

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

The Forty Fort Borough council held their regular meeting on Monday, July 6, 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 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Amanda Gallagher, Tori Carey, Cara Devine, Dave Sieminski & Sara Michaels. Kristy Pernot was absent. Also present was Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Solicitor, Greg Skibitsky, Code Officer Tom Craig, DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus & Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone.

Reverend Lukesh led with a prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Mayor Bottaro.

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Amy Carozza of 57 Yeager Ave. asked about the grants recently received through LSA Grants and how progress was going on the new DPW facility. Mr. Kamus gave a report on where that project is at the present time.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS:

A motion was made by Ms. Devine to pay all bills as presented. Seconded by Ms. Carey. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion carried.

A motion to hire Matthew Ogden as a Full-time Code/Zoning Officer was made by Ms. Devine and seconded by Ms. Michaels. On the question: Ms. Gallagher asked when he would begin working which was answered with July 7, 2026. All council was in favor of this motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council was given a copy of the Summer 2026 newsletter which was prepared by council person Dave Sieminski. The cost of preparing these in-house compared to having

them prepared by a printer is being investigated. Once done, the DPW will distribute to all households in the Borough.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Sieminski & Mr. Kamus reported that the fence for the Dog Park at the Sports Complex has been delivered and the DPW is in the process of construction of the park. Weather has set them back, but they should be back to work on it this week. A sign for the park will be worked on prior to the official opening of the park.

Ms. Gallagher reported that plans are progressing well for a Pollinator Garden at the corner of Fort & Orchard Place. Discussion of a permanent water line was discussed with the cost being just under \$2,000.00. Fundraising will be looked at to cover this cost.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Michaels thanked the DPW for their hard work during the recent storms in getting everything cleaned up. She also stated that she has some Landlord/rental issues that she would like to discuss with the Code Office.

Ms. Devine also thanked the DPW for their work not only during this storm but on a regular basis keeping trees in check to prevent damage during these storms.

Ms. Gallagher thanked the Police for their patrol during the 4th of July Holiday weekend as well as DPW for their work during the storms.

Mayor Bottaro reported that she had received two coloring contest entries and each will receive a prize. She will have another one during the fall season.

Ray Elias reported that the Volunteer Fire Co. had been busy during the past several months.

Mr. Kamus thanked Sgt. Richie Vaow for his cooperation during the recent storms alerting them to troubled areas. He stated that they will be done with town clean-up within the next day or two. He also stated that there will be a creek inspection by the Army Corp of Engineers that they will attend with WVSA. The bucket truck received in a 2023 LSA Grant will finally be delivered this week.

Ms. Arnone reported that due to the lateness of receiving items on the 911 re-addressing project for Butler St. and the cost estimate for the new DPW facility and the inability to have it on the agenda for this meeting, they will be on the July 20, 2026, council meeting agenda for discussion.

At this time, 6:30 PM, council adjourned to Executive Session to discuss pending litigation with Andy Tuzinski.

Council re-convened at 6:47 PM from the Executive session and was adjourned at this time with a motion from Mr. Sieminski & second by Ms. Gallagher.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager