

# **Forty Fort Borough**

## **Council Meeting**

**April 3, 2017**

### **Call To Order**

Gavel Strike of President of Council, Jeffrey McLaughlin, called tonight's meeting to order.

### **Invocation & Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Andy Tuzinski led all who attended in a moment of silence, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

President of Council, Jeffery Mclaughlin, ordered Roll Call. Member in attendance were: President Jeffery Mclaughlin, Vice President Tom Murray, Dominic Butchko, Deborah Troy, Amy Craig, Ted Ritsick, and David Sieminski. Borough Mayor, Andy Tuzinski, Chief of Police Daniel Hunsinger, Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, and Borough Secretary Brandy Fuller. President Jeffery Mclaughlin confirmed a quorum.

### **Residents and Taxpayers comments and Petitions**

There were no comments from residents at this meeting.

### **Consent Agenda for Administrative Issues**

Matters listed within the Consent Agendas have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are considered to be routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. If separate discussion is desired, the item may be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action. The Resolutions listed below were submitted to the borough Council for review and will be adopted by the one motion.

1. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2017 council meeting
2. Motion to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017 Council Work Session

3. Motion to approve the February 2017 Treasurer's Report.
4. Motion to pay all bills as presented.
5. Motion to accept the minutes and reports from the following:
  - a. Police Chief
  - b. Kingston Fire Chief
  - c. Forty Fort Fire Chief
  - d. Engineer's report
  - e. Code Enforcement Report
  - f. Safety Committee meeting minutes
  - g. Shade Tree Commission meeting minutes
  - h. Manager time sheets – 3/15/2017 – 3/29/2017
  - i. Stella Blizzard documents for Luzerne County EMA
6. Correspondence
  1. Beddini vs. Forty Fort Borough update from Atty. Finnegan
  2. Comcast letter
  3. Rutter Ave. Bridge word update

A motion was made by Deborah Troy to accept the Consent Agenda and seconded by Teddy Ritsick. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Mayor and Police Chief**

Chief of Police Daniel Hunsinger advised council that Sergeant Michaels and Assistant Chief Stone assisted the Officer Phil Program, at the Wyoming Valley West, Dana Street School.

Chief Hunsinger also wanted to comment about the street department, on what he believed was probably the best maintained roadways in all of Luzerne County, during the major snow storm we had in March, and a special thanks to the majority of the residents who cooperated during the blast from Mother Nature.

Chief Hunsinger made council aware that the new vehicle is scheduled to be delivered within the next 2 weeks. In that we also have received an LSA grant for an additional vehicle, this will bring our fleet up to 4 relatively new vehicles, 2 of which were purchased through grants. Having a relatively new fleet of 4 vehicles will lower maintenance costs and allow us to rotate vehicles, allowing for a much longer transition period for future purchases. A win, win for the tax payers and the police department.

The Chief offered his sincere thanks to the Mayor, council and Borough Manager for their continued support of his department.

The Mayor wanted to make known that the Easter Egg Hunt in the park was set for April 22, 2017. Also the same day is the Little League Parade starting at the Wyoming Valley West Stadium at 10am.

### **Borough Manager's Report**

On Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, Bonnie Arnone stated that she submitted our expenses for the Stella Blizzard to Luzerne County EMA which amounted to \$29,091.78. She received word late Friday that the county had reached there threshold to be able to submit for Luzerne County Expenses. Unfortunately, this morning, she received word from the County that the state did not meet the threshold of 18.2 million in damages so there will be no reimbursement for our storm expenses.

On a better note, we received word from DCED and Representative Aaron Kaufer that the Borough has received \$67,000.00 through a LSA Grant for a new police cruiser with License Plate Recognition System and \$350,000.00 for the River Street curbing project. We will investigate applying for a Multi Modal Grant that would allow us to use the \$350,000.00 received through the LSA Grant as a match for the funds we would request from that grant.

We have been informed by PENDOT that the Rutter Ave. bridge project will begin in mid-April with a press release explaining the detours involved prior to that. The only traffic that will be affected will be traffic travelling from Kingston into Forty Fort using Rutter Ave. as that will not be allowed. All other traffic patterns will remain the same.

We met with eh representative from General Code on Friday and I'm happy to report that our municipal code is updated to Dec. of 2016 and available for all on the General code website. This information has been prominently placed on the borough's website, all council and other official have been added as municipal users and announcements made via social media and newspaper articles to the public as to how they may gain access to this valuable resource. I have provided you all with a sheet showing what is accessible to constituents (public), Municipal Users and Administrative Users. I encourage you all to become familiar with this site to learn the benefits you will have with this now available.

Lastly, Mrs. Arnone made known that on the Engineers report, the installation of new traffic signals at Wyoming Ave., Slocum, and Welles St. is back in the hands of PENDOT, after response was given to them on points they needed clarification on. The Multi Modal Grant information is being reviewed by PENDOT and will hopefully be approved and returned very soon.

### **General Business**

1. Ordinance #1 of 2017 – Pave Cut Ordinance amendment – has been advertised. A motion was made by Dominic Butchko and seconded by Debbie Troy for the amendment of Ordinance #1 of 2017. All were in favor. Motion passed.
2. Resolution #5 of 2017 – PENDOT Sweeping Agreement for 2017. A motion was made by Dominic Butchko and seconded by Ted Ritsick to approve Resolution #5 of 2017. All were in favor. Motion passed.
3. Resolution #6 of 2017 – Petitioning State Legislature in favor of small games of chance. A motion was made by Dominic Butchko and seconded by Amy Craig to Petition State Legislature in favor of small games of chance. All were in favor. Motion passed.
4. Resolution #7 of 2017 – Petitioning State Legislature to allow use of Radar by Police Departments. A motion was made by Dominic Butchko and seconded by Amy Craig to Petition State Legislature to allow use of Radar by Police Departments. All were in favor. Motion passed.
5. Advertise to amend Ordinance 6 of 2015 to state The no parking restriction on the Borough owned portion of River St. from 205' from the center of Rutter Ave, down to 121' form the center of Rutter Ave. A motion was made by Dominic Butchko and seconded by Amy Craig. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **New Business and Open Discussions:**

A discussion was had to hire Full-Time/Part-Time DPW workers. A motion was made by Tom Murray to advertise in the paper for such, and seconded by Ted Ritsick. All were in favor. Motion passed.

The personnel policy, fidelity and conflict of interest policy, rules and procedures and ethics code are still in discussion and will continue to be looked at during next scheduled meeting.

A discussion of the CDBG Project was had, to submit a grant to possibly pave Culver Street, West Pettebone Street and Beford Street.

Amy Craig brought up that the Shade tree trees are coming in, and was questioning stump removal to be able to replant. A motion was made by Tom Murray and seconded by Deborah Troy to rent a stump grinder for the Cross Valley and selected areas. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeffrey Mclaughlin and seconded by Deborah Troy at 7:55PM. All were in favor. The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Brandy Fuller

Secretary/ Treasurer