

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026

Forty Fort Borough council held their May work session on Monday, May 18, 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, Kristy Pernot & Sara Michaels. Also present were Mayor Mary Ann Bottaro, Solicitor, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer, Tom Craig & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

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

CITIZEN'S & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Barbara Wesneski, 80 Butler St., Forty Fort, PA questioned why the addresses would need to be changed on Butler St. so as not to confuse with Butler St. addresses in any other town. Ms. Devine responded by stating that she has reached out to EMA to address this issue and they will have a representative present at the June 1, 2026, council meeting where residents of Butler St. in Forty Fort will be invited to attend to ask questions.

Emilio Talipan, 95 Butler St., Forty Fort, PA also stated that there is no problem with mail delivery on Butler St. in Forty Fort as long as the + 4 digits are used. He also praised the DPW for their attentiveness to any problems that are brought to them by residents.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

The following Minutes and Reports have been presented to council for review and will be voted on at the June 1, 2026, council meeting. They are as follows:

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

Mr. Sieminski noted that in examining the Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report, there is a high number of calls from their department to Swoyersville Borough with no compensation for the organization. Conversations are ongoing with Kingston Representatives to address this issue in the future.

Ms. Devine stated that she shared her dismay with Kingston Mayor Jeff Coslett that Forty Fort Borough officials were never invited to attend any interviews for a new fire chief.

Council was advised that an engagement letter from Atty. Liz Preate Havey will be on the agenda for June 1, 2026, for her services regarding the investigation into the sale of the sewer system.

PFM has sent out the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) about the possible sale of the Borough's sewer system. These responses will be due on June 5, 2026, after which a report will be received from PFM.

Ms. Devine reported that a letter has been received from Kingston Borough announcing the naming of the new Fire Chief of the Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Department. Floyd Young was named the new chief following the retirement of former chief, Frank Guido earlier this month.

Borough manager spoke with council about purchasing decorative bunting for the front of the Borough Building in celebration of the 250th anniversary on July 4, 2026. Several options were looked at for this purchase.

Borough Manager spoke with council about the rising costs of Single Stream Recycling and the option to change to Dual Stream Recycling. A 902 grant will be submitted this week for the purchase of a new recycling truck which will be necessary for this change. Until the truck is purchased and arrives, the possibility of the DPW department going from 8 hrs., five days per week to 10 hrs., four days per week was discussed. This would prevent the recycling days going from the current 2 days per week to 3 days per week. This will continue to be discussed.

President Murray reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Service on Sunday, May 24, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Kingston Fire Department and the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25, 2026 beginning at 10:30 PM.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Mr. Sieminski stated that Forty Fort should be considering an Ordinance designating where Data Centers may go in the Borough. He stated that these types of businesses are burdensome for smaller municipalities.

Ms. Devine stated that National Night Out will be held on Friday, August 21, 2026, at the Forty Fort Sports Complex. Business donations are being sought.

Ms. Gallagher reported that the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee will look to having Construct Gym at the Forty Fort Park sometime in July and a Glo Party at the Kingston Pool. They are receiving applications for the upcoming Fall Festival, as well. She also stated that she has been in contact with resident, Sara Solomon, regarding the Pollinator Garden and plans are progressing nicely.

Chief Hunsinger reported that he has his officers on hand for the Memorial Day race and Parade.

Ray Elias stated that talks are ongoing with the Columbia Volunteer Fire Co. regarding a merger with them.

Borough Manager requested that everyone present take a notification slip at the sign-in table with information on how to sign up for Savvy Citizen.

Mr. Murray stated that the residents of East Pettebone St. will have their Block Party on June 13, 2026 this year.

With there being no further business to discuss, council convened into Executive Session to discuss the following issues at 6:55 PM.

- Update on pending Civil Service Commission lawsuit and Tuzinski lawsuit against the Borough
- Personnel matter with Code Office employee, Lee Hampton

Council re-convened from Executive Session at 8:02 PM and a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. G Gallagher & seconded by Ms. Carey.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

Respect submitted,

Bonnie Armone, Borough Manager