

**FORTY FORT BOROUGH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024**

The Forty Fort Borough council held a special council meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with council V-P, Cara Devine, presiding.

V-P Devine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Phil Mertz, Frank Mazza, Dave Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Thomas J. Murray, III, was absent. Also present were Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Mayor Brian Thomas, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer, Tom Craig, DPW foreman, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Thomas led the pledge of allegiance to the Flag.

RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYER'S COMMENTS:

Mark Schwartz, 1200 Murray St. stated that he is opposed to offering free or discounted overnight parking permits to residents as this represents a loss of revenue for the Borough.

Tori Carey, Representing the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Reported on upcoming events including: 11/30/24 – Tree Lighting and Santa visit beginning at 4:00 PM with tree lighting at 5:15 PM. Cookies, hot chocolate, gifts for children and carolers will be provided. 12/18/24 – House Decorating contest at 5:30 PM.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Mr. Mertz to hire John Bryan as a full-time police officer. Second by Mr. Mazza. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

At this time, Mayor Thomas swore Officer Bryan in with the Oath of Office and Chief Dan Hunsinger presented him with his badge.

Motion by Mr. Mertz to adopt Ordinance 5 of 2024 – Amended Forty Fort Borough Construction Code Ordinance. Second by Ms. Michaels. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sieminski to adopt Ordinance 6 of 2024 – Amended Quality-of-Life Ordinance. Second by Ms. Dadurka. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

It was noted that both of these proposed Ordinances were advertised in the Legal section of the Citizen's Voice newspaper and on display for public inspection prior to tonight's passage.

Motion by Ms. Michaels to authorize a Memorandum of Understanding between the Forty Fort Police Department and the Luzerne County Intermediate Unit (LIU) in anticipation of their relocation to the former Fortis Ins. Building. Second by Mr. Sieminski. All council was in favor of this motion with the exception of Ms. Devine who abstained due to her work relationship with the LIU. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Mertz to advertise Ordinance 7 of 2024 – Amended Parking Ordinance, specifically Overnight Parking which will amend to state that every resident property owner in Forty

Fort will receive one free Overnight parking permit per year with permits remaining at \$25.00 each and \$2.00 for temporary Overnight parking per vehicle, per night. Second by Mr. Sieminski. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Sieminski to alter stated motion and agree to sell four (4) old park cameras to Rick Kamus at a total cost of \$150.00. Seconded by Mr. Mazza. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

With the term of the current representative to the WVSA Board for Forty Fort Borough expiring on 12/31/2024, council advertised for interested residents to submit their letter of interest for the position. This resulted in letters being received from Jeff McLaughlin, Steven Coslett, Thomas Kolesa and Rick Kamus. Each candidate was asked to tell council a bit about themselves and why they would like to be the borough representative to WVSA. ****Note**** Steven Coslett left the meeting prior to this stating that he would like to rescind his letter of interest. Jeff McLaughlin is currently the representative. Ms. Devine noted that a decision will be made at the December 2, 2024 council meeting.

With no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Michaels and seconded by Ms. Dadurka at 6:29 PM.

Council immediately proceeded to convene for the monthly work session at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager