

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021

The April 5, 2021 meeting of the Forty Fort Borough Council was held at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with president, Thomas J. Murray, III, presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with the following council members present: Phil Mertz, Kristy Dadurka, Frank Mazza, Jeff McLaughlin & Cara Devine. David Sieminski was absent.

Also present were Mayor Andy Tuzinski, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer Thomas Craig, DPW Supervisor, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

Reverend Lukish led with the opening prayer which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mayor Tuzinski. Members of Boy Scout Troop 143 were present and welcomed to the meeting to meet the requirements of their community badge.

RESIDENTS:

The following residents approached the podium to speak with council regarding the proposed levy trail along River Street: Anne Swartz, 8 Susquehanna Ave., Linda House, 45 Cayuga Place, Joe Ryan, on behalf of Catherine Ryan of 12 Susquehanna Ave., Molly Ryan, 366 River St., William Ryan, 366 River St. and Scott Smith of 32 Oneida Place.

These residents questioned council about the vote that was taken at the special meeting of council held on 7/20/2020 where a vote was taken to construct the proposed levy trail on the top of the levy which is very close to the rear areas of their properties. Council explained that the engineering firm hired for this project, GPI Engineers, are currently working with the Army Corps of Engineers to see if this plan is feasible.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The following reports and minutes have been provided to council for review and vote:

2/16/2021 Council meeting minutes	2/16/2021 Council work session minutes
3/1/2021 Council meeting minutes	February 2021 Code Office Report
February 2021 Police Chief Report	February 2021 Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
February 2021 Kingston Fire Chief Report	February 2021 Tax Collector Report
February 2021 Treasurer's Report	February 2021 Manager Time Sheets
1/19/2021 WVSA meeting minutes	

CORRESPONDENCE:

The April Stormwater update and the most recent Tax Claim Bureau Tax Sale information was provided to council for review.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Mr. Mertz to pay all bills as presented. Second by Mr. Mazza. Mr. McLaughlin abstained from any bills relating to GBM, his employer. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Mertz to pass Ordinance 2 of 2021 which prohibit parking in specified areas on Fort St. in Forty Fort Borough. Second by Ms. Devine. On the question, it was noted that this ordinance was needed to accommodate the passage of the Ladder Fire Truck if it was needed. The ordinance has been adverted and on display for public inspection prior to the meeting. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. McLaughlin to pass Resolution 5 of 2021 which updates the current Fees schedule. Second by Mr. Mazza. On the question, Mr. Craig, Code Officer, explained that the fees were needed to be adjusted for new pools. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Devine to hire the following individuals as lifeguards for the 2021 Pool season: Abigayle Cryan, Emma Brown, Leah Dettore & Julia Bucknavage. Second by Ms. Dadurka. On the question, it was asked what the rate of pay was for the lifeguards which is \$8.50 per hour. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Devine to hire Daniel Houk and Scott Grebeck as part time DPW employees. Second by Mr. Mertz. On the question, Mr. Kamus stated that Mr. Houck would be working in the shop and Mr. Grebeck will be strictly cutting grass in West Wyoming. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Mertz to approve the extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement in place with West Wyoming Borough for DPW Services. Second by Ms. Devine. On the question: This extension will be from April 16, 2021 to December 31, 2021. The following extension will then be for a calendar year. The price will remain the same, but all additional hours and Overtime hours will be billed monthly. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Dadurka to pass Resolution 6 of 2021, a Resolution for a PENDOT Multimodal grant using the balance of funds available from the prior Grant for Alley Paving. Second by Mr. McLaughlin. On the question: Since the original grant expired in December of 2020, PENDOT agreed to take the remaining funds from the grant & roll it into another agreement in the amount of \$196,553.00. American Asphalt has been notified of this new grant and was requested to get the work scheduled for this Spring. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Council members were reminded to return their Statement's of Financial Interest to the Borough Manager by May 1, 2021.

A license for small games of chance will be obtained from Luzerne County to ensure the legality of the planned Pitch Tournament being arranged by Jerry LaMark with proceeds going towards the Park Renovations fund. The cost of the License is \$25.00 and is good for one month.

