disagree, both state they are not that old.

Miklos states they were purchased right before you got here. There were two (2) purchased.

Abernathy stated he [Miklos] is talking about the Cub Cadets.

Schaub stated they are lawn tractors, not industrial tractors.

Miklos states he does not know why those were purchased. It certainly didn't turn out to be a very good buy. We have been putting an incredible amount of money into them since they were purchased.

Miklos asked Smoke [Borough Employee Tom Ondrusek] if he could enlighten Council? Ondrusek explains there were design problems with the pulley.

BOROUGH MANAGER REPORT

Borough Manger Ratliff reads his report. (Attachment)

Abernathy made a motion to accept the Borough Manager report. Seconded by Miklos.

Schaub asked about the truck hitting the hydrant, was there a claim filed? Borough Manager answered absolutely, all costs will be filed for an insurance claim. We will be seeking reimbursement for all of that.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

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[No vote at this time.]

Miklos asked the Borough Manager if he was provided a Treasurer's Report? Borough Manager answers he was not.

Schaub stated she received an email from Susan [Accountant Susan Wolf] at 5:30 today. The Borough package was mailed to her on the [May] 19th. She worked on the 21st and in Ford City on the 28th. She was on vacation the first week of June and she expects it to be here about the 11th of the month.

Miklos states, we have no Treasurer's Report.

Schaub stated we are voting on Eden's [Borough Manger] report.

Bartuccio calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

WATER REPORT

Abernathy makes a motion to approve the Water Report for May 2015 all samples that were taken passed the Department of Environmental Protection [from] CWM for safe drinking water for total chloriform [should be coliform not chloriform] and e-coli. Seconded by Schaub. (Attachments)
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Borough Manger stated next is the History of DEP Consent Order Agreement and Civil Penalties this was talked about in his report. Council paid \$43,250 to DEP in Civil Penalties for failing to abide by the Consent Order Agreement. That Consent Order Agreement was agreed to by the previous Council on November 4, 2013. Borough Manager prepared a report for everyone, including all the correspondence back and forth and all the documentation of the Consent Order Agreement. How we got from that November 2013 to where we are now. All the fines, why they were issued. What was paid, what was not paid. Who was involved? I can go over that. I can read this page and a half letter. Borough Manager stated it is important to go over this and have a clear understanding rather than, sometime in the future, going through the minutes and trying to figure it all out. Borough Manager stated he did that already and should be enter in the minutes. Borough Manager stated the Water Committee has already reviewed it. Borough Manager believes it is accurate and a good explanation of what happened. (attachment)
Schaub asked Borough Manager to speak just a tad bit slower. Schaub would like Borough Manager to read what he prepared.

Miklos asked if there is enough time, we are under time constraints.

Borough Manager the meeting has to be no longer that two (2) hours.

Miklos suggested when Council holds their Town Hall meeting on [June] 22nd to be discussing Water, that might be a good time to review that.

Abernathy stated it is available for any Borough resident who wants to read it.

Solicitor Willyard stated since it is on the agenda, she advised a motion should be made to enter it into the minutes.

Miklos made a motion that Eden’s [Borough Manager] work on the time line for pertaining to the Consent Order and DEP Fines be entered into the minutes of tonight’s meeting. Seconded by Abernathy.

Miklos commended Eden on the work he did. That took quite a bit of research he did a great job. Thank you for doing that.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

POLICE REPORT

Mayor reads the Police Reports for May 2015. (Attachments)

Schaub made a motion to approve the Police Reports for May 2015. Seconded by Abernathy.

Abernathy asked Mayor how many parking tickets were issued by the parking enforcement? Abernathy stated it is in your report and he wants the Public to be aware. Sgt. Atherton answered approximately 200. Abernathy stated per the Mayor’s report there were 273 issued by the parking enforcement position. Abernathy stated calls were received from Borough Businesses thanking us.

Bartuccio called for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Letter to neighboring municipalities regarding recycling trailers.
Letter to trucking companies who utilize State Route 128.
No Solicitation List

Schaub stated she asked for these items to be placed on the agenda. School is out and many elderly cross 5th Avenue. Over half the population lives on the East Side of Town. The Businesses and the Trail are on the West Side of Town. Vehicles more often fail to yield the right of way to pedestrians. The trucks and many vehicles to not obey the 25 mph speed limit. This is a huge safety concern. Schaub requested a letter be sent to the trucking companies. Schaub will provide a list of the trucking companies and addresses.

