

FORTY FORT BOROUGH  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 17, 2014

A special meeting of council was held on Monday, November 17, 2014 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort with President Jeff McLaughlin presiding.

President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM with the following members of council present: Deborah Troy, Dottie Craig, Rob Craig, Charles Rick Kamus, Frank Michaels & Karen Martinelli, via telephone.

Also present were Mayor Andy Tuzinski & Secretary Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Tuzinski led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

GUESTS:

Karen Labbate of Commonwealth Energy Group gave a presentation and proposal to council for a lighting retrofit for the Borough Building, DPW Building and Pool Building at a Gross contract price of \$12,613.00. The proposal is ala cart meaning just the Borough Building could be done if council so desired. Mr. Craig asked about the possibility of entering into a payment plan for the project since there is no room in the 2015 budget for that type of payment. Ms. Labbate will look into this for council.

Robert Swaback of the Civil Service Commission requested an Executive Session with council to discuss matters. After some discussion, it was determined that the matters do not fall under the criteria needed for council to have an Executive Session. Mr. Swaback stated that their Commission has the right to hire an independent attorney which must be paid by the Borough. They attorney they wish to hire will charge \$150.00 per hour.

Motion by Mr. Kamus to give the Civil Service Commission a budget of \$200.00 for the remainder of 2014 and revisit the line item for 2015 to set a price. Second by Mr. Michaels. On the question: It was noted that this amount will not be sufficient for the Commission to be able to work with. At this time, Mr. Michaels rescinded his second and the motion died for lack of a second.

Motion by Mr. Craig to give the Civil Service Commission a budget of \$500.00 for the remainder of 2014 and revisit the line item for 2015. Second by Ms. Martinelli. Roll call showed the following results:

YES: Mrs. Craig, Ms. Martinelli, Mr. Craig & Mr. McLaughlin

NO: Ms. Troy, Mr. Kamus & Mr. Michaels

Motion passed 4-3.

Mr. Kamus questioned if Ms. Martinelli's vote was legal over the phone. He was told that as long as council had a physical quorum, a telephone vote was legal.

Mrs. Craig explained to council the proposed amendment to the Rental Inspection Fee Schedule saying that the ordinance currently states their ability to pursue yearly inspections and there should be no change to the department work load to accomplish this.

Motion by Mr. Kamus to accept the 2015 Rental Inspection Fee increases as presented. Second by Ms. Troy. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the proposed increase in fee for Fire Safety Inspections. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Ms. Craig to pass Resolution #22 to destroy old Franklin Security account checks. Second by Ms. Martinelli. All council was in favor of this motion.

Motion by Mr. Craig to pass Resolution #23 for the 2015 LSA Gaming Grant application and to direct the Borough Manager to include the cost of the proposal from the Commonwealth Energy Group for work at the Borough Building into the grant application. Second by Mr. Kamus. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Kamus to accept the second reading of the 2015 Budget which calls for a 55% increase in tax millage. Second by Ms. Troy. On the question, several council members questioned specific line items in the budget. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Mayor Tuzinski praised the finance committee & council for their perseverance and making tough decisions when it came to the need for a tax increase. They have assured the residents and property owners that they will continue to receive round the clock services from the police department, fire department and public works department.

Motion by Mr. Craig to pay the 2014 TAN payment of \$252,174.72. Second by Mrs. Craig. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Council was reminded that the Eagle Scout Ceremony for resident Chris Ercolani will be held at the American Legion on Shoemaker St. in Swoyersville on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 2:00 PM.

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

Mayor Tuzinski stated that he would like it to be noted on the record that he will be employing the use of the Forty Fort Fire Police for the Turkey Trot which will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 2014.

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Craig to adjourn with a second by Mr. Kamus.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone  
Secretary

