

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
LOCATION – FORD CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAY 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER John Lux called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and advised the audience that the meeting will be audio and video taped.
Is anyone audio or video taping this meeting? No.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
John Lux lead the flag salute.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
John Lux read the announcements.

ROLL CALL Terry Tokarek, Ray Klukan, Ron Dillard, John Lux, Tim Malec, and Tom Shaffer were present. Mayor Mantini is absent due to Military Leave

ATTENDANCE Solicitor Frank Wolfe, Borough Engineer Dave Nichols, Mike Malak of Senate Engineering, Tom Ondrusek, and Fred Dzugan were also present.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – AT THIS TIME AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

MCTA Lynn Colosi - Clearview Strategies - Consultant firm out of Pittsburgh hired by the PA Department of Transportation to assist Town & Country. This agency was hired to help Town & Country alleviate debt, become more efficient, and help to hire a general manager. The contract started back in mid February and will run to July. Ford City is one of eight municipalities that participates financially every year. Penn Dot and Clearview Strategies appreciates the participation of Ford City Borough and John Lux. Town & Country update: when started in mid February, Town & Country had a line of credit loan for debt totaling \$400,000.00. T&C also was \$216,000.00 behind to vendors this fiscal year. We have streamlined and consolidated services saving \$18,000.00 in operating costs. \$100,000.00 has been saved in personnel and benefits, and collected in back receivables. The \$216,000 back payables is down to about \$12,000.00 and hope to have balance paid by June 30th. We also have Short Term and Long Term recommendations to implement to make T&C more efficient. The Short Term is to improve the Shared-Ride program. The Long Term plan is to change the entire bus service to serve new places which will service the County better. July 1st we will meet with the bank to try to bring revenue into the agency. The \$6800.00 that Ford City contributes to Town & Country will be utilized more effectively which will allow for more federal funds. The last T&C board (4/28/2009) meeting we discussed hiring methods for a new general manager. The board decided to hire an employee of Town & Country. Clearview Strategies will write a job description and present three potential candidates to the board to be hired.

minutes
5-4-2009
Reg Council Mtg.
Approved 6-1-2009

BID OPENING

Mike Malak - Senate Engineering - 13 bids for demolition of building #228.

Shaffer made a motion to have Mike Malak of Senate Engineering look over bids and bring back a recommendation to council. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ed Matus explained he attended the March meeting to complain about Eddie Brightmeyer's Greenhouse. Nothing was done. Brought pictures tonight to show the condition of the greenhouse that is across from his house and has been in this condition since last spring.

Shaffer - Sgt. Klingensmith approved Josh Abernathy as Compliance Officer, he is in charge of enforcing the ordinances.

Ed Matus - Talked with Mayor Mantini, sent Sgt. Brice, then Sgt. Klingensmith, nothing was done. Talked with DeComo, nothing was done. There are mosquitos and rodents under the plastic. Mr. Matus questioned when the compliance officer is to start.

Shaffer - Abernathy starts tomorrow, leave your name and number.
Ed Matus - 724-763-1244

Mr. Matus also stated that Eddie is burning RR ties. He also asked when trash day was and when the streets on the hill are swept.

Lux - Trash days are in July and streets are swept on Thursdays (5/7).

Mr. Matus has concerns about an officer burning brush at the ballfields while he is working, should do it on his own time.

Shaffer stated that he is on the Parks & Recreation Committee.

One last concern that was brought up was the lack of a police report in the paper.

Lux stated that it is up to the Mayor's discretion and that he will find out why there is not a Ford City police report in the paper.

SHADE TREE

Tom Ondrusek - Discussed estimate of \$1095.00 from Craig's Tree Service. This includes removal of 2 dead trees(stumps & root systems), damaged tree tops, damaged large & small limbs, and the trimming back of any tree in the Park that needs attention. He can fit you in within a week or two. People can take the wood. This will make the Park safer.

minutes

5-4-2009

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Shaffer made a motion to have the tree removal done for the bid price of \$1095.00. Seconded by Tokarek. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Denny Tiche

Counter-Proposal of \$25,000.00 for building #228 should have been read and considered. They don't build structures like that anymore. The building is sound although it has a few broken windows.

