

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

The January work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Tuesday, January 20, 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 present: Sarah Michaels, Kristy Dadurka, Dave Sieminski, Cara Devine, Tori Carey & Amanda Gallagher. Also present were Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer Lee Hampton, DPW Foreman, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone.

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

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Ms. Maureen Salley, 106 Center St., asked if there could be message boards put throughout the borough that would announce happenings in the Borough. She was advised that our zoning ordinance does not currently allow lighted, digital signs.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

The following minutes and reports were provided to council for review and will be voted on at the February 2, 2026, council meeting. They are:

12/15/26 Special council meeting minutes	12/15/26 Council work session minutes
1/5/26 Council Reorganization & council meeting minutes	December 2025 Code Office Report
December 2025 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report	December 2025 PD Chief Report
December 2025 Treasurer's Report	December 2025 Tax Collector Report
11/18/25 & 11/25/25 WVSA meeting minutes	December 2025 Managers Time Sheets

Lance Wren spoke with council about the possibility of enrolling in the Payroll FICA Reduction Program which would potentially save the borough thousands of dollars in one year. This program will be looked into, and council will be updated on the progress of enrollment.

Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, reported to council updates on several topics which included the following subjects:

- Bike Trail Project: Currently, the Borough has a \$500,000.00 DCNR grant and a \$750,000.00 DCED Multi-Modal grant for the bike trail. The project has been stalled by PENNDOT issues, environmental issues & funding issues. Requests have been made to both DCNR and DCED to have the funds re-purposed for a project associated with the Bike Trail, Segment B, which created a shared bike path on River Street. During that project, conduit was run on River Street in anticipation of decorative lighting to be placed along the roadway. Re-purpose one or both of these grants, could see that project come to fruition.
- The public relations committee of Ms. Michaels, Ms. Carey & Ms. Dadurka were asked to look into the possibility of eliminating the Forty Fort Borough FB Group, Pool Group & DPW Group

and only keep the Forty Fort Borough FB Page for all information needing to be disseminated to the public.

- The Borough Manager was advised today that the crossing guard at the Dana Elementary Center was resigning effective immediately. The school principal was advised of this situation and was going to speak with that crossing guard and make other arrangements in the interim. Council discussed several ideas to ensure that this area would be covered during morning and afternoon hours for the safety of everyone.
- Dog Park: Mr. Sieminski, who heads the committee for this project, will reach out to the members of the committee to begin meetings and discuss fund raising options in anticipation of the park opening sometime this Spring.
- Council was advised that the funding that will be coming from Rep. Alex Rynkevich had not yet arrived, so the inclusive playground equipment piece had not been ordered. It was noted that that funding would be arriving.
- Council was asked who wanted a subscription to the Borough News Magazine. They were advised that a hard copy could be mailed to their home or it could be viewed on-line at PSAB.
- Courtdale Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement – Council voted on December 1, 2026, to terminate this Agreement with Courtdale Borough. A letter was sent on December 2, 2026 to the Courtdale Borough President advising that per the Agreement, Forty Fort Borough was giving the required 60-day notice of termination. Atty. Skibitsky advised that on February 1, 2026, that 60-day period would be up and another letter should be sent to Courtdale advising that the termination was now finalized.
- New DPW Garage: The loan for the purchase of the land is proceeding with Wayne Bank and application will be made in the near future with USDA for the structure.
- New banking Accounts: Due to several issues arising from the sale of Luzerne Bank to Northwest Bank, all Borough accounts are in the process of being moved to Wayne Bank. All accounts will have a 3.45% interest rate which is higher than what Northwest had offered.

Mr. Murray advised council that he would like to have the Code Enforcement Committee meet to Discuss issues in the Code Office. Currently, Tom Craig is the only person there during the day with Lee Hampton coming in daily after 4:00 PM and on weekends to perform inspections & property maintenance issues. A discussion took place whereby Rick Kamus would assist both Mr. Craig & Mr. Hampton with the code enforcement duties. The committee of Ms. Carey, Ms. Michaels & Mr. Murray will meet in the near future to discuss these issues.

Ms. Michaels thanked the Police Department and DPW for their efforts during the recent snowstorms.

Ms. Dadurka also thanked the DPW for their work during the snowstorms.

Ms. Carey asked if PENDOT could be contacted to request the lines on Wyoming Ave. be repainted as they are very faded & hard to see at night. She also reported that the Parks & Recreation Board had met with two (2) new interested residents that would like to join the Board. They will conduct a SPCA collection during the month of February. She will see that a copy of the proposed revised bylaws for the Board will be sent to all council for review.

Ms. Gallagher spoke about the recording of meetings for distribution via our website and/or our FB page following council meetings. She will set up her iPhone at the next meeting to record the

meeting & it will be published the next day. Ms. Gallagher also stated that she will turn the remaining funds over to the borough for depositing it to the proper borough account.

Mayor Bottaro welcomed the many High School students who were present at the meeting as part of their curriculum and thanked everyone for making her transition into the position of Mayor go so smoothly.

Mr. Murray stated that council will work diligently going forward to move ahead with many projects which include the curbing of Streets in the north end of the Borough, dealing with the plumbing issues of the Borough Building and many other issues that have come before council.

With there being no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made at 7:40 PM by Ms. Michaels & seconded by Ms. Carey.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager