

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

The work session of the Forty Fort Borough council was held on Monday, July 21, 2025 at the Forty Fort Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with Vice-President, Cara Devine, presiding.

V-P Devine called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with the following council members present: Amanda Gallagher, Frank Mazza, Cara Devine, David Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sarah Michaels. Thomas Murray arrived at the meeting at 6:45 PM. Also present was Mayor Brian Thomas, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer Tom Craig, DPW supervisor, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

Mayor Thomas led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Beverly Kerestes, 1642 Wyoming Ave., thanked council, the police and DPW for the fast response to the parking issues on Hughes St. She stated that people are still parking in No Parking areas & blocking driveways & asked if there could be a better police presence in the area when the Pizza Shop is open.

George Kerestes, 1642 Wyoming Ave., also thanked the police, council & street department for the road markings & signs but asked that council consider erecting curbs on Hughes Street.

Mary Ann Matreselva, 61 River St., reported that there is a foul odor emanating from the WVSA pump station located across from her house on River St.

Richard Rickart, 69 River St., reported the same problem of odor coming from the pump station saying that it was not healthy for the neighbors. Both these residents were advised that this subject would be discussed later in the meeting.

Maureen Salley, 106 Center St., stated that there needs to be better publicizing of the events in the borough & cited the Yoga in the park as one example that she did not know about. She also stated that No Parking signs on River St. are confusing.

Eric Reinhard, 112 Dana St., inquired when the new pads would be installed at the Disc Golf Course. He also suggested that the Parks & Rec Committee entertain the idea of a Gem Show as a fundraiser.

Deb Craig, 1823 Murray St., stated that she would like to have the parks & rec committee hold an Elderly event that individuals over 65 could attend. She also praised her neighbor, Jamie Berecin, saying that he has been very helpful to her.

MINUTES & REPORTS:

All minutes and reports from the prior month have been given to council for review and will be voted on at the August 4, 2025 meeting. They are:

6/16/25 Council work session minutes
June 2025 Code Office Report
June 2025 Kingston/FF Fire Chief Report
June 2025 Tax Collector Report

7/7/25 Council Meeting minutes
June 2025 Police Office Report
June 2025 Treasurer's Report
June 2025 Managers time sheets

The Pool Advisory Committee presented an extensive report to council regarding their plans for operations of the pool when repairs have been completed and the pool can open. Their committee has estimated that they can run the operations without any funding from the Borough and have a \$10,000.00 profit at the end of the year. Their plan is attached to these minutes.

Mayor Thomas reported that the Cemetery Association will hold their annual walk/run event on Saturday, September 13, 2025 and asked for assistance from the police department with traffic control.

The Shade Tree Commission has authorized the funding from the Shade Tree Account for the rental of a stump grinder for one month this fall to remove as many stumps throughout the borough as possible. The one-month rental will be approximately \$3,600.00.

Refurbishment of the clock tower & clock sitting on top of the Borough Building was discussed as a possible use of the Krishock Funds with the clock tower being named "The Richard Krishock Clock Tower". Estimates will be obtained for the repairs needed in this area.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

Mr. Sieminski stated that there are a few trees on River St. that appear to be dead. These trees were recently planted as part of the River St. curbing & paving project. He also asked to meet with Mr. Kamus sometime this week to go over the plans for the dog park at the Sports Complex.

Ms. Michaels thanked the Parks & Rec committee for the Yoga in the Park and praised their efforts to have events throughout the town.

Ms. Dadurka thanked the Pool Advisory Committee for their hard work in preparing the pool operations plan.

Ms. Gallagher stated she was glad to see so many new faces at the meeting tonight.

Ms. Devine reported on the upcoming National Night Out event that will be held on Friday, August 22, 2025 beginning at 5:30 PM at the Sports Complex. She was happy to report that through generous donations, they will be able to end the event with a fireworks display.

Mr. Craig reported that he continues to work on the Airport Overlay Ordinance and reported that the new hangars that will be erected at the Airport lie in a Conservation Zone. He also reported that the old code car is in poor working condition and suggests that the borough dispose of it. He also requested that council consider the purchase of the IWorks module that will assist his office greatly with the rental licensing & inspection process of their office.

Mr. Craig was asked if all borough landlords had paid their rental licenses for the year. Mr. Craig responded that all but one landlord had paid their fees. When asked who that was, Mr. Craig responded that it is Andy Tuzinski who has approximately 10-12 units that are unpaid for.

Mr. Kamus spoke about the proposal from WVSA to place a filtration system in the pump station on River St. to see if this will alleviate the odors emitting from it. He stated that this has not been done before & there is no guarantee that it will solve the problem. The total cost will be approximately \$80,000.00 with the borough committing to half this cost using sewer funds to do so. This will be on the agenda for a vote at the August 4, 2025 council meeting.

At 7:54 PM, V-P Devine announced that there would be an Executive Session to discuss the Police Department Contract at this time with no official action being taken following that meeting.

Council re-convened at 9:00 PM and with a motion by Ms. Michaels & second by Mr. Sieminski adjourned the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager