

FORTY FORT BOROUGH  
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2026

The April work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Monday, April 20, 2026, at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with council president, Thomas J. Murray, III, presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Tori Carey, Cara Devine, Dave Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Also present were Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer Tom Craig, DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus & Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Bottaro led with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Brian Thomas, 1124 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort reported that as a member of the Forty Fort Borough Planning Commission, he advised council that the Commission was in favor of the request for the Wombley reverse subdivision project and encouraged council to approve this at their next meeting.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

The following minutes and reports have been presented to council for their review and will be voted upon at the May 4, 2026, council meeting:

3/16/26 Council work session minutes	3/16/26 Special council meeting minutes
4/6/26 Council work session minutes	March 2026 Code Office Report
March 2026 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report	March 2026 Police Chief Report
March 2026 Treasurer's Report	March 2026 Tax Collector Report
March 2026 Manager's Time Sheets	2/17/26 WVSA meeting minutes

\*It was noted that Chief Frank Guido will be retiring on May 1, 2026, and a breakfast will be held in his honor on that date at the Kingston Fire House.\*

It was noted that there will be a Spring Clean-up from Monday, May 11, 2026, through Thursday, May 14, 2026. Cost will be \$50.00 for a one-time pick-up on a 3' X 7' section of tree lawn from 6:00 AM to 1:30 PM on those days. Residents may register online or at the Borough Office.

Representative Brenda Pugh will host a free shredding event on Saturday, May 9, 2026, from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the West Side Career & Technology Center, 75 Evans St., Pringle, PA.

A discussion took place regarding the Police Regionalization Study being done by DCED for the Borough's of Forty Fort, Kingston & Swoyersville Police Departments. A development committee will be the next step in the process where each municipality will appoint representatives for their community. Former Mayor, Brian Thomas & council members Cara Devine & Sara Michaels have expressed a desire to be on this development committee to represent Forty Fort Borough. A future meeting with these municipalities and their representatives will take place in the near future.

Mr. Murray reported that he had spoken with Louis Romanelli from the Luzerne County 911 Center regarding the prospect of changing addresses on Butler St. in Forty Fort to avert any confusion with Butler St. in Kingston. He stated that they are working on compiling a report of other streets in Forty Fort that have a duplication of name with other surrounding communities.

Ms. Michaels stated that she has been receiving complaints from residents about vehicles with no inspection stickers or parking permits. When reported to the code office, these were taken care of promptly. She also reported that the Public Relations Committee would like to begin the creation of a newsletter to distribute to all borough residents and will work with Ms. Devine & Mr. Sieminski on this.

Mr. Sieminski stated that the recent NIMS training at the Luzerne County EMS facility was very interesting. He further stated that he would like the borough to participate in a tabletop exercise where a simulation of a disaster could be created to access response times, etc. Chief Hunsinger stated that Shawn Blinn, a Forty Fort resident and employee of Kings College, is working on a grant that would provide such an exercise that Forty Fort would be able to join with.

Ms. Devine stated that the parks are being heavily used now that the weather is getting nicer and asked that Chief Hunsinger have his officers doing their patrols regularly. Chief Hunsinger stated that this has been discussed with his department.

Mayor Bottaro reported that she has received complaints about E-Bikes travelling on roadways causing near accidents. Chief Hunsinger stated that his department is aware of these issues and will take action when necessary. She also reported that the recent EMS meeting was very informative.

Chief Hunsinger reported that he is working on the date for this year's National Night Out and the Community Wide Yard Sale that will take place in the Fall this year. He also reported that Officer Dane Sorensen was back to full-duty and one officer remains on light duty.

Ray Elias reported that the Volunteer Fire Co. had purchased parts for Engine 22.

Mr. Murray reported that during the process of securing the loan for the Santayana property, DCED had mandated that the loan be a 15-year note with principal & interest payments made every year. Wayne Bank is preparing this document to submit to DCED and we will await their approval to move forward with the closing on this property which will be the location of the new DPW facility.

At this time, 7:04 PM, council convened to Executive Session to discuss the possible sale of Borough Property.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:02 and was adjourned by motions from Ms. Devine & Mr. Sieminski.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 4, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone, Borough Manager