

FOREST CITY 78

Mason County

FOREST CITY  
TOWN MEETING

#000

March 23, 1978



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THE SONG

March 23, 1978

Onward Forest City  
On to better goals  
Onward Forest City  
Your future you hold  
Let's live for tomorrow  
Not just for today  
The future is awaiting  
Let's plan for it today

Onward Forest City  
Pride for young and old  
Onward Forest City  
Help us meet our goals.

To the tune: Onward Christian soldiers

### Past

People not sure where name came from. There is a forest nearby. The town was called Mason Plains until 1874. The town Charter was granted in 1900 as Forest City. The town Hall was built in 1892.

This is principally a farming community. There have been many fires in the town's history. Before the Fire Department, there used to be a bucket brigade. Various fires burned down the store, the bank, the bowling alley. The Mobil plant burned down in 1947, and the plant moved after that.

Forest City used to have the biggest homecoming celebration in the state, but have not had one for several years now. During WW II there was a CCC camp, which planted the forest nearby. The Town Hall was built 3 or 4 years ago. When the old Town Hall was torn down, they found a coffin with a skeleton in it. The skeleton was donated to the new school.

The people in Forest City are a combination of all kinds. They are good about helping each other. People can remember helping each other butcher hogs and beef. During corn shelling, neighbors would help each other.

### FUTURE HOPES & DREAMS

Care for stray dogs  
Water & sewer system  
Better school system  
Better Roads  
Local industry  
Continued prosperity  
New Homes

Youth center  
Team work and more of it

### PRESENT

Planning for water & sewer system  
Public services mean higher taxes  
Where does money come from? (for water & sewer, public services)  
Many people on fixed incomes  
How does a small town compete with only a small tax base & little industry?  
Youth Have nothing to do

No water & sewer stops development  
More people need to participate in local gov't  
Promoting industry in our town - how to compete with larger communities  
Future leadership with vision & ability to plan

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

In the arena of future money and taxes, these blocks exist: People on fixed income, small tax base, people can't afford higher taxes, 95% retired or work out of town, noone has really sought new industry.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is that people are hesitant to change, or have new industry, because of higher taxes and change of lifestyle.

This is illustrated people moving from big cities to come to Forest City.

PERSONAL PROOF & KNOWING ABOUT COMMUNITY

In the arena of community involvement, these blocks exist: people are not interested in local government; they mistrust our national leadership; there is a lack of pay for local government, and a lack of time; there is a lack of interest on the part of younger people; trend toward centralization in local government; lack of knowledge of how to run a town; kids expect more these day; kids expect more; lack of leadership from parents and other adults.

This indicates that the underlying contradiction is that people have lost interest in really participating in local community - we lack strong leadership.

This is illustrated by the inability to change the school superintendent.

OUR FUTURE

We the citizens of Forest City, in order to promote growth for the future of the community, propose promoting the water & sewer system which is needed for the future through:

- 1) Board appointing committee & chairman who will follow through
- 2) Set goals: time, materials, expense, future benefits
- 3) Establish budget
- 4) Report to community decisions & findings in public meeting

FOREST CITY  
TOWN MEETING

PARTICIPANTS

March 23, 1978

Robert Merle Blackwell Sr.	Box 325	Forest City Forest City Police Bridge Mechanic
Doris Blackwell	Box 325	Housewife
Eldon Bortell	Box 144	Laborer
Gene Fair	Box 73	Factory worker
George J. Hoffman		Retired
Mildred Hoffman	Box 123	Housewife
Wilfred Kreiling	Box 4	Retired, U.S.P.S.
Oliver E. Nash	Box 64	Retired
Aldene Nash	Box 64	Housewife
Jerry Duane Vance	Box 113	Foreman
Henry Wakefield		Retired

Town Meeting Volunteers:

Glenda Johnson	3259 Lafayette	St. Louis, MO
Jan Otto	R. D. 1	East Montpelier, VT



THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the "human element" in world development. The ICA is not - for - profit and is registered tax exempt in the State of Illinois. There are over one hundred local offices around the world, 52 of which are in North America.

The scope of the work of the ICA is broad and varied, ranging from management seminars for business executives to comprehensive community development projects. In all programs the emphasis is on effective methods for human motivity, cooperative action and plan implimentation.

The research of the ICA relates strictly to its practical arenas. There are currently has four major programs.

**HUMAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS**

two year community development efforts

**COMMUNITY FORUMS**

one day "town meetings"

one day "global women's forums"

one day "community youth forums"

**LENS (Living Effectively in the New Society)**  
week-end seminar on management planning

**PLANNING CONSULTATIONS**

of any time design or orientation -- to be arranged

For information on this work. contact either office:

Chicago, Illinois  
410 South Trumbull  
Chicago 60624  
312 / 722 - 3444

Saint Louis, Missouri  
3259 LaFayette Avenue  
Saint Louis 63104  
314 / 773 - 6688



CONCERNED WITH THE HUMAN ELEMENT IN WORLD DEVELOPMENT