Schaub explained she spoke with Mr. Slease a supervisor at the Progressive Workshop concerning the Recycling Trailers. They are very upset and disturbed about all the junk, furniture and things being thrown over by the dumpsters and trailers. Mr. Slease asked any Businesses with cardboard to take it right out to the Recycling Center. The Recycling Center is on 85. If the cardboard is placed outside of the trailers and once it gets wet it can’t be recycled. We have the trailers here for Armstrong County. But, it is a courtesy for our community and other communities to use and recycle their materials. They need to realize when they bring junk and garbage from out of town in town and dump it, our Street Workers we are paying them time to clean those messes up when there is a lot of other work they have to get done. So, it is costing our Tax Payers dollars to do that. It saves the Borough money too when our people use the trailers because then we are not paying the tipping fees. So, the more they use it, it’s gonna benefit us. But, we all need to use it properly. So, that’s the reason I’m asking for a letter to be

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sent out to the surrounding areas. To try to get them to work with their communities and get it stressed that they need to abide by the laws, littering is illegal. It's not a dump, they can be cited for that.

Borough Manager stated he thinks that area could be cleaned up as well. It's not a nice area. It's our property that the trailer sits on. We are not utilizing that space. We talked about that at the Recycling Committee meeting. I hope that committee meets again. Because I think we could do some pretty good stuff with that area that could maybe help control some of that.

Schaub stated she will contact Councilman Banks to ask if he is willing to call for another Recycling Committee meeting. Schaub asked if she could call a meeting? Borough Manager answered yes. Miklos stated he would like to see the Borough develop a "No Solicitation List". Similar to a "No Call List" with what you do with your phone. We have a high elderly population, residents sometimes go on an extended vacations. They are not interested in having people solicit. Miklos explained that he had a bad experience a few years ago with some people soliciting at his home. Miklos filed a complaint with the Police Dept. and the Mayor. Miklos suggested at that time the Mayor propose a "No Solicitation List". Miklos doesn't know if anything has been done with that. But, if so, we need to make it more clear. If not, Miklos thinks it's a good idea to do something. In other words, we have an Ordinance that if you are soliciting in Ford City Borough you must obtain a permit from the Ford City Police Department. So, the Police should know everyone who is soliciting in town. If you do not wish to be solicited the Police could very easily give those folks who they issue permits to a list of homes that do not wish to be solicited. Miklos asked for comments.

Schaub stated she thought it was a good idea. Because a lot of the elderly get nervous when someone comes to their door they do not know.

Miklos added residents on vacation don't particularly want solicitation materials dropped off at their house.

Miklos asked Mayor if this is anything we can accomplish? Has anything been done over the last few years?

Mayor stated should be looked in to.

Miklos stated that is what you said before. Miklos asked can we do it? Can we actually do it?

Mayor stated if we all work together, we can do it.

Miklos stated let's do it, not look into it, let's do it, if we all think it's a good idea. Abernathy, Bartuccio and Schaub are in favor.

CITIZENS COMMENTS - AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

There we no Citizen comments at this time.

BULK DE-ICING SALT – READVERTISEMENT

Miklos made a motion to reject the Salt Bids and re-advertise for bulk deicing salt bids for period between October 2015 and March 2016. Seconded by Abernathy.

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Schaub asked if any bids were received. Borough Manager answered one (1), that's why we are rejecting it.

Abernathy asked if the bid [deadline] could be extended rather than rejecting it?

Borough Manager explained the bidder will be contacted to ask if they want to use their same bid. They will be notified.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

RESIGNATION – JANITOR

Abernathy made a motion to accept the resignation of Delores Daquilante as the Janitor of Ford City Borough. Seconded by Schaub.

Abernathy thanked Ms. Daquilante for her years of service. She's an excellent Janitor.

Mayor thanked Ms. Daquilante too. Since she has been here, the bathrooms have always been tip top clean, floors, offices, she's done a wonderful job.

Miklos asked if anybody has spoken to her? She did not want to do the trails. But, has anybody spoken to her about maybe continuing in a reduced capacity? Borough Manager explained she was ready to resign and didn't want to continue with us at all.

Miklos stated he would like to vote no to accept her resignation.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

GENERAL EMPLOYEE PENSION PLAN – RESTATED DOCUMENT

Miklos made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the letter accepting the offer from Mockenhaupt Benefits Group to update the General Employee's Pension Plan Document at the cost of \$4,000-\$4,500 pending solicitor approval. Seconded by Abernathy.

