

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 3, 2013

The June meeting of the Forty Fort Borough Council was held on Monday, June 3, 2013 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, with President Joseph Chacke presiding.

President Chacke called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members of council present: Dorothy Craig, Robert Craig, Charles Rick Kamus & Frank Michaels. Excused absences for Karen Martinelli & Betty Mascelli. Mayor Hoats was also absent.

Also present were Atty. Sam Falcone, Carl Schimmel of Quad 3 Group, Barbara Fairchild, borough manager, Daniel Hunsinger, Police Chief & Bonnie Arnone, Secretary.

Invocation was given by Rev. Lukish followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag led by Joseph Chacke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Kamus to accept the minutes of the May 6, 2013 council meeting. Second by Mrs. Craig. Roll Call showed the following:

YES: Mrs. Craig, Mr. Kamus, Mr. Michaels, Mr. Chacke & Mr. Craig

NO: 0

Motioned passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to accept the minutes of the May 20, 2013 council work session. Second by Mr. Kamus. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Ms. Fairchild read a letter written to the borough by resident, Lois Post. In it, Mrs. Post related several stories where Lyme Disease has been found in humans & animals in Forty Fort Borough. She encouraged council and fellow residents to contact Rep. Lisa Baker to offer support for Senate Bill 177 to address this problem. The importance of keeping grass & weeds cut was also noted. Mrs. Craig suggested that a flier or newsletter be sent to residents warning of the Tick danger. Mr. Michaels suggested that we contact the county to seek assistance with this problem. Currently neither DEP nor Luzerne County offers any problems for Ticks.

The recent ISO Report has shown that due to the cooperative agreement with Kingston & Forty Fort Fire Departments, the rate classification has been lowered from 5 to 3 which will result in a substantial savings for commercial insurance rates & perhaps residential rates as well. Businesses & property owners are encouraged to contact their insurance companies to alert them of this latest report changes.

A letter was sent the WSCOG community members asking for a \$200.00 donation to help with costs of the pool which would garner their residents the residential rates for memberships at the pool.

Ms. Fairchild has received positive feedback from this communication & hopes to receive funds from some of the communities solicited.

Ms. Fairchild shared the experience of resident Walter Smith who was having difficulty with his sewer bill from Berkheimer. While she resolved his problem, she advised residents that if their information has changed in any way, she has a form which needs to be completed after which she will see that this is given to Berkheimer to correct their records.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Second by Mrs. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Carl Schimmel of Quad 3 Group reported that they were proceeding with the sewer line repair project and hopes to advertise for bids within the next 2 wks. They are also working on the flood mitigation project at 306 River St., working on documents for a grant for the pool and St. Improvement monies through USDA. Mr. Chacke thanked Mr. Schimmel & Quad 3 Group for their generous donation of the Eye Wash Station, including all planning, drainage work & installation of same at the Forty Fort Pool. Mr. Chacke noted that over the next several months, numerous grants will be applied for.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion in toto by Mr. Michaels to accept the following reports: Mayor/Police Dept., Kingston Fire Chief, Code Enforcement Officer & WVSA meeting minutes. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question: Mr. Chacke requested that the police chief include the amount of parking tickets, warning & citations that were written. Also, any other facts concerning the police dept. are included in the report. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to advertise the USDA Sewer Rehabilitation Project bid documents for 6/14/13. Second by Mr. Michaels. On the question, Mr. Chacke noted that they key dates were July 15, 2013 for bid opening & 8/5/13 award. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to hire Hannah Rogers, Samantha Lykon, Llyam McGlynn & Clare Winton as lifeguards for the Forty Fort Pool for the 2013 season at an hourly rate of \$8.00. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question: It was noted that this now brings the pool staffing up to the required number of guards; the pool has been open daily with great success. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Michaels to authorize a Change Order execution and payment to Popple in the amount of \$37,875.54 for Welles St. project. Second by Mr. Kamus. On the question: It was noted that this payment does not include costs for the additional paving and loop sensor work. This payment was due to a change order that was never submitted to Popple or the Borough Council last year. It was noted that this amount is reimbursable through the original grant following submission of proper documentation. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to adopt Resolution #8 of 2013 to appoint Berkheimer as the Mercantile Tax Collector for Forty Fort Borough at the compensation rate of 2.25% for the term of January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2015. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question: It was noted that the borough garners approx. \$25,000.00 yearly from this tax. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to adopt Resolution #9 of 2013 to appoint Barbara Fairchild as Forty Fort Borough's authorized representative to make requests upon and receive any and all tax information and records from Berkheimer. Second by Mrs. Craig. On the question: It was noted that this deals with the Taxpayer Bill of Rights. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to adopt Resolution #10 of 2013 to appoint Berkheimer as Forty Fort Borough's Tax Hearing Officer and adopts the Act 50 Regulations promulgated by Berkheimer. Second by Mrs. Craig. On the question: Mr. Michaels equated this to Due Process of Law. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Kamus to advertise the amendment to the Noise Ordinance for consideration at the July 1, 2013 council meeting. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question: It was noted that this was a topic that was discussed last year in which the ordinance was to be amended to allow property owners to lawfully do work at their properties on weekends. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mrs. Craig to notify Municipal Retirement Trust to place funds in a balanced account. Second by Mr. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

