

**MEETING MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
BC3 Armstrong Campus
January 22, 2024**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and the audience was advised that the meeting January 22, 2024, is being audio taped by Ford City Borough.

Is anyone else audio or video taping the meeting?

Ford City Resident Caroline Hassa was recording audio and video.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: Council President Carol Fenyes, Vice President Richard Chimka, Councilwoman Vicki Schaub, Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant, Councilwoman Sally Beck, Councilman Tom Ondrusek, Mayor Tim Bureau, Southern Armstrong Regional Police Officer William Rapone, and Borough Manager Charles Stull

Via Phone: Engineer Joel Romagna and Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri

CITIZENS COMMENTS – Agenda Items Only

EXECUTIVE SESSIONS – An Executive Session took place on December 18th, 2023 to discuss personnel and receive legal advice from the solicitor.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Bill List, December 6, 2023
2. Bill List, December 11, 2023
3. Bill List, December 20, 2023
4. Bill List, December 27, 2023
5. Bill List, January 8, 2024
6. Bill List, January 9, 2024
7. Bill List, January 18, 2024
8. Fire Department Report, November 2023
9. Fire Department Report, 2023 Year End
10. Police Report, November 2023
11. Police Report, December 2023
12. Treasurer's Report, November 2023
13. Treasurer's Report, December 2023
14. Water Report, December 2023
15. Code Enforcement Report, December 2023
16. Meeting Minutes, December 11, 2023
17. Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2024

Having no objections, the consent agenda passes.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Joel Romagna, Sr. Project Engineer with Stiffler, McGraw & Associates, prepared an Engineer's Report for existing projects within the Ford City Borough,

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Charles Stull, Ford City Borough Manager, has prepared an update regarding recent borough matters as well as his existing projects.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Shade Tree Commission Appointment – Stacy Gladysiewski

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to appoint Stacy Gladysiewski as a member of Shade Tree Commission for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2026. Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub expressed concern with some of the shade trees being planted so close to the new sidewalks in the park.

Motion carried: 6-0

2. Employment Layoff

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to ratify the voluntary layoff of David Milito effective January 15, 2024. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 6-0

3. RAVE Mobile Safety Contract Renewal

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to renew the contract with Rave Mobile Safety, a community-targeted emergency alerting system, for a five-year contract for an annual price of \$1,250.00, and to authorize appropriate Borough officials to take any and all necessary action, including execution of the contract, to effectuate the same. Vice President Richard Chimka seconds the motion.

Council comments: Members of Council discussed the length of the contract and ultimately decided the five-year option would be most cost effective.

Motion carried: 6-0

4. Resolution 1-2024: Amendment to the Borough General Schedule of Fees, Costs, Charges, and Expenses

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to adopt Resolution 1-2024 amending the Borough's general schedule of fees, costs, charges, and expenses pursuant to Borough Ordinances. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

Council comments: Council President Carol Fenyes clarified that there were no changes made from the fee schedule adopted at the previous meeting, but that there were a few fees omitted in error.

Motion carried: 6-0

5. Resolution 2-2024: Borough Records Destruction

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to adopt Resolution 2-2024 authorizing the destruction of certain public records pursuant to the Borough’s Retention and Disposal Schedule authorized by the Municipal Records Act. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

No comments
Motion carried: 6-0

6. Resolution 3-2024: Purchasing Policy

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to adopt Resolution 3-2024 establishing a policy to grant purchasing power within a \$2,000.00 threshold to the Borough Manager and Public Works Director. Councilwoman Vicki Schaub seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub mentioned the importance of receiving three quotes when possible. She also felt that the resolution should distinguish when the Finance Committee plays a role in this purchasing policy.
Motion carried: 6-0

7. Resolution 4-2024: Public Meeting Comments

Councilwoman Sally Beck made the motion to adopt Resolution 4-2024 establishing a policy for public comment and rules of decorum at borough council meetings. Vice President Richard Chimka seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub expressed that council should not limit public comment to three minutes as long as the timing of the meeting allows for it. She also feels that residents who are unable to act appropriately resulting in their removal should not be allowed to rejoin the meeting.
Motion carried: 5-1 with Councilwoman Vicki Schaub opposing.

8. Resolution 5-2024: Chain of Command

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to adopt Resolution 5-2024 establishing a chain of command policy for borough employees. Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant seconds the motion.

Council comments: Councilwoman Vicki Schaub feels that the council members should not have to direct all of their concerns to both the Borough Manager and the Council President
Motion carried 5-1 with Vicki Schaub opposing.

9. Amendment to the Meeting Agenda – Acceptance of Resignation of the Director of Public Works

Councilwoman Mary Alice Bryant made the motion to amend tonight’s meeting’s agenda to add an action item related to the acceptance of the Director of Public Works resignation, which resignation was received by the Borough less than 12 hours prior to tonight’s Council Meeting. Councilwoman Sally Beck seconds the motion.

Council comments: Council President Carol Fenyes clarified the restrictions of the Sunshine Law when amending the agenda and that this was a viable reason to do so.
Motion carried: 6-0

10. Acceptance of Resignation – Director of Public Works

Councilwoman Vicki Schaub made the motion to accept the resignation of Samuel Oravetz, Director of Public Works, effective immediately. Vice President Richard Chimka seconds the motion.

No comments

Motion carried: 6-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

-Property Maintenance Code: Blighted Properties with Unresponsive Owners

Members of Council discussed with Solicitor Alyssa Golfieri the property maintenance code that they are currently using as well as their options for adopting the best property maintenance code to meet the borough's needs, whether it be a customized code curated for the borough or adopt an existing code, such as the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Office Administrator Abby Nimerosky announced that the Ford City Borough Stormwater Authority would have their Reorganization meeting on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

-Debbie McKernan, resident of Ford City Borough, had questions regarding the utility bill increase and the necessity of the new borough garbage containers.

-Caroline Hassa, resident of Ford City, asked for an update on the most recent PennVEST funding opportunities. She also had questions about the Service Line Inventory.

-Dan Farester, resident of Ford City Borough, expressed frustration with the increase in garbage as well as the cost of the container, and urged Council to consider going back to residential garbage pick-up done by borough workers.

-Terry Wolfe, resident of Ford City Borough expressed frustration with the increase in garbage and feels that there are inconsistencies when discussing returning to residential garbage pick-up done by borough workers.

-Debby Fennell, resident of Ford City Borough, also expressed frustration with the utility bill increase and the effects it will have on the majority of borough residents.

-Kent Commodore was seeking clarity on gas prices in the borough, specifically why gas prices in Ford City are much higher than other areas of Armstrong County. He also expressed interest in a property in the North Ward of the borough.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING – February 26, 2024, 6:30 PM at the BC3 Armstrong Campus

ADJOURNMENT – 8:08 PM

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

No comments

Motion carried: 6-0

AUTHORIZING MINUTES

Assistant Secretary

Council President

Secretary