FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2026

The August work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Monday, August 17. 2026, at the Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., 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: Sara Michaels (via telephone), Kristy Pernot, Dave Sieminski, Cara Devine and Amanda Gallagher. Tori Carey was absent. Also present were Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Atty. Greg Skibitsky (via telephone), Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code official Lee Hampton, DPW supervisor, Rick Kamus and Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

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

CITIZEN'S & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Karen Schiel, 1025 Rutter Ave., stated that large cinder blocks that she has on the perimeter of her property on Rutter Ave. had recently been hit by a person speeding coming from Welles St. She stated that speeding in this area has become prevalent and asked if something could be done. Council discussed with DPW Supervisor & Chief Hunsinger ideas on what could be done. A speed limit sign will be erected at this location.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

The following minutes and reports have been provided to council members for review and will be voted on at the Tuesday, September 8, 2026, council meeting. They are:

7/20/26 Council work session minutes
8/3/26 Council meeting minutes
July 2026 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
July 2026 Tax Collector Report
July 2026 Managers Time Sheets
5/19/26 WVSA meeting minutes
PFM monthly update
July 2026 Code Office Report
July 2026 Police Chief Report
July 2026 Treasurer's Report
July 2026 Lee Hampton Report
7/13/2020 Shade Tree meeting report
SPCA Jan-June 2026 report

Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro swore Vicki Coolbaugh into the Forty Fort Borough Parks & Recreation Advisory Board with the Oath of Office for this position.

Council briefly discussed the request of Luzerne County 911 to have address changes made on Butler St. in Forty Fort due to duplication with Butler St. residents in Kingston. It was agreed that this issue is much larger than this one street and that Forty Fort Borough will be happy to work with Luzerne County when they undertake a project that will address this issue countrywide. A motion will be on the September 2026 council meeting agenda to decline the request of address changes for this reason.

A request has been made by the Luzerne County Historical Society to have the Borough sponsor an LSA Grant application for multiple renovations to the Dennison House located in Forty Fort Borough. A meeting will take place on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM with the director to go over this

grant application. Mayor Bottaro & council person Kristy Pernot have stated they would like to attend this meeting as they have questions regarding these renovations.

Regarding the LSA grant received for pedestrian crossing signs & speed indicators on River St., DPW supervisor provided examples of what these items would look like for council to view. These items will be from a Co-Stars vendor and will utilize the $30,000.00 grant received for this project.

Ms. Devine announced that National Night Out will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, beginning at 5:00 PM. There will be many vendors and free items for all in attendance followed by a fireworks display.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Gallagher asked about sidewalk widths for the new Pollinator garden to comply with ADA regulations. Mr. Kamus stated that he would like to meet with Sara Solomon & Amanda at the site to go over these questions as well as other questions.

Ms. Gallagher also questioned whether residents would be notified about the influx of students to Dana Elementary due to the closing of Third Avenue school. Mr. Kamus reported that, as a member of the school board, he feels that the district is doing everything necessary to create a smooth transition for the upcoming school year.

Mr. Murray questioned Mr. Kamus on the status of the former Durkee St. school still owned by Wyoming Valley West School District. Mr. Kamus reported that it is strictly a storage warehouse at this time. Mr. Murray stated that it may be prudent to have a zoning change for this property from a school to a storage area.

Chief Hunsinger reported that the DPW had painted Vascar speed lines on River St. and his department will begin speed enforcement patrols at this location.

Mr. Kamus reported that due to severe water retention in a swale at the Sports Complex near the parking lot, after National Night Out, he will be working with Benesch on having this area taken care of.

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:46 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager