

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES

MONDAY MARCH 2nd, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus call the meeting to order at 6:00 p. m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

ROLL CALL:

V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Council members Michael Norella, Tracey Lazier, Eileen Lynch, John Zasik, Donna Gasper, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Secretary Cindy Stone, Mayor Cost, Solicitor McAndrew. President Obelenus was absent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

No announcements

PUBLIC COMMENT: (President Obelenus)

Amy Bean wants council to consider passing the sewer and garbage fees to the taxes for 2027. Amy feels that the council is protecting certain people in the borough that should have been a the delquint list. This will save money in the long run.

John Sceipta asked what the arrears are in the sewer and garbage fees. He asked if the borough not collecting the month fees, so how will they be collected when we have to pay all at once. V.P. Scalzo explained it a little more. V.P. Scalzo said we have to advertise and pass an ordinance. John Sceipta asked if this should be presented to the residents and the tax bill, and also some residents have low income, how can they afford it. John asked about liens to get the money, Secretary Stone explained the liens process. A couple of people had things to stay and could not make it out. Someone explained the monthly billing system is working for the elderly. John said if they can’t pay on month to month, what’s makes you think they can pay all at once. Councilwoman Lynch stated that late fees and interest were waved and payment plans set up and people just stopped paying on these agreements. V.P. Scalzo explained the surplus to it, and the General Fund and Sewer/Garbage accounts are separate. The reason the garbage fee went up is that the contract fee went up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (President Obelenus)

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from February 2nd, 2026. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilman Zasik, roll call vote was all in favor.

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion for motion to approve the minutes from the February 16th, 2026 meeting. Councilwoman Lazier, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call all in favor.

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion to approve February 2026 Treasurer Report. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call vote was all in favor.

V.P. Scalzo announced the Borough received \$3196.94 from Geisinger Health Insurance, and Letter of Interest must be in by May 4th, 2026.

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion for road closure for the Memorial Day Parade, Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilman Zasik, roll call was all in favor.

V.P. Scalzo mentioned the finical interest statements to be in the office by May 4th, 2026.

PUBLIC WORKS: (V.P. Scalzo)

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The Public Works report for March 2026 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of March was \$240.00. V.P. Scalzo stated they are holding off on cold patching because it has been so cold.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella stated that we are waiting for the elevator company, that everything is in place. Councilman Zasik stated the borough building is so old that it is costing a lot to run it.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

No updates.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella stated 170 people come though the soup off and was a great event. The Mayor would like to thank WNEP for the broadcast on Friday and Saturday. V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion to have Solicitor McAndrew prepare a lease agreement with the Forest City Little League. Solicitor McAndrew and there should be a meeting with them is working on its Councilwoman Gasper made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call was all in favor.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (John Zasik)

Councilman Zasik is asking what the stats is on the sidewalks. Secretary Stone said it is supposed to be this year but the meetings are being missed. The Mayor stated they should have been already because it has been years. Secretary Stone that they waiting for the borough to pick an engineer to get back to April Hannon and that she will not make decision. Someone needs to get on board and Secretary Stone asked Council to have the Mayor to come aboard. She also stated that no one has told Penn Dot that KBA engineering knows all the information. Councilman Zasik offered his help on the project.

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for February 2026.

Councilwoman Lynch asked for a motion to advertise Ordinance #529 Pave Cut, Councilman Zasik made the motion, seconded by Council Norella, roll call was all in favor.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Nick Cost)

Mayor Cost asked if there are any questions or concerns on the February 2026 Police report. Mayor Cost also mentioned there is a lot of speeding in town and will put someone on to catch them. Mayor Cost also stated unregistered cars must be moved on the street.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew stated that a of liens letters went out, and explained the process. The was one paid in full and couple in payment plans. Secretary Stone has the list of what we are going to lien this week or next week. Secretary Stone has prepared spread sheets for council. There was a head way made with the liens. Solicitor McAndrew did look into what sewer funds can be used for and explained and it is separate.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: (Various Council Members)

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion to advertise Ordinance #529 Pave Cut, Councilman Zasik made the motion, seconded by Council Norella, roll call was all in favor. V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion for a new POS credit card machine, Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gasper, roll call 5 yay, Councilwoman Lynch abstained from voting. V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion for an ACH pull system, Councilwoman Gasper made

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the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, roll call 5 yay, Councilwoman abstained from voting.

Council was asked what the elderly rebate is considered and how the billing would work, more information is needed on this program. Council agreed to have a committee to put the program together. Secretary Stone is working on the Tax I.D. for the county. V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion for an elderly discount program for the sewer and garbage bill, Councilman Norella suggested it tabled, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch.

V.P. Scalzo asked for a motion to add the sewer and garbage fees to the 2027 Real Estate Tax Bill, Councilwoman Gasper made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, roll call was 5 to 1.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Obelenus)

V.P. Scalzo announced 2026 PSAB 14th Annual Conference in Hershey May 31st thru June 3rd if anyone is interested to contact the office.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

John Kowalski thinks it is great you're going with the tax bill, and his second question is will it help if you shut off the water. Solicitor McAndrew stated the borough is not in the business of shutting off water, you have to still call Pa American Water but it does help to get them motivated.

Solicitor McAndrew asked if the credit card machine just for the next 7 months, and no because we have people paying for other thing like permit, parking tickets, etc.

Amy Bean asked Solicitor McAndrew what an executive session is and the difference. Solicitor McAndrew explained what it is. If you speak of what went on in the session and it then becomes public, and if council members speak about it then the borough can get sued. It got to the point V.P. Scalzo gaveled and stopped the conversation before it became a legal matter.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

Next scheduled regular meeting will be April 6th, 2026 back at the third-floor borough building at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Norella made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Gasper, all in favor, none opposed. V.P. Scalzo adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.