

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025

The November 2025 Forty Fort Borough council work session was held on Monday, November 17, 2025 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, Cara Devine, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Also present were Mayor Brian Thomas, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, and Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone.

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

Council was presented with the following minutes and reports for review which will be voted on at the December 1, 2025 council meeting:

10/20/25 Council work session minutes	11/3/25 Council meeting minutes
October 2025 Code Office Report	October 2025 Police Department Report
October 2025 Kingston/FF Fire Chief Report	October 2025 Treasurer's Report
October 2025 Tax Collector Report	October 2025 Manager's Time Sheets
9/16/25 WVSA meeting minutes	9/23/25 WVSA Executive Committee mtg
3 rd Qtr. 2025 SPCA Report	

Council was advised that Eric Feifer of the Zoning Hearing Board had resigned. Alternate member, Rebecca Mattern will fill this vacancy, and another alternate member will be sought.

Council & residents were advised that the WVSA bill for their treatment plant will be raised each year over the next five years beginning in 2026 with a rate of \$65.00 per quarter for residential properties and ending in 2030 with a rate of \$90.00 per quarter for residential properties. All property owners will be notified of these increases in January of 2026.

Newly elected officials will be offered to attend the PSAB Newly elected officials bootcamp which is a two-day seminar that will be held in February of 2026.

Borough manager, Bonnie Arnone, will attend the November 19, 2025 Luzerne County meeting to discuss the expenditures allowable using the Opioid funds received.

Borough council was presented with the proposed 2026 General Fund Budget. With several factors considered, there is a significant increase in this year's budget expenditures. The newly voted upon Police CBA calls for a 10% increase for all full-time officers beginning in 2026; due to the dropping of the Borough's Police Liability Insurance and Public Officials Liability Insurance by the current carrier, Selective Insurance, rates have gone from \$7,716.00 for Police Liability Insurance in 2025 to potentially \$55,000.00 in 2026 with a \$50,000.00 deductible. They have increased from \$3,275.00 for Public Officials Liability Insurance in 2025 to \$8,655.00 in 2026. Calculations of what additional millages would garner for the Borough were discussed with council agreeing to consider a 1 Mill tax increase in 2026. This would bring the tax millage for General Purposes to 6.09 Mills with Debt Payment millage remaining the same at .5 Mills for a total tax millage of 6.59 Mills beginning in 2026. Tax and Sewer Ordinance 10

of 2025 will be voted upon to advertise at the December 1, 2025 council meeting with a special meeting to be called for Monday, December 15, 2025 to vote on this proposed Tax & Sewer Ordinance for 2026.

Council was presented with a proposed Borough Manger's Employment Agreement which will be reviewed and voted upon at the December 1, 2025 council meeting.

Ms. Dadurka congratulated all those who won their respective seats during the November 4th, 2025 General Election.

Ms. Devine stated that newly elected officials should attend the upcoming NIMS training through the Luzerne County Emergency Management Department. More information on this training will be forthcoming.

Ms. Gallagher stated that she felt the newsletter that was prepared & distributed by Forty Fort United was greatly appreciated. She would like to see newsletters continue in the future.

Mayor Thomas reported that the Planning Commission had recently met to discuss the upcoming Forty Fort Airport renovation project. The plan is being reviewed by our engineer's, Benesch Engineering Group, with another Planning Commission meeting happening in December of 2025.

Chief Hunsinger stated that in light of the fact that the Borough's Police Liability carrier had dropped the insurance for 2026, council may want to consider abandoning the Mutual Agreement that is currently in place with Courtdale Borough as the former Forty Fort Police officer that was named in several of the lawsuits is employed with that Borough. The Agreement would allow this officer to have arrest powers in Forty Fort Borough.

Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone, reported that a request had been made by a resident of Pearl St. for the Borough to trim the overhang of trees, located on private property, that encroach on her property. Atty. Skibitsky stated that the law allows property owners to trim any overhang of trees, shrubs, etc. that are present on their property. The resident will be notified of this.

Magistrate Barilla will be present to swear in the newly elected officials at the Reorganization meeting that will be held on Monday, January 5, 2026 promptly at 6:00 PM.

At this time, 7:11 PM, council convened in Executive Session to discuss the Civil Service lawsuit against the Civil Service Commission and Forty Fort Borough.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:12 PM and the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone, Borough Manager