Mr. Kamus updated council on the ongoing renovations of the fire office and the necessary work that was done in the Manager's office due to a busted steam pipe. A financial accounting of expenses to

date was given to council. Council agreed that the expenses for these two projects will be transferred from the Capital Reserve Fund once all work is complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

A donation has been received for a former Forty Fort Borough resident, Richard Krishock, who recently passed away at his home in Florida. The amount of the donation is \$750,000.00 and will be sent to the Borough once his estate is settled. Mr. Krishock was a former resident of Welles St., a 1963 graduate of Forty Fort High School & served with the Air Force in Vietnam. He then went on to become a commercial airline pilot. No plans for the use of this funding have been discussed.

Notification has been received that Forty Fort Borough should receive a new coronavirus relief package in the amount of approximately \$399,000.00. No further word has been received on this package.

Mr. Kamus advised council that he has obtained a Wildcat Trommel Screen from Green Twp., near Harrisburg, free of charge. This piece of equipment was obtained by Green Twp. Through a 902 Recycle grant many years ago. With only 720 hours on the machine, they found they could no longer use it. DEP, who administers these grants, mandates that any piece of equipment obtained through his grant if sold, must reimburse DEP a certain percentage. If it is transferred to another municipality free of charge, there is no payment due. The machine does need some maintenance but will provide our DPW with much needed equipment in their composting process.

Mr. Kamus reported that this year's Spring Clean up will be held Monday through Saturday, May 10, 2021 through May 15, 2021. Hours will be from 6:00 AM to 1:30 PM on those days and residents must register at the Borough Bldg. or online, paying \$40.00 for a one time pick up, for a 3' X 7' area on their tree or front lawn. Multiple spaces may be purchased.

Mayor Tuzinski reported that the Borough wide yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Information on this event will be posted on the Borough's web site and on social media sites. Yard Sale permits will be waived for this event only.

A Pick-Up PA event will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 11:00 AM. Currently, girl scout troops will be participating in this event which will clean trash up on municipal properties. Supplies will be provided free of charge and landfill space will also be free to dispose of the waste collected.

Ms. Devine reported that a demo site of the proposed Borough web page has been created by PSAB and will be sent to council for review and comments. She also asked if the Borough would be selling much again this year to which Mr. Kamus replied that we would be doing this again this year.

Mr. Mazza reported that the Recreation Committee would meet next week to firm up the plans for the upcoming pool season. He also reported that the Hometown Hero's flag project will not be accepting any more applications at this time. They are preparing the flags for the requests received thus far and will hopefully open once again for production pending a large enough order. The hope is to have all flags in place for Memorial Day.

Ms. Dadurka reported that the Pig Roast will take place at the park's pavilion on Saturday June 19, 2021 with all proceeds going towards the park renovation project. This is being hosted by Jeff Piazza

of the White House Diner and Fort Café. Ms. Dadurka thanked all the residents who attended the meeting and vowed to visit their properties to view how close to the levy trail they would be.

Mr. Mertz also thanked the residents for their attendance. He announced that the DPW Committee would meet on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at Noon.

Mr. Kamus reported that he is working with WVSA and the utility companies to ensure that all utility repairs are done on River St. & Rutter Ave. prior to the work that will be done on these Streets this year.

At this time, 8:55 PM, council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss Police Personnel issues but will return from Executive Session for anticipated votes.

Council returned from Executive Session at 10:00 PM and re-convened in regular session.

Motion by Ms. Devine to hire Richard Harding as a part time police officer. Second by Mr. Mertz. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. McLaughlin to adopt a Memorandum of Understanding with the Fraternal Order of Police that will alter the current police contract to the following: All new, full time police officers, will be hired at the 3rd year rate level. Current officers, Brandon Bradshaw will advance to third year rate and Officer Tony Smith will advance to fifth year rate. Also, all part time officers will be increased to \$22.50 per hour with a \$0.50 yearly increase over the term of the contract. Second by Ms. Dadurka. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Devine to authorize a letter to the Civil Service Commission to make the following changes to the current Civil Service rules: 1. Reduce the age requirement to 20 years of age; Change the ACT 120 Certification requirement from date of application to eligible to be certified upon date of hire. Finally, once these changes are made and adopted by council, the Commission is directed to begin the process of creating a new list for the Police Department. Second by Mr. Mertz. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Devine to terminate the employment of police officer Nickolas Basov effective April 13, 2021. Second by Ms. Dadurka. On the questions, Officer Basov is currently in his probationary period with the police department. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Devine to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 PM and seconded by Ms. Dadurka.

The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday, April 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager