

BOROUGH OF FORTY FORT

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

OCTOBER 20, 2014

Forty Fort Borough Council met for a special meeting on Monday, October 20, 2014 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., 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 was absent.

Also present were Barbara Fairchild, Manager & Bonnie Arnone, Secretary.

President McLaughlin led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion to adopt a Handicap Parking Policy & Procedure was made by Mr. Craig & seconded by Mr. Kamus. On the question: The Policy states that anyone persons applying for a handicap parking spot in front of their home must not have a driveway or off street parking available to them; must pay an initial fee of \$100.00 to have the space marked which will include a current years parking permit sticker. An annual fee of \$25.00 will then we charged to anyone having a handicap parking spot to maintain such spot. No current year parking permit sticker will be given upon renewal of the parking spot. In addition, those individuals having a parking permit prior to the adoption of this Policy will be charged an annual fee of \$25.00 for maintenance of the spot. No current year parking permit sticker will be given to anyone currently having a handicap parking spot. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to make the following changes to the current Code Enforcement Permit schedule: Registration of vacant dwelling units - \$30.00 per year; Initial Registration & Rental Inspection fee- \$35.00 with a discount for 3rd & 4th units - \$10.00 each; 5th & beyond \$15.00 each; Second Inspection (First re-inspection) - \$50.00; Third Inspection (Second re-inspection) - \$100.00; Fourth Inspection (Third re-inspection) - \$200.00. No show appointment will be charged \$30.00. The Registration fee must accompany the application. Tenant report will be due by March 31th of each and every year. Second by Mr. Michaels. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Michaels to enter into a two year contract with South Jersey Energy. Second by Mr. Craig. On the question: Ms. Fairchild stated that their rates are considerably lower than UGI and we have realized a substantial savings since going with them earlier this year. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the first reading of the 2015 Borough Budget which will call for a 22% tax increase or .78 mill increase. Second by Mr. Kamus. On the question: Manager, Barbara Fairchild had presented to council three different options with a 22% increase, 17% increase & 15% increase. Council had a lengthy discussion regarding the difficult situations they are faced with such as

high MMO's for Police & Fire and an increased price in most commodities. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Motion by Mr. Craig to accept the minutes of the Civil Service Commission that was held on 9/25/14. Second by Mrs. Craig. It was noted in these minutes that the Commission would be having a formal meeting on October 16, 2014. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

RESIDENTS & TAXPAYERS

Joe Danowski, 1621 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort asked why council was raising the taxes 22%. He said former council had over hired police officers.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

At this point, council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss pending pension issues.

Council re-convened at 9:42 PM.

Motion by Mr. Craig to instruct our solicitor to write a letter to MRT requesting all interest be paid, and investment differences and any legal expenses for current pension plans. Second by Mr. Michaels. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed.

Carol Seltzer of the Shade Tree Commission stated that she would be planting 20 new trees in November and stated that anyone who would like to volunteer for the Shade Tree Commission and/or help with the tree planting should contact her. She stated that Forty Fort has been a Tree City USA for nearly 20 years. The Shade Tree Commission meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at 4:30 PM at the Borough Building.

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Craig at 9:45 PM and seconded by Mr. Michaels. All council was in favor of this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Secretary