

FORTY FORT BOROUGH
COUNCIL WORK SESSION MINUTES
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

The Forty Fort Borough council held their monthly work session on Monday, September 15, 2025 at the Borough Bldg., 1271 Wyoming Ave., Forty Fort, PA with council president, Thomas J. Murray, III presiding.

President Murray called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM with the following council members present: Amanda Gallagher, Frank Mazza, Cara Devine, Dave Sieminski, Kristy Dadurka & Sara Michaels. Also, present were Mayor Brian Thomas, Atty. Greg Skibitsky, Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officers Lee Hampton & Tom Craig, DPW supervisor, Rick Kamus & Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone. This work session was held immediately following a special council meeting.

CITIZENS & TAXPAYERS COMMENTS:

The Parks & Recreation Advisory Board gave an update on the upcoming Fall Festival that will take place on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the Sports Complex. They reported on the many donations from businesses as well as residents that they have received and have asked council for their help the day of the event.

Maureen Salley, 106 Center St., Forty Fort stated that she spoke with St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church who owns the alley running behind several residents on Tripp St. Resident, Bruce Dadurka had been present at the September council meeting asking for assistance in having this alley maintained, i.e.. Snow plowing, etc. and was told that this property belonged to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton church. Ms. Salley reported that she has been told by the church that they will take care of maintaining this alley for the residents. She was thanked for taking the initiative to speak with the church on this subject.

MINUTES & REPORTS: The following minutes and reports have been provided to council members for their review and will be voted on at the October 6, 2025 council meeting:

8/18/25 Council work session minutes	9/2/25 Council meeting minutes
August 2025 Code Office Report	August 2025 Police Department report
August 2025 Kingston/FF Fire Chief Report	August 2025 Tax Collector Report
August 2025 Treasurer's Report	August 2025 Managers Time Sheets

Mayor Thomas reported that the morning drop-off at the Dana Elementary center has been going very smoothly. He spoke of his dismay at the recent social media post indicating that the first day of school was a disaster at the school drop-off with only 1 police officer there and no other borough official present and that the borough did not care about the safety of children. Mayor Thomas, along with several other council members, took exception to this statement saying that the safety of these children is paramount to Borough Council, the Police Department as well as the School District. He corrected the misinformation in this post by reporting that on the first day of school, there were 4 police officers present, including Asst. Chief Adam Michaels, Code Officer Lee Hampton, DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus and himself. In addition, several teachers and administration from Dana Elementary were present. He, along with the Borough Police and Code Officer Lee Hampton have continued to report to the school each morning for drop-off to ensure the process set in place continues.

Council members were advised that Beyond Behavior will hold a Ribbon Cutting ceremony on October 10, 2025 from 4-6 PM at their new facility, 166 Slocum St. in Forty Fort Borough. Mayor Thomas and council members are invited to this event.

The Fall Clean Up event was once again announced that will take place beginning Monday, October 20, 2025 through Thursday, October 23, 2025. Residents can register in person at the office of the secretary or on-line at fortyfort.org. The cost will be \$50.00 for a 3' X 7' area at their residence.

The Forty Fort Pool Advisory Committee, led by Christian Zeme, distributed a revised budget for the pool once it is open. They requested permission to secure other engineering estimates for the repairs necessary to the pool which include plumbing, electrical & structural to comply with state laws for public bathing areas. The Committee was encouraged to form a 501C lease from the borough which would give them total authority over their activities now and going forward. A lengthy discussion followed with council members voicing their concerns about the operation of the pool. The committee has requested to meet with Benesch Engineering who have provided a cost estimate for the repairs needed.

AROUND THE TABLE:

Ms. Michaels stated that she took part in the recent Cemetery Walk/Run that was held on Saturday, September 13, 2025 stating that it was well attended and a success for the cemetery.

Ms. Dadurka echoed Ms. Michaels sentiments on the Cemetery Walk/Run stating that she particularly enjoyed the new walking path recently constructed by WVSA. She also stated that she is looking forward to the Parks & Rec upcoming Fall Festival on October 11, 2025.

Ms. Gallagher stated that while walking through the borough, she observed a vehicle running through the stop sign at Murray & Hughes Street. She felt that the view stop sign may have been obscured by a tree that is on this particular corner. She was advised by DPW that they routinely trim this tree for this reason and will continue to monitor. Ms. Gallagher also praised the Forty Fort Police Dept. as well as all EMS responders during a recent event at her mother-in-law's residence.

Mayor Thomas reported that the discussion on Police regionalization continues with all interested municipalities having submitted their initial paperwork. The next step may be follow-up questions of the Borough's before a report is delivered. He will continue to update council on this subject. Mayor Thomas also reported that he continues to investigate alternative handicap accessible park equipment. He thanked the Police Department as well as Code Officer Lee Hampton for their assistance during the recent Cemetery Walk/Run. Finally, he announced that Rome Bath will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at their Wyoming Ave. location on Tuesday, September 16, 2025 at 10:00 AM.

DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus reported that WVSA expects to have a temporary pump placed at the River St. pump station on September 22, 2025 to mitigate the odors that are coming from the facility and disturbing numerous residents in the area. Mr. Kamus also reported that restoration work using ARPA funds will continue on Welles Street. He then updated council on the recent water main break on Rutter Ave. that shut the road down for some time on Saturday, September 13, 2025. Temporary pave restoration has been done, and permanent restoration will be done approximately 60 days following that. He reported that the PA Water Co. will stand behind any and all work that will need to be done at this location.

At this time, 7:50 PM, council convened the Executive Session to discuss the consideration of the purchase or lease of real property and Code Office personnel issue.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:22 PM and a motion to adjourn at this time was made by Ms. Devine & seconded by Mr. Mazza.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 6, 2025 beginning at 6:00 PM in council chambers. It was noted that prior to this meeting, beginning at 5:30 PM, a public hearing will take place to discuss the two (2) proposed ordinances to the Zoning Ordinance that will be voted on at this council meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Arnone, Borough Manager