Borough Manager explained the Borough Pension plans are audited by the State every three (3) years. The Borough has failed the last three straight (3) audits. This will bring the pension plan into compliance. [The Pension Plan will be brought into compliance with the Non-Uniform Collective Bargaining Agreement and other State Laws.]

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

TOWN HALL MEETING

Miklos made a motion to advertise for a Town Hall Meeting to take place on Monday June 22, 2015 at 7:00pm at the Latin American Club for the purpose of discussing the Early Intervention Program and the

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Pennvest WTP Loan and that will be immediately be followed by a Special Council Meeting. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Miklos asked Solicitor Willyard if the wording of the motion needs to be different? What if Council wants to add something [another topic] to the Town Hall Meeting?

Willyard stated she does not think there is an issue. It's not like a Special Meeting where you can only hold it for the purpose it was advertised. I think its fine.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Schaub made a motion to advertise a Special Council Meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing Engineering for the WTP [Water Treatment Plant] and any other Borough Business. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

TREE REMOVAL – BOROUGH PARK

Schaub made a motion to authorize Undercutter Tree Care to remove dead or dangerous trees and branches at a cost of \$1600 from the Borough Park as recommended by the Shade Tree Commission and Forester Brian Woleniack. Seconded by Miklos. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

JUNK ORDINANCE #521

Miklos made a motion to have Solicitor Vigilante propose amendments to the junk and nuisance - ordinance # so that the ordinance is more enforceable and includes junk vehicles. Seconded by Schaub.

Schaub explained the town is getting full of untagged, unlicensed vehicles and a number of other things. Schaub explained she spoke with Sgt. Brice and he explained the Ordinances are too vague. They [Police Dept.] issue a citation, they appear in front of DeComo's office and they [citation] get thrown out. Schaub explained she spoke with Becky Broad [County Tax Assessor] who explained Cadogan had the same problem. They [Cadogan] went and spoke to DeComo, he did start enforcing. Schaub suggested updating the Ordinances to make them more defined and these things will stick. I'm on a mission to get this town cleaned up.

Miklos explains he gets complaints that certain vehicles are cited certain vehicles are not cited. It has to be uniform. If you are going to cite some vehicles, you cite them all.

Schaub stated it's not just vehicles. It is junk in general. Schaub explained there are homeowners that want their taxes reduced because they live next to a junk yard.

Solicitor Willyard asked that Council keep in mind what they want in this Ordinance. Willyard requested a copy of the Ordinance. So, we can see what is done and what needs to be added.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

CLEANING of STORM WATER LINES

Abernathy made a motion to authorize Robinson Pipe Cleaning Co. to clean, at the direction of the Borough Manager, designated storm lines on 7th Avenue at a cost of \$8,250 for 30 hours of work pending approval of the Finance Committee. Seconded by Miklos.

Borough Manager explained he had a meeting with Dan Schmitt – Gibson-Thomas. Schmitt was looking at our storm lines. Schmitt advised our Storm Water lines need to be cleaned out. It's not even clear the last time they were cleaned out. Schmitt recommended we look at this company. Borough Manager suggested continue to look to make sure this is the best deal we are getting. But, if this is the best one then we should move forward with it. That is why I suggested to the Council President, that we put pending approval of the Finance Committee on there. Before we jump into it, we make sure we are getting the best deal we can and then move forward. That's my recommendation.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

SUMMERFEST – WATER USE

Miklos makes a motion to allow Summerfest to utilize water at no cost to them from July 2, 2015 to July 5, 2015 for their Summerfest event. Seconded by Schaub.

Abernathy asked if the usage will be metered?

Borough Manager answered no. We will be able to tell just by how much water we treat downtown. That will give us a rough estimate.

Abernathy asked if they are going off a Fire Hydrant?

Borough Manager answered yes and the little [building at the corner of 3rd Avenue and 9th Street].

Abernathy explained meters are made to attach to Fire Hydrants. I would like to know how much water, especially since we are supposed to be knowing how much water we are using. Coz the Fire Hydrant is not going to tell us. If we have to get a meter before then to accomplish that task we should have it. I just don't want to be opening a Fire Hydrant and not know how much water is coming out of it.

Miklos asked what it the cost of that type of meter?

Abernathy does not know, he know they exists because for the DEP we are supposed to monitor how much water and that is something we can easily do for that. It screws on.

Miklos stated that is not a bad idea.

