

MINUTES
FORD CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
LOCATION - FORD CITY BOROUGH BUILDING
NOVEMBER 10, 2008

CALL TO ORDER Council President John Lux called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

AUDIO TAPED Council President Lux informed everyone the meeting is being audio and video taped. Lux asked if others were audio or video taping the meeting? There was not a response to the question.

ROLL CALL Terry Tokarek, Ray Klukan, Ron Dillard, John Lux, Tim Malec, Tom Shaffer and Mayor Mantini were present. .

ATTENDANCE Solicitor Frank Alan Wolfe and Anita Bowser - Ford City Librarian were also present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Shaffer made a motion to enter Executive Session at 5:00 p.m. to discuss personnel. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 6-0 Unanimous

REGULAR SESSION Shaffer made a motion to exit Executive Session and return to Regular Session. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. 6-0 Unanimous

CITIZEN COMMENTS CONCERNING LERTA OR AGENDA ITEMS AT THIS TIME

Anita Bowser - Ford City Librarian spoke in favor of council continuing to provide the library with a monthly allocation, which would be in addition to the tax revenue.

Shaffer explained he asked for Profit & Loss statements for the last six (6) months and has not received the information.

Klukan asked why the Library Board is not at this meeting?

Bowser explained some money is held in reserve as a match to the Keystone Grant due June 2009.

Dillard explained there is a lack of communication and the Borough still governs the expansion and building.

Bowser stated she had no record of any requests for information.

Bowser informed council of a falling down ceiling, ripped rugs, and lighting problems that need repair.

Suzi Suwala explained she provided information to Mayor Mantini about repairs that should be taken care of, including the 2' sinkhole at the rear of the building. At this time nothing has been completed.

Councilman Dillard stated he knew about the sinkhole but nothing about a list of problems.

Dillard stated he would stop at the Library tomorrow for a copy of the list of problems. Dillard told them to "Let me know it will be taken care of."

Klukan asked why wasn't the stipend included when tax was put added?

Dillard explained this council stepped into a big problems and past due bills.

Lux explained there were many water breaks too and the promise of no tax increase. Council must know what the needs are, communication has to happen.

Dillard explained the streets need repairing in 2009.

Mitch Fryer - reporter Leader-Times, how does council justify the new position in the budget? Dillard explained this position will assist the current Codes Officer, Shaffer stated the position will pay for itself. Dillard stated this will be a multi-use individual.

Fryer asked why is the Fire Dept. receiving more money? Lux explained General Fund money is being used to pay for Fire Dept. bills. Shaffer explained they will receive \$55,000 per year and can only spend \$55,000.

Dillard stated the budget is not finalized yet.

Edna Garth introduced herself as an 83 year old long time resident of Ford City Borough who now resides at Millwood Arms. Garth asked why should taxes be raised for past problems? Where are grants? Where did the monies go? Garth submitted a presented a petition supporting the continuation of the bus service contract with Ford City Borough. (Attachment)

Dillard explained it results from poor management and is partially the citizens responsible, no oversight by voters.

Dillard stated they are dealing with actual numbers and are looking at the Fire Department, Street Lighting, and Handicap Ramps. We are working on a program to purchase our own lights.

Shaffer stated there is not a tax increase in the budget, and we tried to make cut without hurting anyone.

An unknown lady asked why new street lights on Ford Street? Dillard explained the new lights cost less than old lights and we own the Ford Street lights.

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Kathy Bartuccio asked if anything is being done about collecting delinquent taxes, or a percentage?

Dillard answered they are collected by the county.

Mantini explained industry has been lost.

Shaffer stated jobs are being lost because business is moving out.

Bartuccio asked why aren't the lights turned off during the day? They are off at night and on during the day.

Dillard stated he is walking the streets at night during his assessment of the street lights.

LERTA

Shaffer made a motion to advertise Commercial & Residential LERTA. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

BUDGET 2009

Shaffer made a motion to advertise proposed budget for 2009. Seconded by Dillard. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

COURT TRANSCRIPTS

Dillard made a motion to authorize the Court Stenographer to prepare a transcript for any Hearing or Meeting they attend on behalf of Ford City Borough. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

MEETING DATES 2009

Malec made a motion to advertise meeting dates for 2009. Seconded by Klukan. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Unknown lady stated to Councilman Shaffer he is ignorant about the bus situation.

Garth asked if the buses would be taken away?

Shaffer explained Michael Johnston - MCTA is to schedule a meeting.

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Lux explained council is not voting to do away with buses.

A short discussion took place about the poor condition of the buses.

Jennie Morgan stated the buses need repaired and the riders are transported in buses used by the prison.

Pastor ?????????????? Ford Memorial Church explained he serves four (4) churches, this is a beautiful town and people must work together and if people can't move about, they will stay in their homes.

Dillard suggested watching the buses, there is a scheduling problem, they many not needed at 11:00 p.m., don't all go to the same place, should come up with a better schedule, smaller buses, with correct pressure things can happen.

Shaffer explained the MCTA money went to wrong places and never wanted to stop bus service.

Morgan explained going on the buses is also recreation and for therapy. MCTA is her only means of going.

Gene Banks stated a few elected officials have served on the MCTA board, can a meeting be set up?

Lux explained other municipalities were invited to this meeting.

Banks asked if the Mayor could coordinate a meeting?

Shaffer asked how much does county put in? Johnston answered their new amount is \$6800.

Morgan asked why doesn't the county have a representative on board? Morgan stated the fumes from buses bad in the rear of the bus.

Tokarek asked if she ever attended the MCTA meeting?

Dillard - Ask for a bus ride.

Mayor Mantini explained their meeting time is 4:00 pm.

Mike Markalinski asked to speak with council he may be able to offer an alternative to using MCTA. Markilinski explained he has five (5) wheel chair vans.

Tokarek asked how many people is a van able to transport? Markilinski explained a van is able to transport three (3) wheel chair people per van. Markilinski stated this is just an option for Ford City residents.

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Approved 1-5-09

SOLICITOR COMMENTS

Solicitor Wolfe had no comments at this time.

MAYOR COMMENTS

Mayor Mantini had no comments at this time.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tokarek - Thanks ladies for coming.

Dillard - Thanks to people coming to meeting, come to more meetings.

Klukan - Thanks to ladies & library.

Malec- Ron is right, state opinions.

Shaffer - None at this time..

Lux - Thanks for everyone coming. Apologize to Jennie, hoping to resolve these issues..

ADJOURNMENT

Klukan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34pm. Seconded by Shaffer. Motion Carried. Unanimous. 6-0

John Lux
Council President

Lisa Bittner
Borough Secretary

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