

# **Forty Fort Borough Council Meeting Monday August 5, 2024**

The August 5, 2024, meeting for Forty Fort Borough Council was held at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with president, Thomas J. Murray III presiding.

## **Call to order**

Gavel strike of President of Council Thomas Murray called tonight's meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

## **Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Reverend Lukish lead the prayer and Mayor Brian Thomas lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Roll Call**

President Thomas Murray ordered a roll call. Members in attendance were President Thomas Murray, Vice President Cara Devine, Phil Mertz, Dave Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka, Sara Michaels, Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone, Borough Mayor Brian Thomas, Borough Secretary Michele Pascarella, Solicitor Greg Skibitsky, Code Enforcement Officer Thomas Craig, Code Chief Dan Hunsinger and DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus. Frank Mazza was absent. There were 26 visitors in attendance.

## **Public Comments**

Tori Carey of the Forty Fort Recreation Board stated there would be a Fall Festival on October 12, 2024, from 2PM to 6PM at Camryn Way. The rain date will be October 13, 2024, from 2PM-6PM. The Recreation Board asked Chief Hunsinger if his students would be available to help with parking and asked Rick if they could gain access to the bulletin board to hang flyers up. They also asked Rick for extra garbage cans and if more picnic tables could be added. There are over 40+ vendors, food trucks and bands. If anyone is looking to sponsor or be a vendor, reach out to the Forty Fort Recreation Board on Facebook. Trunk or Treat was also discussed, and they already have 12 trunks. The Recreation Board will be on PA Live to promote.

Miss Salley of 106 Center Street asked about a newsletter. She stated that all upcoming events should be promoted more.

Ed Kudey of 1813 Murray Street asked when Rose Street to Denison Street would be repaved. DPW Supervisor stated that it will be done just not sure when. Next spring they will be working their way down to that area.

Mark Schwartz of 1200 Murray asked what the Civil Service Commission lawsuit and what the settlement of the Yaksima case was about. Council stated that the Civil Service Commission lawsuit is pending, and council could not comment on a pending lawsuit. Council told Mr. Schwartz that all information regarding this lawsuit is public information and can be looked up. Council also stated the settlement of the Yaksima lawsuit will be discussed in the agenda.

## **Consent Agenda**

Matters listed on the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are routine and will be enacted by one motion of Council. If separate discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action. The resolutions listed below are submitted by Borough Council for review and will be adopted by one motion. These items were presented to the council at the prior month's work session for review. Motion to approve and/or accept the following consent agenda items:

- 6/17/24 Council work session minutes
- 6/26/24 Special Council meeting minutes
- 7/1/24 Council Meeting Minutes
- June 2024 Code Office Report
- June 2024 Forty Fort Police Chief Report
- June 2024 Treasure's Report
- June 2024 Manager's Time Sheets
- June 2024 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
- June 2024 Tax Collector Report
- 6/17/24 Civil Service Commission meeting minutes
- 6/26/24 Civil Service Commission meeting minutes

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to remove the 6/17/24 and 6/26/24 Civil Service Commission meeting minutes from the consent agenda and seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor. Motion passed.

## **Council Action Items**

A motion was made by Cara Devine to pay all bills as presented and seconded by Phil Mertz. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to appoint Dan Zavada as the Forty Fort Borough Volunteer Fire Chief and seconded by Kristy Dadurka. All were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to advertise the proposed Sidewalk Ordinance and was seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed.

## **New Business**

Proposed Dog Barking Ordinance

## **Old Business**

Settlement of Yaksima Case- Attorney Greg Skibitsky explained.

## **Around the Table**

Sara Michaels thanked the Forty Fort Recreation Board for all its hard work and gave recognition to the event. Sara said it felt like old time Forty Fort. She also thanked DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus and all his crew for the great work they did and continue to do with the cleanup after the storms.

Kristy Dadurka stated she feels the same way as Sara Michaels does.

Dave Sieminski thanked Ms. Salley for reminding him to do the newsletter. Dave said if anyone had anything they wanted in the newsletter to contact him.

Cara Devine reminded everyone that National Night Out will be August 23, 2024, at 5:30 PM. There will be another Duck Hunt this year and Swoyersville is involved also.

Phil Mertz asked if there was an update on the sound system, Cara stated she has a call in for information.

Mayor Brian Thomas stated he is still looking into a program for the trees on the tree lawn. The Code Officer Lee Hampton has been documenting trees that will need to be removed. Mayor Thomas also discussed how FEMA re did the flood mapping and how residents have received a notice that they now need flood insurance due to flash flooding and run offs. As soon as he gets any information, he will pass it along.

Thomas Craig stated that some of the Quality-of-Life Violations needs to be investigated and changed.

Thomas Murray read a letter that the Borough received giving thanks to Scott Serfain for fixing the fence at the Dennison House.

### **Executive Session**

To discuss pending litigation

Council went into Executive Session at 7:03 PM

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Council re-convened from Executive Session & adjourned at 7:45 PM with a motion by Ms. Devine & second by Mr. Sieminski.

The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday August 19, 2024, at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pascarella  
Borough Secretary