Shaffer - We are looking to tear these unsafe buildings down.

Malec - wants to hear proposal and agrees it is a sound building.

Shaffer states that a Real Estate offer needs to be discussed in Executive Session and that is why it is not on the agenda.

A discussion takes place concerning the buildings.

Shaffer told Tiche his proposal will be looked at in Executive Session.

MINUTES

Shaffer made a motion to approve the minutes for 3-23-2009. Seconded by Malec. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Klukan made a motion to approve the minutes for 4-6-2009. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. 5-1. Malec abstained.

4/23/09 - Shaffer stated that there was no meeting.

POLICE REPORT

President Lux read the Police Report.

Klukan made a motion to accept the Police Report for April 2009. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Shaffer made a motion to hire Ashley Lynne Montgomery as a part-time police officer for the normal (12) month probationary period, passing a physical examination, psychological examination, and background check to be performed at the direction of the Officer in Charge and the Mayor and to be paid the current wage of the part-time police officer. Seconded by Tokarek. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ron Dillard stated the Water Reports are available in the Borough Office.

Dillard made a motion to accept the Water Reports for March 2009 & April 2009. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Shaffer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2009 and pay the bills, in the amount of \$60,528.00 as approved by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Shaffer made a motion to accept the bill pay list for April 2009 in the amount of \$59,688.00. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

minutes

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ENGINEER REPORT

David Nichols comments on the dust collector on the lime silo. F. L. Schmidt has rights on replacement of dust collector. We are waiting on the quote on the replacement unit, should have the price within a day or so. Will contact Jennifer from the county with all the information, including the cost to see if we can get some grant money to replace that. Dillard questions if it will eliminate the dust cloud. Dave Nichols said yes.

Shaffer made a motion to accept the engineer's report. Seconded by Malec. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Malec comments about binders not having information in each section and makes a request to go into executive session due to a legal issue.

Nichols comments on #10. Public meetings will be held in advance to this project. The authority will meet on Thursday.

John Lux decides to allow an executive session at 7:00 p.m., meeting resumes at 8:24.

OLD BUSINESS

JOB DESCRIPTION John Lux wrote the description for the Codes Officer.

Malec asks Dillard for his opinion about the description. Dillard states that he is comfortable with it for right now.

Shaffer made a motion to accept Codes Officer Job Description. Seconded by Malec. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

CARACAL

Solicitor Wolfe and Shaffer explain about the agreement with Caracal to add a security deposit of \$5000.00 to the lease. Will cover any damage that may occur to the building while moving out.

Malec questions if we there are specifications as to who owns what.

Shaffer answers yes and comments that the fire chief was down to make sure that all the chemicals were safe.

Shaffer makes a motion to accept the security deposit arrangement. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

NEW BUSINESS

HERITAGE DAYS STREET SWEEPING

Councilman Shaffer - Sweeping Streets -

Malec makes a suggestion to just sweep entire route Friday night.

Dillard would like public to be made aware of the change in the schedule.

WATER BILL COLLECTION

Councilman Shaffer wants to set up a collection policy to make landlords responsible for property. Customers have 30 days, need to make arrangements to pay or will be sent to collections. \$50,000 to \$80,000 owed on water bills. We need to be serious about collecting this money.

Shaffer made a motion to send a letter out to advise customers that have past due water bills that they have 30 days to make arrangements with the borough office. If they continue to be past due and not paid we will turn them over to collection and shut water off. {garbage service too, added by Dillard} Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

NEXTIER BANK FINANCING

Solicitor Wolfe received a proposal today, would like to respond to the bank telling them we got the proposal and that Council will look over the information.

Shaffer states that it is a bridge loan{\$38,000}. He thinks we should move forward with the bank and put this to rest so the land does not get repossessed.

Shaffer made a motion to write a letter to Nextier that we will assume this loan. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

OEM SHADES LEASE EXTENSION

Shaffer made a motion to extend the lease an additional two years, making a three year lease a five year lease at the original rate of \$5.00/square foot. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 5-1 Malec votes no, not against principle would like additional information.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY COG

Dillard made a motion to become a member, at a cost of \$175.00, the Westmoreland County COG for the purpose of purchasing a police car. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

FCBMSDA - PROJECT

See Engineer's Report

PURCHASE ORDERS TO APPROVE

Malec made a motion to authorize payment for purchase orders # 9060, #9061, #9062, #9015, #9059, #9063 for a total of \$1804.17. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

Dillard states he wants to look at tankless water heaters (greener technology). Would save money over long periods of time. Check with assistant secretary, we checked the prices out and it will only cost a little bit more.