Borough Manager stated we can look into that.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

SUMMERFEST – ELECTRICITY

Miklos made a motion to authorize payment to West Penn Power in an amount not to exceed \$300.00 for the use of electricity in the Ford City Park between July 2, 2015 to July 5, 2015 for the Summerfest event. Seconded by Abernathy. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

VOGEL DISPOSAL – TRASH DAY DUMPSTERS

Abernathy made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the agreement with Vogel Disposal for dumpsters needed for the annual Trash Days. Seconded by Schaub.

Miklos suggested this be monitored, to compare how this is being done in a different time period than last year it was held at the beginning of Summer. This year at the end of Summer.

Abernathy asked if these can be placed in the Borough Garage so they can be locked at night?

Borough Manager explained they are coming off the back of a truck and added we get three (3). He does not know. They fill up quickly.

Abernathy stated his concern is at night. Abernathy suggested looking into a fenced in area.

Schaub added Councilman Banks called a Recycling Committee meeting and suggested one week early in the year and one week later in the year. It was too late to do that for this year.

Abernathy suggested changing the drop off location to the Water Plant behind the fenced in area. Abernathy asked the Borough Manager to look into that.

Miklos stated they will throw stuff over the fence then.

Borough Manager will look into the envelopes that have already been prepared to mail, these may include information on Trash Day drop off location and times. Borough Manager will look into and report back at the next meeting.

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

REQUEST for RECONSIDERATION – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION

Miklos made a motion to authorize the Borough Manager to file a “Request for Reconsideration” to the EDA relative to the \$581,000 Grant default. Seconded by Schaub. (Attachment)

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

REDUCTION of DEP CIVEL PENALTIES – WTP

Miklos made a motion to authorize the Council President to sign the Amendment to the November 4, 2013 Consent Order and Agreement. Seconded by Schaub. Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Miklos made a motion to ratify payment to DEP in the amount of \$43,250 and to Solicitor Anthony Vigilante in the amount of \$20,000 as outlined in the Amendment to the November 4, 2013 Consent

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Order and Agreement as recommended by the Borough Solicitor [Anthony Vigilante] and the Ford City Borough Council Water Committee. Seconded by Schaub.

Solicitor Willyard explains the \$20,000 that is being paid to the Office of Attorney Vigilante is being placed in an escrow account. That is not money that is being paid to Anthony Vigilante for any reason with regard to the Consent Order. The money is to sit there until it is used appropriately designated under the Consent Order. A separate account has been opened for that purpose. That is the only money that will be set in that account. But, because it is an attorney's escrow account, I do want to make everyone aware interest will not accrue on that money. That interest goes to the, Interest on Lawyer's Trust Account. It goes into a special account, for people who have had issues with attorneys. So, that interest is collected by the ILOTA Board every month. Just to be clear where that money is going.

Borough Manager added he requested from Solicitor Vigilante to provide a statement of the account to come to the Borough every month. Though we know it is going to be there, Council's will change, employees will change. We will be dealing with DEP and the WTP well into 2016 potentially 2017 depending on how long inspections go. So, he [Vigilante] has to keep that money in that account until we are all the way through the inspection process after the WTP is built. The statement will go on file here. If anything happens, they will know that money does exist.

Willyard added those arrangements will be made by our office.

Abernathy added if we [Council] don't follow through then that \$20,000 in the escrow goes back to them [DEP].

Council President calls for a vote.

Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

TAPE BREAK

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING - Monday, July 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library.

NEXT PUBLIC WORK SESSION - Monday, July 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. in the Ford City Public Library.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Richard Croyle - 724 Ridge Avenue, explained there are trees, up on 8th Street, that fell on his property and he is waiting for a letter from the Solicitor that I haven't received. I've been bugging Mr. Ratliff since February of this year. I haven't gotten an answer. They say I'm responsible for the trees. But, it's the Borough's property. The trees belong to Ford City Borough. My lawyer said he wants a letter from the Borough Solicitor stating why it's my responsibility. I'd like to have some answers. Why has it taken five (5) months to come to this conclusion about these trees?

Borough Manager agreed they did talk about it in February. The Solicitor suggested we get the property surveyed. It's not clear where that tree falls. But, we had it surveyed per the Solicitors recommendation. The trees do fall on the Borough's Right of Way, on our side of the line. That is pretty clear. That was conveyed to the Solicitor. The Solicitor did some research and informed me the trees are still the responsibility of the homeowner even though it was on Borough property. We [Croyle & Borough Manager] spoke about it and you [Croyle] were less than pleased. Borough Manager conveyed that to the

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Solicitor and the Solicitor stated he was going to write a letter or give him a call. Borough Manager reminded the Solicitor that Mr. Croyle needs the letter.

