

FORTY FORT, PA

January 5, 2009

Regular Meeting of Council

The regular meeting of Forty Fort Borough Council was held on Monday, January 5, 2009 at the Forty Fort Borough Building , 1271 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, with President Joseph Chacke presiding.

Council Members present were as follows: Deanna Brown, Robert Craig, Charles Kamus, Betty Mascelli, Frank Michaels, Dave Williams, Richard Yingst and President Joseph Chacke. James McCabe was absent.

Also present were Mayor Boyd Hoats Jr., Engineer Christopher Borton, Solicitor Samuel A. Falcone, and Borough Secretary/Coordinator Denise Syms. There were twelve (12) visitors.

President Chacke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

A moment of silence was held in memory of Paul Detwiler, who was a former Council Person and Mayor of Forty Fort. Mr. Detwiler passed away today. Invocation was then given by Reverend William Lukesh of the Forty Fort United Presbyterian Church followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag* led by Mayor Boyd Hoats Jr.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Williams to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on December 1, 2008 and the Special Meetings held on December 15, 2008 and December 29, 2008 as presented. Second by Mrs. Mascelli.

On a roll call vote members voted as follows:

- Deanna Brown = Yes
- Robert Craig = Yes, but abstained on the December 1 and December 29, 2008 minutes due to being absent for the meetings
- Charles Kamus = Yes, but abstained on the December 1 and December 15, 2008 minutes due to not being present for the meetings
- Betty Mascelli = Yes
- Frank Michaels = Yes
- Dave Williams = Yes
- Richard Yingst = Yes, but abstained on the December 15, 2008 minutes due to being absent for the meeting
- President Joseph Chacke = Yes

Motion passed with noted abstentions.

RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS COMMENTS PETITIONS:

Carol Ann McLaughlin, 25 Yates Street, addressed Council regarding violations of the zoning ordinance as it pertains to a noise disturbance from Dunkin Donuts. Discussion ensued.

Mrs. McLaughlin also discussed the traffic speeding down the alley between Wesley and Yates.

Jessica Macarchick, 39 Wesley Street, addressed Council regarding the drive-thru speaker noise at Dunkin Donuts being extremely loud.

Dottie Craig, 1823 Murray Street, addressed Council regarding her concerns regarding keeping the fire engine in Forty Fort.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Williams to approve the Treasurer's Report of December 20, 2008 as presented. Second by Mr. Michaels.

Motion carried without dissent.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Boyd Hoats Jr. read the report of the police department for the month of December 2008. The police responded to 428 calls during the month. The police department received a letter from Wyoming Seminary for their response to an incident at the school.

FIRE CHIEF:

Chief Shedlarski reported that for November there were 30 calls and 125 man-hours and for December there were 47 calls and 89 man-hours. For the year 2008, there were a total of 413 calls and 1,697 man-hours.

ENGINEER:

Christopher Borton updated Council on the status of the Welles Street project and the concerns of the Mericle building owner in regards to the diagonal parking.

Motion by Mr. Craig to authorize the solicitor to engage a title search of the alley off of Welles St. behind the Mericle building. Second by Mr. Yingst. Atty. Falcone asked for any information that the Code Enforcement Officer may have regarding it.

Motion passed without dissent.

Mr. Borton also stated that the Commerce Park project will be put out to bid in March.

CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER:

Steve Nowroski read the code enforcement report for December 2008. Total income was \$2,025.

SHADE TREE COMMISSION:

Mrs. Carol Seltzer gave the report of the Shade Tree Commission.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion by Mr. Yingst to adopt a resolution admonishing the Luzerne County Commissioners for proposing to levy an unfair tax upon the residents and taxpayers of the Borough of Forty Fort. Second by Mrs. Brown.

President Chacke stated that if passed he will send copies to all County Commissioners and campaign diligently against the tax.

Motion passed without dissent.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Moved by Mr. Craig to pay the bills as presented. Second by Mr. Kamus.

Motion passed without dissent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel/legal matters at 8:52 p.m. and reconvened at 9:45 p.m.

MOTIONS RELATING TO MATTERS DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion by Mr. Michaels to direct the solicitor to review the noise ordinance and make recommendations to Council at a future meeting. Second by Mrs. Mascelli.

Motion passed without dissent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Craig to adjourn. Second by Mrs. Brown.

Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Syms  
Borough Secretary/Coordinator