Motion by Mr. Craig to advertise and Ordinance for the West Side Council of Governments with Articles of Agreement and a \$400.00 annual fee. Second by Mrs. Craig. On the question: It was noted that this was simply to advertise the ordinance; any other fees mandated by the COG would be voted upon individually. Council was instructed to contact Ms. Fairchild individually to give their thoughts regarding the recent correspondence sent them about the COG. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS COMMENTS & PETITIONS FOR GENERAL PURPOSES:

Carol Seltzer of the Shade Tree Committee had Debbie Troy read an Arbor Day Proclamation for Forty Fort borough from 4/30/12. She also noted that she will have another pruning & cleanup day on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 11:00 AM. Meet at the Borough Building.

Robert Cole, 76 Walnut St., Forty Fort, stated that he wants council to notify residents in ample time of the streets that will be involved in the Sewer Restoration Project. He was told that a listing of all streets in the project scope will be listed & posted on the bulletin board at the Borough Building.

Betsy Amos, 50 Sullivan St., Forty Fort, stated that there are several properties on her street that have high grass. A discussion ensued with Stephen Nowroski, Zoning Officer, as to the amount of time which is given to property owners who are in violation of the high grass ordinance. Stephen stated that he felt his office had the ability to change the amount of time given to property owners in order to get the problems abated in view of the recent problems with Lyme Disease causing Ticks in the borough.

The fact that the borough street department workers from time to time cut the grass after which a bill is sent to the property owner for such work and in some cases, liens are placed on the properties.

Mrs. Amos also stated that there are several vehicles on Sullivan St. that are parked overnight without a proper parking permit visible. Chief Hunsinger stated that the Police are ticketing regularly and this street will be checked thoroughly.

Council discussed with Stephen Nowroski the property at the corner of Hughes & Murray St. where permits have been issued for work that has never been completed. Stephen advised council that the government extended all building permits from 2008 valid until July 2013. Further, they have now all been extended to 2016. Mr. Nowroski will investigate if there is any other means that he can expedite the process of the repairs to this structure.

Rob Swaback, 15 Susquehanna Ave., Forty Fort, asked if the borough could contact the state to have the grass cut on the right side of the roadway exiting the cross valley expressway into Forty Fort. He stated that this is the gateway to the town and it looks terrible overgrown. Ms. Fairchild stated that there is an official complaint form that residents should begin to utilize when registering any complaints which will assist her in getting the problems addressed.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Motion by Mr. Kamus to pay all bills as presented. Second by Mr. Michaels. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss personnel issues at 8:45 PM.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:55 PM.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn at 8:56 PM by Mr. Craig. Second by Mrs. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

It was noted that the work session will be held on Monday, June 17, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Secretary

