

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES

MONDAY JUNE 2nd, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

ROLL CALL:

Present: President Obelenus, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Michael Norella, Eileen Lynch, Sarah Woody, Amy Bean, Rebecca Scoggins, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Secretary Cindy Stone, Mayor Ginton, and Solicitor McAndrew.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

A special meeting was held May 22nd, to fill the vacancy left by Councilwoman Woody and vote on Ordinance 526 “Quality of Life”.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (President Obelenus)

No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from May 5th, 2025. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Woody, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve work session minutes held on May 22nd, 2025. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve May’s treasurer report. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to appoint Councilman Norella to the budget/finance committee. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Woody, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to accept the resignation of Councilwoman Woody effective June 3rd, 2025. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Woody, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to advertise to fill the vacancy left by Councilwoman Woody resignation. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus state a deadline for letters of interest is June 20th, 2025 at 4 p.m. The meeting will be June 23rd, 2025 at 6 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS: (V.P. Scalzo)

The Public Works report for May 2025 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of May was \$222 that the donations are what keeps the program going. V.P. Scalzo stated there is a place at the garage area for scrap metal to also be donated. V.P. Scalzo gave an update on the Susquehanna and Hudson Street projects. JHA came took pictures and have not gotten a proposal. The state gave us permission to fix the road but have not gotten design specs for it to give to the state.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Sarah Woody)

Councilwoman Woody stated the down payment was made, now we are just waiting on the parts to be delivered.

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COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean stated The Action Team meeting is June 5th, 2025. Councilwoman Bean also stated a sculpture will be a coalminer in conjunction with the Historical Society. John Kameen spoke about the sculpture and how it came to be what was chosen. President Obelenus stated where it will be located on the trail, who was also going to be involved. Councilwoman Bean said an email went out suggesting the borough give businesses an incentive to come to our town.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella stated the park is open to swim, and the vendor is June 22nd but only have 8 vendors now, and if they didn't get 20, the vendor market will be cancelled. Councilman Norella mention the chicken BBQ tickets are now on sale and thanked everyone for the time they put in. Volunteer Deanna Flood told the council that the buoys were moved in the swimming area and piles of sand were found in the bathrooms. They just want to confirm that the bathrooms are being locked when the park closes. Also, would like to look at more cameras to purchase to cover the bathroom. Councilman Norella stated that the weather was not the best and the wind probably blew the buoys around. Chairperson Murphy stated there was nothing on the camera, and they would like a camera facing the bathrooms more than it is now.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (President Obelenus)

No Updates

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for May 2025.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Mayor Ginton asked if there are any questions or concerns on the May 2025 Police report. Mayor Ginton asked for a motion to made to purchase 6 GLOCK 17MOS GEN5 GUNS with a trade in at \$1711. Assist Chief Dzanis spoke as too why the would like this to happen. Councilwoman Woody made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor. Mayor Ginton thanked for the donations and P.W. workers for the graduation pictures hanging in town.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew stated lots of success with the liens and payments. They will visit it again come the fall. Solicitor also gave update on 501 Main Street that the borough will file a petition if it's not safe to force owner to tear it down. This could take several months to complete.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: (Various Council Members)

President Obelenus stated that the 400/500 block of Main Street if we are going to widen the street, the President spoke with Ms. Hannon and the reason why we could not widen now that it is going out for bid in August and no way have KBA get prints done in time. The grant was awarded back 2022 and they gave us time because of covid and gave us time this past year that Penn Dot's program have to put it out to bid with there contractor, that she said we could keep the grant and have it done in a timely matter. We have a meeting with Ms. Hannon, KBA, and Bobbi Jo tomorrow morning. The Mayor asked who was in charge of this in 2022 and whoever it was did not do their job. Councilman Norella said it shifted from the borough to the state. A meeting will be held tomorrow for the bids to go out and project will start in the Spring of 2026. There will also be a kick off meeting for the new grant. Councilwoman Lynch asked who was attending, she said she will from home via computer.

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President Obelenus asked for a motion to change Ordinance #522 Erie Street as one way from south at Railroad Street to north Grand Avenue. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus updated on snow removal that we need get a list of contractors and specific the areas being removed for each business during the snow removal .

Councilwoman Lynch questioned the parking ticket cost for a fine. A resolution will be in place to change the price to \$20 dollars.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to advertise the invitation to bid for the Garbage/Recycling Collection Specifications for a three (2026-2028) or five (2026-2030) contact. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call vote was all in favor. It will be advertising in Scranton Times and Forest City News.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Obelenus thanked Councilwoman Woody for her service and Good Luck in your future. There was mention on the Wayco paving project, Secretary Stone stated that the borough just received the performance bond in the mail today. Solicitor McAndrew stated she “just wanted to be a lawyer and told council that you can’t just go changing signs and you need to be careful”. V.P. Scalzo stated the Public Works will put cones out and put up the change to a one-way sign.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be, Monday July 7th, 2025 on Railroad Street Fire Hall at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

V.P. Scalzo made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Councilman Norella, all in favor, none opposed. President Obelenus adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.