Croyle added 722 [Ridge] is full of trees too. Croyle stated he is going to lose a tenant if it is not cleaned up. This has been going along too long. Somebody should give me an answer.

Schaub and Miklos added this is the first they have heard of this.

Croyle stated you have a Borough Manager, he's supposed to relay messages to the Council.

Abernathy added he has spoken to us about the trees.

Croyle suggested the Borough be a good neighbor and go half on it. Get these trees taken care of.

Borough Manager stated he will follow up with the Solicitor.

Lou Vergari stated when the recycling started, Councilman Miklos was instrumental with getting it started. If you had over 5000 people, you had to recycle. Kittanning was really the only one that had to recycle. Ford City asked for a trailer that is how that started. We really didn't have to. The amount of people in Ford City that recycled overwhelmed the amount of people that recycled in Kittanning. Vergari stated now we have three (3) trailers. Schaub corrected him and stated we have two (2). Schaub stated she ask for a third one. Vergari stated a lot of people think that Ford City is the place to bring their recyclables. Can you speak to them amount putting a trailer somewhere else? It is a mess there [the area surrounding the recycling trailers]. There is a trailer near the Marina, it is only changed once a month. Schaub stated that is near one of the Progressive Workshop Buildings. Vergari stated the workers at the Recycling Center on 85 will remove the recyclables from your vehicle.

Schaub added the people that work at the Progressive Workshop are handicapped adults. They make money by working there and the recycling.

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Willyard asked with regard to the Ordinance about occupancy permits on the transfer of property, do you want that to apply to on all Commercial and all Residential properties or just Residential properties? Also, whether that is to transfer to relatives, if somebody sells their property to their child and retains life estate or gives it to their child for a dollar. Those are the types of things, whether you want any limitations on that. Wanted to make sure that when we prepare that amendment it is clarified as to whether the purpose is to pay for an inspection to make sure all of these buildings are in conformity with the code compliances.

Abernathy stated it is the safety issues, it's not bringing the house up to code compliance. It's just safety, to make sure there are hand railings, GFI outlets, smoke detectors.

Willyard asked will an inspection be done?

Abernathy answered yes. It's just an occupancy inspection for safety. No chipping paint, no broken windows, it isn't to go in and bring a house up to code.

Vergari asked if this is for rentals?

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Abernathy answered for all properties.

Borough Manager explained the Occupancy Permit that already exists for rental units for anytime there is a change in renter. For rental properties you already have to get an Occupancy Permit. That already exists. They are not discussing that. This is for other Residential Properties. When there is a transfer of Real Estate for whatever reason.

Abernathy added that it used to be that way. Abernathy explained that when he bought his home he had to get an Occupancy Permit. They came in and said there had to be smoke detectors on every floor. Now its carbon monoxide [detectors] in the lowest part of the house. It's just for safety issues. But, our problem is, if somebody buys a house in Ford City for \$1 they can move in to that property and not do anything. It can have broken windows, falling down gutters, chipping paint. Where if a Landlord rents a property he has to get an Occupancy Permit every time a tenant moves in and out of the property. So, this is to clarify and make it even across the board. So, we don't have dilapidated houses that are changing hands for \$1. I was just looking and there was just four (4) of them that changed hands for a buck. We had one that is sitting up on 14th Street. Windows are broken. If the owner of that property wants to move in he can. It's to stop it. In order to take occupancy of the property it has to pass a safety....

Willyard asked for Business or Residential purposes?

Abernathy answered correct.

Borough Manager suggested these questions should be in writing so the appropriate committee can look at them and respond, rather than try to piece mill at a Council Meeting.

BOROUGH MANAGER

Borough Manager thanked Solicitor Vigilante for his donation to record tonight's meeting. He [Vigilante] did want to clarify, despite what the article said there was some miscommunication, He [Vigilante] does not want to sponsor televising our meetings every month. But, he [Vigilante] was more than willing to do it this month.

Borough Manager made additional comments that required no action.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor made comments that required no action.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Abernathy, Schaub, Miklos, and Bartuccio all made comments that required no action.

ADJOURNMENT

Miklos made a motion at 7:20 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Abernathy.
Motion Carried. 4-0 Unanimous

Kathy Bartuccio
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary