

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026

A special council meeting was held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with council president, Thomas J. Murray, III, presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM with the following council members present: Sara Michaels, Kristy Dadurka, Dave Sieminski, Cara Devine, Tori Carey & Amanda Gallagher. Also present were Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Solicitor, Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officers Tom Craig & Lee Hampton, DPW supervisor Rick Kamus & Bonnie Arnone, Borough Manager.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

Motion by Ms. Devine to pass Ordinance 1 of 2026 – DCED approval of Wayne Bank loan of \$400,000.00 as per the Municipal Debt Act for the purchase of land to be used for the construction of a new DPW Maintenance, Storage & Training facility. Second by Ms. Gallagher. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Michaels to pass Ordinance 2 of 2026 – Amendments to the Quality-of-Life Ordinance. Second by Ms. Devine. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Devine to pass Ordinance 3 of 2026 – Amendments to the International Property Maintenance Code. Second by Mr. Sieminski. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Michaels to hire Deborah Wren as a school crossing guard. Second by Ms. Dadurka. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Devine to allow a Wayn Bank, Borough credit card to be obtained for use of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board president, Alyssa Cooney. Second by Ms. Dadurka. On the question: It was suggested that a policy be created for all use of Borough credit/debit cards. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms Devine to approve Benesch proposal for completion of an NPDES permit required for the new DPW facility. Second by Ms. Gallagher. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Michaels thanked Kristy Dadurka for her diligence & dedication to finding a solution for the ongoing operation of the Forty Fort pool. She, along with Ms. Dadurka & Mr. Kamus, had met with Jeremy Popiel, the new COO of the YMCA to discuss the possibility of their taking over the operation of the Borough's pool. She also thanked the Muslim Association for their willingness to help the Borough with many projects. She also spoke about getting the newsletter prepared & sent.

Ms. Dadurka spoke on her optimism of having a solution at hand for the opening of the Borough Pool. Requests have been made of Benesch Engineer, Domninic Yanuzzi, for a break down of estimated

repair costs will be for the pool house & the pool for purposes of utilizing the grant received for this project. It was noted that there will be an additional meeting with Mr. Popiel on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 to further discuss future plans.

Mr. Sieminski stated that he would like to see a new, fresher borough website investigated as the current one is difficult to use. He also requested that Code Enforcement look into the fact that the companies with dumpsters at the rear of the Mericle property on Welles St. have been emptying them during early morning hours which is a disruption to neighbors. Code Enforcement will contact Mericle and the dumpster companies.

Ms. Carey reported that she along with some other council people attended the grand opening of Construct Functional Fitness on Welles St. stating that it was a great gym facility for our town. She also reported that the Easter Bunny will be present at the 900 Rutter Ave. building on Saturday, March 21, 2026 from 11 AM – 1 PM.

Mayor Bottaro reported that she will be attending her first Mayor's meeting being held at the Wilkes-Barre City Hall. She also stated that she will be speaking with Chief Hunsinger about the upcoming Wyoming Valley Run and National Night Out events.

Ms. Devine & Chief Hunsinger reported that the tentative date for National Night Out will be Friday, August 28, 2026.

Chief Hunsinger stated that there had been plans to present Officer Dane Sorensen with a plaque honoring him for his duties during a recent fire in Kingston where two young boys perished. Officer Sorensen has been deeply affected by this event & prefers not to have any elaborate event for the presentation. Therefore, Mayor Bottaro will do this presentation privately.

Mr. Craig thanked council for the passage of Ordinances 2 & 3 this evening stating that this will make his departments job much easier. He stated that he will work on the dumpster complaint immediately. Mr. Hampton asserted the same commitment.

Mr. Kamus reported that weather permitting, street sweeping will resume next week. The main streets of Wyoming Ave., River St., Welles St., Slocum St. & Murray St. will be the concentration at this time.

Ms. Arnone reported that Spring Clean-up has been scheduled for May 11-14 from 6:00 AM – 1:30 PM each day. Plots of 3' X 7' will be sold for \$50.00 each.

All council interested have been signed up for the NIMS training at the Luzerne County EMA building for both the morning and evening sessions.

The CPF grant application through Representative Rob Bresnahan has been submitted with the assistance of Amanda Gallagher, Rick Kamus & Ryan Pippan from Kaufer Consulting. A request has been made for 3.5 million dollars for the construction of the DPW Facility.

A change has been made to the Recreation council committee and new committee documents have been provided to council.

At this time, 7:50 PM, council convened to Executive Session to discuss Code Office personnel issues.

Council returned to regular session at 8:53 PM. With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Devine at 8:53 PM and second by Ms. Dadurka.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager