

Forty Fort Borough Council Meeting Monday November 4, 2024

The November 4, 2024, meeting for Forty Fort Borough Council was held at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with president, Thomas J. Murray III presiding.

Call to order

Gavel strike of President of Council Thomas Murray called tonight's meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reverend Lukish lead the prayer and Mayor Brian Thomas lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

President Thomas Murray ordered a roll call. Members in attendance were President Thomas Murray, Vice President Cara Devine, Dave Sieminski, Sara Michaels, Frank Mazza, Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone, Borough Mayor Brian Thomas, Borough Secretary Michele Pascarella, Solicitor Greg Skibitsky, Code Enforcement Officer Thomas Craig, Code Chief Dan Hunsinger and DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus. Phil Mertz and Kristy Dadurka were absent. There were 22 visitors in attendance.

Public Comments

John Vitanovic from 1120 Murray Street stated the streetlight at Wyoming Ave and Tripp Street is not working. He asked that UGI be contacted and have this light fixed.

Consent Agenda

Matters listed on the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are routine and will be enacted by one motion of Council. If separate discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action. The resolutions listed below are submitted by Borough Council for review and will be adopted by one motion. These items were presented to the council at the prior month's work session for review. Motion to approve and/or accept the following consent agenda items:

- 9/16/24 Special Council work session minutes
- 9/16/24 Council work session minutes
- 10/7/24 Council Meeting Minutes
- September 2024 Property Maintenance Report
- September 2024 Code Office Report
- September 2024 Forty Fort Police Chief Report
- September 2024 Treasure's Report
- September 2024 Manager's Time Sheets
- September 2024 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report

- September 2024 Tax Collector Report
- 7/16/24 WVSA meeting minutes

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Correspondence

Civil Service Commission letter of recommendation for John Bryan

Council Action Items

A motion was made by Cara Devine to pay all bills as presented and seconded by Frank Mazza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Michaels to pass Ordinance 4 of 2024- entering into an intergovernmental agreement with WVSA for the Abraham's Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project and seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to send four Civil Service members for training on 11/22/24 and was seconded by Dave Sieminski. Sara Michaels abstained. All the others were in favor. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to approve the Code Enforcement Procedure Manual and was seconded by Frank Mazza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to advertise Ordinance 5 of 2024- amended Forty Fort Borough Construction Code Ordinance, this will add additional items to the list of activities that require a building permit. Motion was seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to advertise Ordinance 6 of 2024- Amended Quality of Life Ordinance was seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to pass Resolution 12 of 2024- Procedure for Sale of Borough property and was seconded by Frank Mazza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Michaels to adopt the proposed prices for 2025 Garbage pickup by Forty Fort Borough and seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to change the Richard Krishock Investment Policy Statement- any changes to the Policy Statement must be a 7-0 affirmative vote; annual withdrawals not to exceed 5 % of account value must be a 5-2 affirmative vote; withdrawals in excess of 5% in any given year must be 7-0 affirmative vote and was seconded by Frank Mazza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to advertise the proposed 2025 operating budget and was seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to make a conditional offer of employment to John Bryan as a full-time police officer and was seconded by Frank Maza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to pay the balance due on closing of DCNR Bike Trail Grant of \$25,125.45 from the Capital Reserve Fund and seconded by Frank Mazza. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to set procedures and costs for 2025 overnight parking permits and was seconded by Cara Devine. The three options are kept as is, change or get rid of overnight parking entirely. A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to table this until November 18, 2024, work session and seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Old Business

Updated proposal for 2025 Fee Schedule
Opening for WVSA representative placed on borough website

New Business

Around the Table

Sara Michaels thanked the Council for allowing the upcoming training for the Civil Service Commission members.

Cara Devine stated no matter however you vote to just get out and vote on this election day.

Frank Mazza also stated to get out and vote.

Brian Thomas let everyone know that on Saturday November 30, 2024, Santa will be arriving at 4PM at the Borough Building and the tree lighting will be around 5:15 PM. He stated to keep watch on the Parks and Recreation Facebook for information on the house decorating contest.

Chief Dan Hunsinger let everyone know that his police officers have been since the end of October and will be until November 10, 2024, conducting an aggressive driver detail. He also wanted to have everyone keep Camryn Schultz and her family in your thoughts and prayers this holiday season as her death date was October 27th.

Rick Kamus wanted to let everyone know that after Veterans Day all the Hometown Hero banners will be taken down and the DPW crew will be decorating for Christmas. Rick asked Council to think about making a parking ban, snow route and street sweeping schedule and signs would need to be made.

Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, reported that the former Girl Scout Troop leader, Heather Brown who was removed as a leader by GSA, had left the basement storage area in disarray. Atty. Skibitsky will send her a letter advising her that she has a set amount of time to remove any of her own property from this area after which the contents become property of Forty Fort Borough. A new Girl Scout troop will begin meeting in the basement on Friday evening's starting the end of November 2024.

Executive Session

To discuss pending litigation

Council went into Executive Session at 6:40 PM

Adjournment

Council re-adjourned at 7:07 PM where a motion to adjourn was made by D. Sieminski and seconded by S. Michaels. The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday November 18, 2024, at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pascarella
Borough Secretary