

Forty Fort Borough Council Meeting Monday May 4, 2026

The May 4, 2026, meeting for Forty Fort Borough Council was held at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with president, Thomas J. Murray III presiding.

Call to order

Gavel strike of President of Council Thomas Murray called tonight's meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reverend Morris lead the pray and Council President Thomas Murray Jr.; lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

President Thomas Murray ordered a roll call. Members in attendance were President Thomas Murray, Vice President Cara Devine, David Sieminski, Sara Michaels, Tori Carey, Amanda Gallagher, Kristy Pernot. Borough Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro was 15 minutes late, Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone, Borough Secretary Michele Pascarella, Solicitor Greg Skibitsky, Code Enforcement Officer Thomas Craig, Lee Hampton, DPW supervisor Rick Kamus. There were 16 visitors in attendance.

Public Comments

Sarah Solomon of 1488 Murray Street spoke to Council about having a pollinator garden that if approved would be located on the Borough's empty lot on the corner of Fort Street and Culver Street. Sarah stated how this garden will help with all different insects and bugs.

Consent Agenda

Matters listed on the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. If separate discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action. The resolutions listed below are submitted by Borough Council for review and will be adopted by one motion. These items were presented to the council at the prior month's work session for review. Motion to approve and/or accept the following consent agenda items:

- 3/16/26 Council work session minutes
- 3/16/26 Special Council Meeting minutes
- 4/6/26 Council meeting minutes
- March 2026 Code Office Report
- March 2026 Forty Fort Police Chief Report
- March 2026 Treasurer's Report

- March 2026 Manager's Time Sheets
- March 2026 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
- March 2026 Tax Collector Report
- 2/17/26 WVSA meeting minutes

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Council Action Items

A motion was made by Amanda Gallagher to pay all bills as presented and seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to approve Wombely reverse subdivision and seconded by Kristy Pernot. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Amanda Gallager to authorize the engagement of a consultant for Phase 2 to evaluate long-term financial and operational options for the Borough's sewer system and seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to table Resolution 5 of 2026- Regional Police Department Development Committee and was seconded by Sarra Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to hire Gavin Brady, Elias Sieminski and Chase Lindbuchler as summer DPW workers and seconded by Amanda Gallagher. All were in favor. Dave Sieminski abstained due to his relationship with Elias Sieminski. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to table to approve Butler Street address changes-911 request and was seconded by Kristy Penot. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to approve credit card usage police & procedures and was seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Spring Clean Up- May 11, 2026, through May 14, 2026

Free Shredding Event-May 9, 2026, at West Side Tech- tires are included (4 per person)

Memorial Day Parade- May 25, 2026

New Business

N/A

Around the Table

Sara Michaels thanked Sarah Solomon for all the information that she gave towards the garden.

Kristy Pernot echoed Sara's comment and stated if Sarah needs any help, she is more than willing to help.

Cara Devine noted that the tentative date for National Night Out is Friday August 21, 2026.

Amanda Gallagher thanked Sarah Solomon and told her what a great job she did presenting the garden to Council. Amanda is so excited to move forward with this project and will talk with local greenhouses and garden centers to get information and/or donations. Amanda's husband John will be donating \$1,000.00 towards this project.

Mayor Mary Ann Botaro has been receiving many complaints from residents about the E-bikes on the roads and sidewalks. Chief Hunsinger and the Police will be monitoring the E-bikes. It was noted that something will be put on SAVVY Citizen application and on Facebook.

Chief Hunsinger asked to have a public meeting with 911 official on the Butler Street address change.

Rick Kamus met with Benesch today on Monday May 4, 2026, on the River Street Lighting project. Rick also stated that Bonnie and he will be working on a STMP Grant.

Bonnie Arnone told Council and the residents that Sarah Solomon won't be starting the pollinator garden until the fall and that Sarah will be donating as much seed and flower as possible.

The meeting went into Executive Session at 6:39 PM for the pending litigation that was just made aware of after 4:00 PM today.

Council re-convened from Executive Session at 7:35 PM & a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Devine & seconded by Mr. Sieminski at 7:35 PM.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday, May18, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pascarella
Borough Secretary