

**MEETING MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION: BC3 Armstrong Campus
December 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Call the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and advise the audience that the meeting December 11, 2023, is being audio taped by Ford City Borough.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Carol Fenyes, Councilwoman Vicki Schaub, Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant, Councilwoman Sally Beck, Councilman Tom Ondrusek, Mayor Tim Bureau, and Borough Manager Charles Stull

Via Phone: Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri

Absent: Vice President Josh Adams

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS – None

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bill List November 21, 2023
2. Bill List, November 27, 2023
3. Code Enforcement Report, November 2023
4. Water Report, November 2023
5. Meeting Minutes, November 27, 2023

Having no objections, the consent agenda passes.

FORD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY REPORT

Andrea Kiehl- McKibbin and Katie Wolfe, directors of Ford City Public Library, have prepared an update on current matters at the Ford City Public Library as well as sharing some upcoming events that FCPL is facilitating.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval and Adoption of the 2024 Budget

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to approve and adopt the Borough's budget for fiscal year 2024, as presented and recommended by the Finance Committee. Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub mentioned she was not in favor of some of the increases and requested more information of the millage increase for the Ford City Public Library.

Motion carried: 4-1 with Councilwoman Vicki Schaub opposing.

2. Ordinance 755: Tax Ordinance

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to enact Ordinance No. 755 fixing the real estate tax rate for the 2024 fiscal year at 19.9 mills. Councilman Tom Ondrusek seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

3. Ordinance 756: Establishing A Stormwater Authority

This is a public hearing on a proposed ordinance that (1) establishes the intent of Borough Council to organize an Authority under the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act, as amended; (2) provides the name of the Authority, to be known as the “Borough of Ford City Stormwater Authority,” (3) attaches the proposed Articles of Incorporation for the Authority as Exhibit A, (4) provides the names and terms of the appointed Authority Board members, (5) authorizes and directs Borough Council President to execute the Articles of Incorporation, (6) authorizes and directs proper Borough officials to file the Articles of Incorporation and necessary proofs of publication with the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and all other actions necessary to effect the incorporation of the Authority, (7) repeals all inconsistent ordinances or portions thereof, (8) provides for severability of any provision of the proposed ordinance found to be unconstitutional, illegal, or invalid, and (9) establishes an effective date.

At this moment, Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri started the public hearing. Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri gave a summary of MPC Procedural Requirement Satisfaction as well as welcomed Borough Council and the public to comment. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub asked if the Stormwater Authority would have their own engineers and solicitor.

Councilman Tom Ondrusek made the motion to close the public hearing. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

Motion carried: 5-0

Councilman Tom Ondrusek made the motion to approve Ordinance No. 756 establishing the Borough’s intent to organize a Stormwater Authority under the provisions of the Municipality Authorities Act, as amendment. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

4. Ordinance 757: Garbage Ordinance

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to enact Ordinance No. 757 establishing solid waste collection requirements and penalties for violations of the same. Councilman Tom Ondrusek seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

5. Award of Garbage Collection Bid – Shank Waste Services

GARBAGE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL ONLY

Councilman Tom Ondrusek made the motion to award the bid for municipal solid waste collection and disposal only for calendar years 2024, 2025, and 2026 to Shank Waste Service at the costs articulated in the bid tabulation with no senior citizen discount and no contractor provided billing collection services, and authorize appropriate Borough officials to take all action necessary, including execution of all associated documents, to effectuate the same. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

6. Financing 7th Ave Extension Container Wall - Clearwater Construction Inc.

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made to motion to authorize the cashing of two CDs (\$100,000.00 each) in order to pay Clearwater Construction Inc. relating to the 7th Ave Extension container wall, and authorize proper Borough officials to execute all documents and take all other action necessary to effectuate the same. Councilman Tom Ondrusek seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub asked about other financing options.

Motion carried: 5-0

7. Approval of Worker’s Compensation Insurance Proposal - AmTrust

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to approve AmTrust Financial Commercial Insurance Proposal, dated December 7, 2023 for workers compensation coverage for calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$52,931 and to authorize proper Borough officials to execute all documents and take all action necessary to implement the same. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

8. Approval of General Liability Insurance Proposal – ASTRA Insurance

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to approve ASTRA Insurance Proposal, received via e-mail by the Borough on December 8, 2023, for general liability coverage for calendar year 2024 in the amount of \$44,117.00 and to authorize proper Borough officials to execute all documents and take all action necessary to implement the same. Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant seconds the motion.

No comments
Motion carried: 5-0

9. Approval of Digital Risk/Cyber Insurance Proposal – Node International

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to approve Option #1 under the Node International Insurance Proposal, dated December 8, 2023 for digital risk/cyber liability coverage for calendar year 2024 in the total amount of \$4,433.00 and to authorize proper Borough officials to execute all documents and take all action necessary to implement the same. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

No comments
Motion carried: 5-0

10. Approval of Medical, Dental, and Vision Employee Benefits – Municipal Benefits Services

Councilwoman Sally Beck made the motion to renew the Employee Medical, Dental and Vision Plans as well as the billing for Short-Term disability, Life Insurance, and Accidental Death and Dismemberment to Municipal Benefits Services, a division of Mockenhaupt Benefits Group at the recommendation of the Finance Committee and agreed to by the Union members and to authorize proper Borough officials to execute all documents and take all action necessary to implement the same. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

No comments
Motion carried: 5-0

11. Approval of Amendment to the Borough General Schedule of Fees, Costs, Charges, and Expenses: Resolution 15-2023

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to adopt Resolution 15-2023 amending the Borough’s general schedule of fees, costs, charges, and expenses pursuant to Borough Ordinances. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments
Motion carried: 5-0

12. Ford City Borough Municipal Sewage Disposal Authority Member Appointment – John Thompson Sr.

Motion to reappoint John Thompson Sr. to the Ford City Bourgh Municipal Sewage Disposal Authority for a five-year term, which term begins January 1, 2024 and expires December 31, 2028.

No comments
Roll call vote:
Councilwoman Vicki Schaub, No
Councilwoman Sally Beck, Yes
Council President Carol Fenyes, Yes
Councilman Tom Ondrusek, Yes
Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant, Yes
Motion carried: 4-1 with Councilwoman Vicki Schaub opposing.

13. Approval of Engineering Service Agreement – Stiffler, McGraw, & Associates, Inc. – General Engineering Services

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to approve the Engineering Services Agreement with Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, Inc., for general engineer services during calendar year 2024, in a form acceptable to the Borough Solicitor, and authorize proper Borough officials to execute the same. Councilman Tom Ondrusek seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

14. Approval of DS Generator Sales and Services Standby Power System Customer Maintenance Quote – Pumphouse Maintenance

Councilman Tom Ondrusek made the motion to approve the Standby Power System Customer Maintenance Quote received by the Borough on November 30, 2023 from DS Generator Sales and Service for inspection, testing and adjustments deemed necessary to two Borough pumphouses during calendar year 2024, and to authorize proper Borough officials to execute the same. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

15. Armstrong School District Social Studies Department Donation – Ford City Historical Map

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to a donation to the Armstrong School District Social Studies Department in the amount of \$300 for the sole purpose of purchasing a copy of the 1986 “Bird’s Eye View” Map of Ford City Borough by Thaddeus Mortimer Fowler for display within the classroom and to authorize proper Borough officials to take all action necessary to effectuate the same. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion failed: 0-5

DISCUSSION ITEMS – None

CITIZENS COMMENTS – None

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING –Reorganization Meeting on January 2, 2024, 6:30 PM at the Ford City Borough Municipal Building

ADJOURNMENT – 7:31 PM

Councilman Tom Ondrusek made the motion for adjournment. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 5-0

AUTHORIZING MINUTES

Assistant Secretary

Council President

Secretary