

## **Forty Fort Borough Council Meeting Tuesday September 2, 2025**

The September 2, 2025, 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 Lukesh lead the prayer and Mayor Brian Thomas 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, Kristy Dadurka, Dave Sieminski, Borough Manager Bonnie Arnone, Borough Secretary Michele Pascarella, Solicitor Greg Skibitsky, Police Chief Dan Hunsinger, Code Officer Tom Craig, DPW Supervisor Rick Kamus and Borough Mayor Brian Thomas. Frank Mazza was absent. There were 32 visitors in attendance.

### **Public Comments**

Tori Carey from the Park & Recreation gave an update on the Fall Festival. The Police were asked to have presence there to help with parking and any other issues that may arise. Tori asked Rick Kamus to hang the Fall Festival Signs, Rick stated he will have them done either on Friday or Monday. Council was asked to help with the Games of Chance. T-shirts are on sale for \$12.00.

Ellen Beck of 7 Tripp Manor asked for an update on the pool progress. Kristy Dadurka said they have been working on things and are waiting for engineering.

Tom Ruskey from The Cancer Wellness Center of NEPA thanked everyone that was involved in the donations that were given and everyone that attended the Walk. Tom stated this was their best year yet. All services are free; no insurance is used, all that is needed is a diagnosis.

Mary Anne Matraselva from 61 River Street asked if there is anything that can be done ASAP for the odor coming from the WWSA building as the past few weeks the odor has been horrific. Mary Anne was told to keep contacting WWSA and letting them know about the odor.

Sandy Yenalevitch of 112 River Street asked if there is anything that can be done with the property at 116 River Street as there is a dangerous issue with a whole that is only 33 inches from her garage. She also asked if the For Sale sign that is on the tree lawn is legal. Lee Hampton of the Code Office will contact Sandy Wednesday September 3 to make an appointment to meet up with her and look at the issues.

Bruse Dadurka of 44 Tripp Street asked what can be done about an alley that runs behind 5 households on Tripp St .He would like to have the Borough's DPW maintain the alley with patching & plowing. Council told Mr. Dadurka that since this was private property, he would;d have to contact the Church, who is the owner of the property, to see if they will maintain it.

Debbie Craig of 1822 Murray Street thanked Cara for thanking the Forty Fort Volunteer Fire Company on her Facebook post and thanked her for all she did for the National Night Out. Debbie also asked if the Borough could have a Neighbor of the Year contest. Amanda Gallagher let Debbie know that Parks & Recreation are going to do something in the line of Neighbor of the Year for the Holidays. More information to come.

## **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 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 the 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:

- 7/21/25 Council work session minutes
- 8/4/25 Council Meeting Minutes
- July 2025 Code Office Report
- July 2025 Forty Fort Police Chief Report
- July 2025 Treasure's Report
- July 2025 Manager's Time Sheets
- July 2025 Kingston/Forty Fort Fire Chief Report
- July 2025 Tax Collector Report
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2025 SPCA Report
- 5/27/25 WVSA meeting minutes
- 8/13/25 Planning Commission meeting minutes

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the consent agenda and seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor. Motion passed.

## **Correspondence**

Letter of Commendation-Councilwoman Cara Devin read a letter from resident Darlene Bryant for Code Officer Lee Hampton

## **Council Action Items**

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to pay all bills as presented and seconded by Amanda Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously. All bills that are to be paid at every meeting are on the Council table for anyone to view.

A motion was made by Amanda Gallagher to promote Officer Scott Roper to the position of Detective and was seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously. Mayor Brian Thomas swore in Detective Roper.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the Memorandum of Agreement recognizing the formation of the Forty Fort Police Officers' Association and was seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Forty Fort Police Department for a term of January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2029, and was seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to approve the Employment Agreement for the Police Chief Dan Hunsinger and was seconded by Dave Sieminski. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to approve the Pension MMO's for 2026  
Police Pension-\$142,916.00  
Fire Pension-\$0.00  
Non-Uniform-\$79,920.00 and was seconded by Amanda Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Michaels to adopt Resolutions 11 of 2025- Luzerne County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update and was seconded by Kristy Dadurka. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to advertise Ordinance 6 of 2026- Airport Overlay Ordinance and was seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to allow the exemption the filing of an environmental impact study for the airport hangar project and was seconded by Kristy Dadurka. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Michaels to advertise Ordinance 7 of 2025, amend ordinance for posting & placement of signs, bills, placards, notices and other like pieces and was seconded by Kristy Dadurka. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Cara Devine to advertise Ordinance 8 of 2025- an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 11, Section 110.1.J setback requirements to increase maximum sign size in R-1 Zoning Districts from 6 square feet to 12 square feet and was seconded by Sara Michaelks. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Dave Sieminski to advertise Ordinance 9 of 2205- an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 27, Section 502, Use Table and seconded by Amanda Gallagher. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sara Michaels to hold a public hearing prior to October 6, 2025, council meeting on the two amendments to the Zoning Ordinance listed above and was seconded by Cara Devine. All were in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

9/13/25 Forty Fort Cemetery Walk

8/22/25 National Night Out

### **New Business**

Meeting with West Wyoming Officials to discuss 2026 rates for Administration, Code Enforcement and DPW services.

### **Around the Table**

Sara Michaels wanted to thank everyone involved with National Night Out, it was a huge success.

Dave Sieminski echoed Sara's comment on National Night Out. He also wanted to let everyone know to be careful and pay more attention as school is back in.

Mayor Brian Thomas thanked Cara Devine, Assistant Chief Adam Michaels and everyone else that was involved with National Night Out. Mayor hoped that the handicap swing can be talked about at the work session in October. There will be the Cemetery Run on September 13, 2025.

Rick Kamus stated they are still working on Welles Street and should be done next Friday September 12, 2025. Dave Sieminski thanked Rick and the DPW crew and how great Welles Street looks.

Bonnie Arnone stated that the ARPA money must be spent by 2025-year end. They are in the process of looking to see what roads need it the most as there is only \$30,000.00 remaining. Bonnie also stated the OPIOD funds that the borough as received (over \$55,00.000) must be spent. She will be meeting with the Chief in the next few weeks to discuss where the money can be spent. Bonnie stated she received 28 Right to Knows in one day from Andy Tuzinski which is excessive. Bonnie is working on LSA grants and this just takes her away from working on this.

Chief Dan Hunsinger thanked the National Night Committee, and everyone involved on such an amazing event. Chief said that the fireworks were amazing. Chief thanked Council for all of their support for the Police Department.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

The next meeting will be a work session held on Monday September 15, 2025, at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Pascarella  
Borough Secretary