PLAYGROUND REQUEST

Shaffer made a motion to ratify the use of 7th Avenue Playground by Chris Cox on Saturday, April 25, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

LOADING ZONE REQUEST

Item tabled, further information needed.

BOROUGH PARK REQUEST

Malec made a motion to grant permission to the FCHS Senior Class to have a picnic in the Borough Park on Friday, May 29, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0
Notify police and borough garage if anything is needed.

Dillard states that Code Officer went through the park checking the electric. We need to remedy situations before the picnic and heritage days.

Dillard feels that the grass in the Park needs cultivated.

GAZEBO REQUEST Klukan made a motion to grant permission to Dione Ridinger to use the Gazebo on Saturday, August 1, 2009 from 10 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

DISPOSAL OF BICYCLES

Shaffer made a motion to ratify advertising the FCPD will be disposing of old bicycles. Seconded by Malec. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

BOROUGH ASSOCIATION

Malec made a motion to authorize any Councilman or Mayor Mantini to attend the Borough's Association Meeting to be held on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at a cost of \$20.00 each. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

GARBAGE COLLECTION

Councilman Shaffer - collection of garbage in 4 days. Will save the borough money.

Dillard asks if the borough supervisor is back from vacation. We need to sit down and discuss this with street supervisor and senior truck driver.

HILLSIDE TREES & ROCKS

Dillard states the liability issue of rocks coming down behind some of residents on 7th avenue and doing damage. We need to look for grants to sure up the rocks and we need to look at the trees that are decayed. Call the borough if you have an issue with trees or rocks in your yard.

STREET CLOSING Shaffer made a motion to grant permission to Sally Liperote to close 3rd Avenue from 10th Street to the alley behind 10th Street Station on Sunday, June 7 and notify the Ford City Police and the Ford City Fire Dept. Seconded by Tokarek. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

Malec made a motion to grant permission VFW Post #4843 to hold their annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2009 beginning on 4th Avenue at the High School to the Borough Park {between 9 am & 10 am} and notify the Ford City Police. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

PLAYGROUND REQUEST

Klukan made a motion to grant permission to Albert Garay to use Boulder Park on Saturday, June 13, 2009 from 12:00 p.m. noon to 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sandy Hutchison - Glad to hear that Officer Abernathy will enforce codes. I have had enough complaints, I do a lot of walking around town and I was wondering how receptive you would be to us making a list.

Dillard - Make a list and bring it to the borough.

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

No comment

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tokarek - Ballfields shaping up really nice. Softball Association is revamping the fields. Volleyball courts are going to be redone for the high school and the public. Thanks to the leagues and teams for doing their part. Don't forget to vote.

Klukan - No comment

Dillard - Ray you need to start making comments. I owe a Public apology for sweeping debris from a sister municipality. I gave orders for one of our employees to go take care of that. I didn't notify anyone that this was going to happen. It appeared when we got a check for the services. I was remiss on not letting the rest of my council know what was happening. Make sure you get out to vote on the 19th. We have three positions open on council and mayor position is open. Lists candidates for council.

Malec - Vote on the 3rd Tuesday. Lion's Club Candle Light Service on May 24th at 10:00 has been put on since 1953 or 1954. Lion's Club would appreciate if you turn your lights off and not drive for 15 minutes.

Shaffer - I am a candidate for council this time. I have written to help tear these buildings down and improve how this town looks. Everybody needs to vote, hopefully we get the finances straightened out. I consider myself from Ford City now.

Lux - Remind you to vote on the 19th. I would like to apologize for left out information in booklets. Reports were wrong and I apologize. I would like to see the service like it was years ago.

ADJOURNMENT Klukan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous 6-0

John M. Lux, Sr.
Council President

Patricia Hornyak
Asst. Secretary