

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

The February work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Tuesday, February 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 6:08 PM, immediately following the Special council meeting, 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, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, DPW Foreman, Rick Kamus, Code Officers Tom Craig & Lee Hampton & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

The following minutes and reports have been provided to council for review and will be voted on at the March 2, 2026, council meeting:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| - 1/20/26 Council work session minutes | 2/2/26 Council meeting minutes |
| - January 2026 Code Office Report | January 2026 Police Chief Report |
| - January 2026 Kingston/FF Fire chief report | January 2026 Treasurer's Report |
| - January 2026 Manager's Time Sheets | 2024 Liquid Fuels Audit Report |
| - 2025 SPCA Report | 12/9/25 WVSA meeting minutes |

Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, reported that the borough had been contacted by Mr. Louis Romanelli of the Luzerne County 9-1-1 Center regarding a concern brought to them about the duplication of addresses in Kingston & Forty Fort, which share the same zip code of 18704, particularly on Butler St. Mr. Romanelli will be at the March 16, 2026, council work session to discuss the process to correct this situation and answer any questions council and residents may have.

Public Relations committee chairperson, Sara Michaels, reported that the committee had met on February 9, 2026, to discuss topics including the Borough's social media pages, newsletters and the recording of council meetings. Discussion took place concerning what the committee will continue to look into.

All council and mayor voiced their sincere thoughts & prayers for the family that recently lost their home and 2 sons to a fire in Kingston.

Ms. Dadurka stated that she is arranging a meeting with her pool committee in the near future to discuss the process going forward with the grant funds received.

Ms. Carey and Ms. Gallagher noted how proud they were that the new individuals have stepped forward to the positions on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board & thanked them for doing so. Alyssa Cooney then introduced these new members to council.

Mayor Bottaro reported that she had spoken with several police officers & other emergency personnel that had been involved in the recent house fire in Kingston & stressed that there is help for those who need it in the aftermath of this tragedy. She also thanked everyone for their help in the early days of her position as Mayor.

Mr. Craig & Mr. Hampton reported that the new IWorks software has been installed, and it is working very well for their department. It was noted that there is a Code Enforcement Committee meeting that will be held on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:30 PM.

Atty. Skibitsky spoke about recent comments on social media pages stating that the Council Committee meetings were being held in violation of the Sunshine Act because they were not legally advertised. He stated that after much investigation, he feels that the Sunshine Act is clear when it states the following as the definition of a meeting that would need to be advertised, announced, posted, etc.: "The law defines a meeting as "any prearranged gathering of an agency which is attended or participated in by a quorum of the members of an agency held for the purpose of deliberating agency business or taking official action". He further stated that since borough council was comprised of seven (7) council members, where four (4) members would constitute a quorum, and all council committees only have three (3) council members present for their respective meetings, Forty Fort Borough council committee meetings are not in violation of the Sunshine Act.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

At 7:05 PM, council convened to Executive Session to collect information on the sale of Borough property.

Council came back into the Work Session at 7:43 PM and a motion to adjourn at this time was made by Ms. Devine & seconded by Ms. Dadurka.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone, Borough Manager