

FORTY FORT, PA

October 5, 2009

Regular Meeting of Council

The regular meeting of Forty Fort Borough Council was held on Monday, October 5, 2009 at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Avenue, Forty Fort, with President Joseph Chacke presiding.

Council Members present were as follows: Robert Craig, Charles Kamus, Frank Michaels, Dave Williams, Richard Yingst and President Joseph Chacke. Deanna Brown, Betty Mascelli and James McCabe were absent.

Also present were Mayor Boyd Hoats Jr., Solicitor Samuel A. Falcone, Borton-Lawson representative David Yefko and Borough Secretary/Coordinator Denise Syms. There were eight (8) visitors present.

President Chacke called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Invocation was given by Reverend William Lukesh of the Forty Fort United Presbyterian Church followed by the *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag* led by Mayor Hoats.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Mr. Craig to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of Council held on September 8, 2009 as presented. Second by Mr. Williams.

On a roll call vote members voted as follows:

Yes: Robert Craig, Charles Kamus, Frank Michaels, Dave Williams, Richard Yingst and President Joseph Chacke = 6

No = 0

Abstentions = 0

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Craig to approve the minutes of the worksession of Council held on September 21, 2009 as presented. Second by Mr. Craig.

Motion passed without dissent.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mrs. Syms read the following communications:

A letter was received from a concerned resident requesting an ordinance be adopted to prohibit parking on front lawns unless a permanent parking pad is available.

A letter was received from Christine Powers thanking the Forty Fort police, specifically Officer Eovitch for helping to recover her stolen dog.

Motion by Mr. Craig to place copies of the letter in Officer Eovitch and Officer Stone's personnel files. Second by Mr. Williams.

Motion passed without dissent.

A letter from the office of the Auditor General was received stating that a payment in the amount of \$55,961.51 for the 2009 Commonwealth allocation of the general municipal pension systems state aid will be directly deposited on September 21, 2009

A letter from Camp Little Friendship thanking Council for supporting their camp along with a \$50 donation for the pool.

The Don Wilkinson Agency Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements related to tax collection activities for the year ended December 31, 2008 was received.

President Chacke received the Liquid Fuels Tax Fund Examination Report for the year ended December 31, 2007 from the Auditor General.

RESIDENTS AND TAXPAYERS COMMENTS PETITIONS:

Mark Mason, 71 Bedford Street, request to overturn the decision of the Shade Tree Commission to have two of the trees to be cut down on the treelawn at his rental property at 15 Dunn Street. The two large maple trees are heaving the sidewalks and are overgrown. They are over the roof and he just paid over \$6,000 to replace the roof.

Bernie Petrasek, 34 Walnut Street, regarding cars not stopping for the stop sign at the corner of Walnut and Myers Street.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Motion by Mr. Craig to approve the Treasurer's Report of September 20, 2009 as presented. Second by Mr. Kamus.

Motion passed without dissent.

ENGINEER:

Mr. David Yefko stated that Verizon will move the pole wires at the Welles Street project. He also stated that the inlet at 25 Bedford Street is working properly. Mr. Yefko gave an update on the status of the pool project.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Motion in toto by Mr. Craig to accept the reports of the Mayor/Police Department, Fire Chief, Code Enforcement Officer, and Westside Landfill. Second by Mr. Williams.
Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Craig to appoint Ted Ritsick as Junior Council Person. Second by Mr. Michaels.

On the question, President Chacke stated that he received two applications and that after consideration he chose Ted Ritsick. The other applicant was Cody Bookwalter and he will ask Cody to reapply for next year since he will still meet the requirements of the position.

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Williams to adopt a resolution to apply for Luzerne County Share Assessment of Gaming Funds to purchase necessary vehicles for Code Enforcement. Second by Mr. Craig.

President Chacke applied for two vehicles last year and was denied. He is thinking about applying for a Ford Escape Hybrid. He is applying for the entire price of the vehicle with no match.

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Craig to adopt a resolution to apply for Local Share Account (Luzerne County) Funds for a helicopter parking area at the Forty Fort/Wyoming Valley Airport. Second by Mr. Williams.

President Chacke stated that Luzerne County and the Airport Advisory Board had a grant and missed the deadline. Senator Baker asked that we write the grant for the project.

Motion passed with Mr. Yingst voting against.

Motion by Mr. Williams to adopt a resolution to apply for additional funds for Welles Street streetscaping. Second by Mr. Craig.

President Chacke is resubmitting the second phase of the project includes trees and paving of the first block.

Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Mr. Craig to appoint Building Inspection Underwriters (BIU) as a 3rd party inspector to back-up the code enforcement department. Second by Mr. Michaels.

On the question, Mr. Yingst asked if there will be independent coverage other than someone on council. President Chacke stated that Mr. Williams will not be allowed to do the inspections and that someone else from BIU will do the inspections.

Motion passed with Mr. Yingst voting against and Mr. Williams abstaining since he is an employee of BIU.

Motion by Mr. Yingst to authorize the purchase of a Dodge Charger Police Cruiser from Warnock. Second by Mr. Michaels.

Motion passed without dissent.

PAYMENT OF BILLS:

Moved by Mr. Williams to pay the bills as presented. Second by Mr. Craig.
Motion passed without dissent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation and personnel matters at 8:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Mr. Craig to adjourn. Second by Mr. Yingst.
Motion passed.
The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise Syms
Borough Secretary/Coordinator