

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 17, 2025

The Forty Fort Borough council held it's work session on Monday, March 17, 2025 at the Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with council president, Thomas J. Murray, III, presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Amanda Gallagher, Cara Devine, David Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Frank Mazza was absent. Also present were Atty. Greg Skibitski, Mayor Brian Thomas, Police Chief, Dan Hunsinger, Zoning Officer, Tom Craig, DPW Supervisor, Rick Kamus, Volunteer Fire Chief, Dan Zavada & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Thomas led with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Tori Carey & Mary Ann Bottaro from the Recreation Advisory Committee reported on their upcoming events for 2025 including the Bunny Hop at Allie's Chocolates, 900 Rutter Ave. and the Fall Festival at the Sports Complex.

Ellen Beck, 7 Tripp Manor, stated she was glad to hear that the grant for the pool repairs had been granted. She was upset that the pool would not be open for the 2025 season. She was assured that council, and the committee would do everything possible to get the repairs started but an engineer would be needed with bids being put out for the actual work due to the cost of the project.

Jason Wasmanski & Aaron Derby of LOOP conducted a presentation on their services of fiber internet service coming to the Borough by end of June 2025.

Minutes and reports from the prior month were given to council members for their review and will be approved at the April 7, 2025 council meeting.

Zoning Officer, Tom Craig, presented for review a proposed ordinance that would place the responsibility of obtaining a permit for work being done on any property in the borough without a permit. A discussion ensued regarding the legality of this action since the Borough Code states that the responsibility of obtaining a building permit is the responsibility of the property owner. The Ordinance will be presented to council at the April 7, 2025 meeting for a vote to advertise.

Mr. Craig presented to council a revised Shade Tree Ordinance that repeals all prior ordinances. This ordinance will be voted on to advertise at the special council meeting. He explained the changes that have been made to the ordinance.

Bonnie Arnone reported to council that following a meeting with DCED regarding the STMP grant obtained for the purpose of securing a new DPW facility, it was determined that the borough can seek proposals again for the purpose of securing funding for the purchase of an existing facility.

Mayor Thomas reported that the Kingston/Forty Fort Little League parade and opening day will be held on Saturday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00 PM. He will be unavailable to attend and represent Forty Fort and asked if someone from council would do so. Kristy Dadurka volunteered to do so.

DPW Supervisor, Rick Kamus, reported that he is working with members of the West Side COG and their elected officials on the prospect of assisting member towns with larger projects, such as paving of roadways, for a fee that would be paid to the borough to compensate borough employees doing the work. He will update council on the progress of this program. The next COG meeting will be held on Thursday, March 20, 2025.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Michaels encouraged all interested individuals to attend the next pool committee meeting to work together on this project.

Ms. Dadurka reported that the next pool committee meeting would be held in council chambers on Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 5:00 PM.

Chief Hunsinger reported that the Borough wide yard sale would be held on May 3, 2025 with May 4, 2025 as the rain date. Interested individuals can e-mail their address to dhunsinger@fortyfortpd.org.

Volunteer Fire Chief Zavada reported that the department had purchased a utility vehicle that could be used by the volunteers when reporting calls.

DPW supervisor Kamus spoke with council about the prospect of having the West Side COG make application for a 902 Grant through DEP for needed composting equipment. If successful in obtaining the grant, all borough members of the COG would be responsible for a portion of the match required by DEP on the grant. He will keep council updated on this matter.

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Dadurka and seconded by Ms. Michaels at 7:00 PM. Council then convened with a Special Meeting for general purposes.

The next council meeting will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager