

**FORTY FORT BOROUGH  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024**

The October work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with President, Thomas J. Murray, III presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Phil Mertz, Frank Mazza, Cara Devine, David Sieminski & Sara Michaels. Kristy Dadurka was absent. Also present were Mayor Brian Thomas, Atty. Greg Skibitsky via telephone, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officers Tom Craig and Lee Hampton & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS' COMMENTS:**

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee gave a report on the recently held Fall Festival that they held. It was a huge success and next year's is being planned already for October 11, 2025.

Kevin Carozza, 57 Yeager Ave., Forty Fort, PA questioned several items that were on tonight's agenda including the budget and Code Enforcement fees.

**MINUTES AND REPORTS:**

The following minutes and reports were given to council for their review and will be voted on at the November 4, 2024 council meeting:

9/16/24 Special Council Meeting minutes	9/16/24 Council work session minutes
10/7/24 Council meeting minutes	September 2024 Code Office Report
September 2024 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report	September 2024 Police Chief Report
September 2024 Treasurer's Report	September 2024 Tax Collector Report
September 2024 Manager Time Sheets	7/16/24 WVSA meeting minutes
September 2024 Property Maintenance report	

Code enforcement officer, Tom Craig, reported on the following items at the meeting:

- Council is notified of a Zoning Hearing meeting for a special exception request at 1089 Wyoming Ave. to place a used car lot.
- Presented an updated fee schedule for 2025
- Presented items that should require building permits for 2025
- Presented a Code Enforcement Manual for review
- Presented the final draft of the Quality-of-Life Ordinance amendment

Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, reported on the following items at the meeting:

- Announced that the appointment of the borough representative to WVSA will expire on 12/31/2024. Council requested that it be announced on the borough's website that residents interested in filling the position should send a letter of interest to council.
- Council will vote at the November 2024 meeting to pay for the 11/12/24 Civil Service Police Procedures training for all four members of the Commission.

- The original DCNR bike Trail grant will expire on 12/31/2024. It will be closed out with the amount of \$24,992.94 with the Borough's 50% match of expenses.
- Council was made aware of two additional grants received from DCNR for the Bike Trail Project. One is for \$500,000 and the other is for \$750,000.00.
- Council was presented with the proposal for the 2025 Garbage prices for the borough.
- A request for the purchase of the old cameras being removed from the park was made. The value of these cameras was obtained of \$50.00 each. A Resolution will be passed at the November 4, 2024 meeting setting the Sale of Borough Property procedure for items under \$2,000.00.
- A request has been made to place a beverage trailer on a small section of the Borough building property on Small Business Saturday in November of 2024 that will be part of the festivities of the business adjacent to the Borough Bldg. on Wyoming Ave. Council was agreeable to this with the assurance that this vendor has liability insurance.
- The proposed 2025 budget was discussed. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the removal of parking permits for 2025. A decision was made to provide one free parking permit to every property owner in the Borough. Owner occupied rentals will receive one; however, all renters will be required to obtain their own parking permits.

#### **COUNCIL REPORTS:**

Ms. Michaels expressed her thanks to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on the success of their Fall Festival. She also thanked council for sending the Commission members for training. She reported that one candidate had the agility and written test for the position of full-time police officer. The oral exam will take place on Wednesday, October 23, 2024. The Civil Service Commission will then meet on Monday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 5:30 PM and hopes to have a recommendation for council to hire a police officer at the November 4, 2024 council meeting.

Mr. Sieminski also offered his thanks to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board for their hard work in preparation of the Fall Festival ensuring the success it had.

Ms. Devine reported that the Fall/Winter newsletter will be sent to those residents who have their e-mail address on file along with some printed copies available at the Borough Building. It will be placed on the borough's website with a QLR code to access it.

Mr. Mertz expressed his congratulations to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on the success of the Fall Festival.

Chief Hunsinger reported that out of the five applications received for the position of full-time police officer, only one candidate tested.

Ray Elias of the FF Volunteer Fire Co. asked if a council representative could be present at their Tuesday, October 29, 2024 meeting to present a plaque to James Shedlarski.

Mr. Craig expressed his congratulations to the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board on their success with the Fall Festival. He also asked to meeting with the Fire Committee of council to discuss matters that need to be addressed going forward.

Mr. Hampton thanked everyone for their support of him during his first year working with the Borough as Property Maintenance officer. He is currently working on learning the aspects of building and zoning permits in the Code Department office.

**Mr. Murray stated that he would like council to make a change to the Richard Krishock fund Investment Policy Statement to state that no more than 5% of the fund can be withdrawn every year with a 5-2 vote. Anything more than that would need a 7-0 vote along with any major changes to the Plan requiring a 7-0 vote. This will be on the agenda for a vote at the November 2024 meeting.**

**With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:52 PM by Mr. Sieminski and seconded by Mr. Mazza.**

**The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 4, 2024 at 6:00 PM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Bonnie Arnone  
Borough Manager**