

Forty Fort Borough Council Meeting Monday June 1, 2026

The June 1, 2026, meeting for Forty Fort Borough Council was held at the Forty Fort Borough Building, 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with president, Thomas J. Murray III presiding.

Call to order

Gavel strike of President of Council Thomas Murray called tonight's meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Reverend Morris lead the pray and Council President Thomas Murray Jr.; lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

President Thomas Murray ordered a roll call. Members in attendance were President Thomas Murray, Vice President Cara Devine, Sara Michaels, Tori Carey, Amanda Gallagher, Kristy Pernot. Borough Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone, Borough Secretary Michele Pascarella, Solicitor Greg Skibitsky, Code Enforcement Officer Thomas Craig, Lee Hampton, DPW supervisor Rick Kamus. There were 33 visitors in attendance.

Luzerne County representatives were present to meet with Butler Street residents regarding possible changes due to address duplication. Luzerne County Manager Romilda Crocamo, Lucy Morgan, Louis Romanelli and Bill Ives from 911 were present. County Manager Crocamo let everyone know in the audience and Council that her and her staff were there to answer any questions and they will not be attacked. Luzerne County cannot force Forty Fort residents to change their address they came to Forty Fort to help in any way possible. County Manager stated that deeds do not need an address change. There also will be no fees attached to the Assessor's Office. There are approximately 6-9 Forty Fort residents on Butler Street that are in the same range as residents in Kingston on Butler Street. Lois Romanelli said a resident from Kingston first notified him of the confusion of addresses and that is when he investigated this and realized there were less residents affected in Forty Fort than there would be in Kingston. Many residents asked if Kingston was approached and the answer was not as there are less affected in Forty Fort. There is a meeting set up for Monday June 15, 2026, with County Manager Crocamo and she will have an example of the plan that will take place if Forty Fort decides to change the addresses on Butler Street.

Public Comments

Cindy Jones of 55 Myers Street asked Council if it was ok to have a Run/Walk on Sunday, October 11, 2026, in honor of her son Dan Jones who accidentally overdosed. Council approved. Cindy will meet with Mayor Bottaro and the Police Department to work out the plan. Councilwoman Sara Micaels said she would help in any way.

Kelly Evans of 86 Butler Street thanked the residents of Butler Street and Council for being there for her. She asked if meetings could be recorded so there were no issues in a he said/she said issue.

Dave Norcross of 81 Butler Street asked Council to not change the address of Butler Street in Forty Fort as his family has been resident for over 100 years. He also expressed many changes that would have to be made if his address needed to be changed.

Barbara Wesneski of 80 Butler Street asked why now this is an issue as the addresses have been this way for ever. She believes that Kingston should be asked to change their address and not Forty Fort. She also stated that the best decision would be for Kingston Butler Street residents to add West or East to their addresses.

Maureen Salley of 106 Center Street stated that there has never been an issue with 911 with fire or police being called to her residence. She feels that once Butler Street in Forty Fort is changed many other streets will need to do the same.

Rick Scott of 117 Butler Street stated that he is diabetic and has had to call 911 numerous times as his family members have had to call from State College and King of Prussia and there was never an issue of 911 not being able to find him. He, along with the other residents that came, does not want to change his address. Rick said he is from Forty Fort and is Proud to be from Forty Fort.

Consent Agenda

Matters listed on the consent agenda have been referred to members of the Borough Council for reading and study, are routine and will be enacted by one motion of the Council. If separate discussion is desired, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda by Council action. The resolutions listed below are submitted by Borough Council for review and will be adopted by one motion. These items were presented to the council at the prior month's work session for review. Motion to approve and/or accept the following consent agenda items:

- 4/20/26 Council work session minutes
- 5/4/26 Council meeting minutes
- April 2026 Code Office Report
- April 2026 Forty Fort Police Chief Report
- April 2026 Treasurer's Report
- April 2026 Manager's Time Sheets
- April 2026 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
- April 2026 Tax Collector Report
- 3/17/26 WVSA meeting minutes
- SPCA 1st Quarter 2026 Report
- April 2026

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Sara Michaels. All were in favor, motion passed unanimously.

Council Action Items

A motion was made by Cara Devine to pay all bills as presented and seconded by Tori Carey. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to approve Womble reverse subdivision and seconded by Kristy Pernot. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Amanda Gallagher to engage the services of Attorney Elizabeth Preate Havey for proposed Sale of Sewer System and was seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to pass Resolution 5 of 2026-America 250 PA Resolution and was seconded by Saa Michaels. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Grant Award Announcement
\$100,000.00 for DPW equipment
\$30,000.00 for River Street Pedestrian Crosswalk System

Conservation District Mosquito Newsletter

E-Bike Discussion- after discussing this it was recommended to pass an ordinance

Old Business

Pollinator Garden Update

Executive Session

The meeting went into Executive Session at 7:48 PM to discuss personnel issues with Code Office employee Lee Hampton.

Council re-convened from Executive Session at 9:02 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by a motion from Ms. Devine & second by Ms. Carey at 9:02 PM.

The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday, June 15, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pascarella
Borough Secretary