

**TOWNSHIP OF FORKS
NORTHAMPTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
ORDINANCE NO. 402**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF FORKS, NORTHAMPTON
COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, AMENDING THE TOWNSHIP OF FORKS
CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 60, MASS PUBLIC ASSEMBLIES,
AND REPEALING ALL ORDINANCES INCONSISTENT HEREWITH.**

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Forks has deemed it necessary to amend Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, of the Code of the Township of Forks.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Forks, Northampton County, Pennsylvania, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article I, Terminology, §60-1, Definitions, is hereby amended to modify and add the following definitions:

“ADEQUATE – When used in the rules and regulations means “adequate” in the opinion of the Zoning Officer.

LICENSE – Document and statement of conditions, issued by the Zoning Officer, under which an outdoor amusement is authorized.

ZONING OFFICER – The appointed zoning officer of Forks Township.”

SECTION 2. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-2, License Required, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“No outdoor amusement may be set up, held or promoted unless a written license from the Zoning Officer has been obtained by the promoters at least 30 days in advance of such event. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no outdoor amusements set up, held or promoted by the Township shall require a license.”

SECTION 3. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-3, License Application, Subsection A is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“A. Fully completed application forms and supportive documents clearly indicating the method, procedures and the assurance of compliance with every requirement of this chapter, shall be submitted to the Zoning Officer not less than 60 days prior to the commencement date of such gathering. Any such application shall be acted upon by the Zoning Officer within 30 days after receipt thereof. The date of receipt shall be considered the first date that all the necessary information, as determined by the Zoning Officer, is received to enable complete evaluation of the compliance or lack of compliance with each provision of this chapter. The application must be accompanied by an application fee as herein provided.”

SECTION 4. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-4, Bond and Insurance, Subsections A, C and E are hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“A. No outdoor amusement permit shall be issued by the Zoning Officer until a cash performance bond, or performance bond with surety satisfactory to the Zoning Officer has been posted with the Township, and evidence of insurance has been furnished to the Zoning Officer, as provided in this chapter. Such bond, and/or insurance, shall be by organizations authorized to conduct such business in Pennsylvania. The performance bond may be waived by the Zoning Officer if the promoter can supply suitable alternate security acceptable to the Township.

C. Said performance bond shall be conditioned for the faithful performance of the provisions of this chapter and the saving harmless of the Township of Forks from any and all liabilities and causes of action and costs, which might arise by virtue of the granting of an outdoor amusement license by the Zoning Officer; and conditioned further that no damage will occur to the roads, bridges and other public and private property in the Township as a result of the outdoor amusement, and that the promoter will not permit any dirt, paper litter or other debris from the outdoor amusement to remain thereon. Said bond shall remain in full force and effect for 30 days following the termination of the outdoor amusement event.

E. The bonds and/or evidence of insurance, above set forth, must be posted with the Township, not later than 20 days before the scheduled date of the proposed outdoor amusement.”

SECTION 5. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-5, License Fee, Subsections A, B and D are hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“A. No outdoor amusement license shall be issued by the Zoning Officer until a license fee has been paid to the Township. Said license fee shall cover the cost of inspection, investigation, issuance and administration of the permit. The license fee shall be based upon the following schedule:

- (1) The maximum estimated attendance of less than 1,000 persons: \$100 per day or a fraction thereof.
- (2) Maximum estimated attendance of 1,000 persons or more, but less than 5,000 persons: \$150 per day or a fraction thereof.
- (3) Maximum estimated attendance of 5,000 persons or more: \$250 per day or a fraction thereof.

B. In the event that it is determined by the Zoning Officer at any time that the maximum attendance exceeds or has exceeded that for which a license fee was paid, the Zoning Officer shall so inform the promoter, who shall thereupon promptly pay to the Township the additional fee amount required.

D. License fees shall be paid to the Township.”

SECTION 6. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-8, Emergency Closing Order, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“If at any time during the assembly, the Zoning Officer, Township Chief of Police or the Pennsylvania State Police or the Department of Environmental Protection determine that a serious threat to /public health or safety is resulting from the assembly, the license may be voided and the promoter shall require the assembly to cease. Any lease for the use of such site shall immediately terminate, and all persons failing to leave such site are trespassing on such property. Voiding of a license does not void the insurance or bond, and such insurance or bond shall remain in effect for the full period of original issuance.

SECTION 7. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-9, Lease Agreement, Subsection A is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“A. When land where the outdoor amusement is to be held is not owned by the applicant/promoter there shall be a written lease agreement for such use which shall contain the following statement:

‘At the conclusion of the assembly, or if such assembly is terminated by order of the Zoning Officer, the Forks Township Chief of Police, the Chief of the Forks Township Fire Company, the Pennsylvania State Police or the Department of Environmental Protection, such lease shall immediately terminate and the owner/lessor declares all persons remaining on said premises to be trespassing thereon.’”

SECTION 8. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-10, Administrative Activities, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“The analysis and review of plans and specifications, and the supervision of sanitation, water supply and food service facilities, shall be administered by the Zoning Officer in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and any other available state, federal and local agencies.”

SECTION 9. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article II, License Requirements, §60-11, Modifications and Exceptions, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“Where, owing to special conditions, a literal enforcement of this chapter would result in unnecessary hardship, the Zoning Officer may make reasonable modifications and exceptions. Proof of unnecessary hardship must be presented to the Zoning Officer, who shall make a decision consistent with the goals of this chapter.”

SECTION 10. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article III, Sanitation, §60-13, Sanitation Standards, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“All provisions for sanitation, toilet facilities, sewage disposal, solid waste, insect and rodent control, dust control and plumbing facilities shall comply with the current regulations and/or recommended standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and be subject to the approval of the Zoning Officer.”

SECTION 11. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article IV, Water Supply, §60-16, Water Supply Facilities, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“All water supply facilities at the site of the outdoor amusement shall comply with the regulations and/or recommended standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and be subject to the approval of the Zoning Officer.”

SECTION 12. Chapter 60, Mass Public Assemblies, Article V, Food Service, §60-17, Food Service Standards, is hereby deleted and replaced as follows:

“All food service standards at the site of the outdoor amusement shall comply with the regulations and/or recommended standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and be subject to approval by the Zoning Officer.”

SECTION 13. If any provision, sentence, clause, section or part of this ordinance is for any reason found to be unconstitutional, illegal or invalid, such unconstitutionality, illegality, or invalidity shall not affect or impair any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance. It is hereby declared as the intent of Forks Township that this Ordinance would have been adopted had such stricken provisions not been included herein.


SECTION 14. All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 15. This Ordinance shall be effective five (5) days after its enactment.

ENACTED AND ORDAINED at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the Township of Forks, County of Northampton on this 5th day of September 2024.

ATTEST:

FORKS TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By: 
Timothy Hughes, Secretary

By: 
John O'Neil, Chairman