

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2025

The October work session of the Forty Fort Borough Council was held on Monday, October 20, 2025 at the Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., with 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 (via telephone), Frank Mazza, Cara Devine, David Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Also present was Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Mayor Brian Thomas, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officials, Tom Craig & Lee Hampton, DPW Supervisor, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone.

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

RESIDENTS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

Tory Carey of the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board reported on the success of their recent Fall Festival and gave some details of upcoming events they have planned such as Christmas tree lighting and the home decorating contest. On behalf of the committee, she thanked everyone who helped make the event a success this year & looks forward to next year's event.

Scott Serafin, Dennison Ave., asked Atty. Skibitsky for an update on the lawsuit brought against The Forty Fort Borough and the Forty Fort Civil Service Commission. Atty. Skibitsky reported that depositions would be taken from Civil Service members, Sara Michaels & Christine Kutz and Council person Thomas J. Murray, III, Mayor Brian Thomas & Borough Manager, Bonnie Arnone next week. He does not expect the case to go to trial until sometime next year. When asked about the cost incurred to date, he was told that the Insurance Company will pay up to \$10,000.00 in legal fees which has been surpassed with invoices from the Borough's attorney and the Civil Service Commission attorney.

MINUTES AND REPORTS:

Council was provided with minutes and reports from the prior month for their review. These items will be on the agenda for a vote at the November 3, 2025 council meeting:

9/15/25 Special Council Meeting Minutes	9/15/25 Council work session minutes
10/6/25 Council Meeting Minutes	September 2025 Code Office Report
September 2025 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report	September 2025 Police Dept. report
September 2025 Treasurer's Report	September 2025 Tax Collector Report
September 2025 Manager's Time Sheets	7/15/25 WVSA meeting minutes
8/19/25 WVSA Special meeting minutes	

Council was advised that on the November 3, 2025 council meeting agenda, a vote will be taken to sign the Conflict of Interest Waiver for a property transfer being handled by Atty. Angelo Terrana who will represent the seller, Kurt & Susan Santayana and the buyer, Forty Fort Borough in the purchase of land in Swoyersville Borough for the site of the new Borough DPW Garage. There will also be a vote for the Engagement letter to engage Atty. Terrana for this purpose and finally, the Agreement of Sale with the Santayana's for \$360,000.00 for the purchase of the land. There are contingencies listed in the Agreement of Sale to protect the Borough in the event of problems with financing, Swoyersville Planning and/or zoning issues and environmental issues on the land.

Mayor Thomas reported that through the generous efforts of resident Jim Martin, the Borough will expect to receive a sum of \$25,000.00 that was unused from a grant that Wilkes-Barre city had received for park upgrades. He has been looking at a piece of handicap accessible that will also be inclusive in that it can be used by all children to have installed at the park. Mr. Martin was thanked for his assistance in this project.

Mr. Sieminski reported that plans are being formulated for the dog park that will be placed near the Forty Fort Soccer Club fields at the Sports Complex which should begin in the Spring of 2026.

Mr. Craig reported that at a recent Magisterial court hearing, defendant Andy Tuzinski failed to show and was consequently found guilty of all charges for the failure to secure his rental license for 10 rental units. Atty. Skibitsky reported that Mr. Tuzinski's lawyer was present to state that an appeal will be forthcoming which will result in further legal expenses for the Borough.

Borough Manager reported that with the proceeds of a \$65,000.00 LSA grant received for the purchase of a new police cruiser, a cruiser has been located which will cost \$46,100.00 leaving \$18,900.00 in the grant to be used towards the upfitting of the cruiser. There will be an unfunded amount of \$11,259.45 that council will need to approve of being paid from the Capital Reserve Fund at the November 3, 2025 council meeting. Chief Hunsinger reported that in order to have the vehicle in proper operating order, a computer and in-car camera system will be moved from one of the older cruisers.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Michaels thanked Mr. Martin for his generosity in facilitating the use of the funds for the inclusive playground equipment. She also complimented all involved in the planning and execution of the Fall Festival.

Ms. Dadurka echoed Ms. Michaels statements on the park equipment and Fall Festival as did all members of council and Mayor Thomas.

Mr. Sieminski also stated that the mums decorating the Borough Building are beautiful.

Mr. Craig reported that he is reviewing all ordinances and will compile a list of suggestions for changes, additions, etc. for council to consider. Mr. Hampton reported that following his department's efforts with EMA issues, Forty Fort Borough has received notification from FEMA that the local mitigation plan for Forty Fort Borough has been approved.

Mr. Kamus reported that they have been grinding stumps throughout the Borough and will continue to do so through the next month. They are also conducting their Fall Clean Up project this week until Thursday, October 23, 2025. He was reminded that there would be a Street Fair on East Pettebone St. this Saturday for barricades to be placed at either end of the street.

Manager Bonnie Arnone reported that the Borough's Insurance Carrier, Selective Insurance, has notified the Borough that they will not write the Borough Officials Liability Policy or the Police Liability Policy upon renewal on January 1, 2025. The reasons for this notification on non-renewal are due to the excessive number of lawsuits that have been filed against the Borough. Our Agent will continue to work to place the Borough with a new carrier for all lines of coverage.

At this time, 7:01 PM, council went into Executive Session to discuss Code Enforcement Legal Matters. Council returned from Executive Session at 7:35 and with no further business to discuss, a motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Devine & seconded by Ms. Dadurka at 7:35 PM.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2025 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone
Borough Manager