

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES

MONDAY MAY 4th, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus called 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:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus announced that there is a policy for public speaking to come up to the podium state name, address and you have five minutes to speak. President Obelenus stated they will not be a decision on the ATV/UTV ordinance tonight but a committee will be made and further information to come in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (President Obelenus)

Glenn Mattos wanted to know about ATV and UTV’s being allowed on borough streets being discussed again when a special meeting was done years ago. President Obelenus stated he did not know and why the pass administration didn’t do anything, that why we are reopening it again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from April 6th, 2026. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Gasper, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve April 2026 Treasurer Report. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Zasik, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the road closure for August 2nd, 2026 for Trail Town Days Light Parade. Councilwoman Gasper made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion for a graduation ad for the Forest City School. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilman Zasik, roll call was all in favor.

PUBLIC WORKS: (V.P. Scalzo)

The Public Works report for April 2026 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of April was \$212.00. V.P. Scalzo mentioned JHA project on the grants for the three stormwater projects and DEP is involved but JHA told him the project will go out for bid will be going out mid fall, early winter.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Michael Norella)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve GFCBA sip and paint on the third floor of the borough building on July 30th. Councilwoman Gasper made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor

Councilman Norella asked for a motion to approve Phil Hodges quote for repairing the salt shed for \$7,450. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call was all in favor.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Tracey Lazier)

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President Obelenus stated the murals are on the rise and updates will come as we get them.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella stated that the borough is now accepting applications for the upcoming vendor markets for June and September at Kennedy Park. Applications can be found on the borough website or in the borough office. The park is open for the summer season.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve David Johns of Design Engineering to help write a grant for a handicap fishing dock and upgrades to the restrooms for Kennedy Park. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call was all in favor.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (John Zasik)

No updates

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for April 2026.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Nick Cost)

Mayor Cost if anyone had questions about the Police report for the month of April. Mayor Cost mentioned 23.2 pounds of drugs collected from the drug take back and 25.8 pounds collected since last drug take back. Mayor Cost mentioned again about the speeding on Main Street and stated violators will be ticketed. The crosswalks will be enforced and drivers have to stop for, but in pedestrians are not allowed to between cars, cars are not required to stop by law pedestrians must use the crosswalks.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew stated one lien was sent out and two more will go out if they don't pay or make arrangements to do so. The zoning ordinance is the bigger issue to add the ordinance about solar farms and data centers. She wanted to go over the proposed letter added this change to the ordinance, council needs to have the change to residence and non-residential. Jim Zefran wants their township and our borough work together on it. Hoping to make for housing authority. Make the zoning from industrial to residential. The USDA will be involved. Possible Planning Committee meeting on June 22nd, 2026 at 6 p.m. Further information to come.

CONTINUED BUSINESS: (Various Council Members)

Mayor Cost mentioned he has a meeting for 400-500 block Multimodal tomorrow. V.P. Scalzo LSA grant will start late summer, early fall. Mayor Cost also stated he not happy with the way the sidewalk grants are going.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus mentioned the letter about combining the any ambulance, that I will keep everyone informed as he gets the information on this and the Clifford has the lead on this.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

President Obelenus is looking to make a committee. Council woman Lazier volunteered and President Obelenus stated Councilwoman Lazier would be the chair person, along with Councilwoman Gasper and Councilman Norella and Mayor Cost as committee members. The committee will hold a meeting and let the public know, anyone wishing to be a member can sign up after the meeting.

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President Obelenus asked for a motion for the FOTAT to apply for the Endless Mountain Heritage Region 2026 Partnership Grant. The grant will be the third sculpture trail sculpture will place somewhere between Erie Street and Main Street, council will approve location. EMHR grant 80% will come former 20% from Valley in Motion. Borough will be reimbursed for up front expenses. Council woman Lazier made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call was all in favor.

Many Resident and Non-residents came to to voice the pros and cons of changing the ordinance. The president formed a committee along with volunteers.

Jim Griffith asked how the inspection works with the CEO, Councilwoman Lynch answered with what is involved with the inspection, he also mentions the change on ATV/UTV change came from Penn Dot from two years ago.

Pat and Bill O'Dell mentioned the certified letter sent about sewer bill on March 25th, 2026 with no answer and another was regarding about the letter to be put in the minutes. We would like our letter be put in the minutes. Bill stated he owns a building that he pays three bills on it when in town other people have four units and pay two bills that what what fair is fair, if we pay they should two. Councilman Norllea stated he walked the town for days counting EDU and some changes had been made. O'Dell's wants the minutes amended with the certified letter to go into the minutes. The O'Dell's asked why there is not a list of commended housing. Councilman Norrella said you can changeable it not to pay if unit it not being used but a \$600 connection fee will be doing when you are connected again. V.P. Scalzo stated when the new system went in, a camera was used for the conntion and that council is doing their best the correct the issue.

Eric burns stated the the council is to enforcement the quality if life look at the pros-and cons and due what is best for the town.

President Obelenus stated regarding ATV and UTS's he wants it in black and white so a committee will take the lead on this and the public will be informed. Katie Zefran stated there is not enough industrial in this town and she doesn't think ATV/UTV will make a difference. She stated she walks the trails and has seen ATV/UTV on the trail they are not supposed to be on.

Councilman Norella stated it is about respect, if this is to be a go, the Police need to step up and go after them.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus announce a meeting on May 13th, 2026 on the third floor for the Susquehanna Tourism agency at 6 p.m.

Next scheduled regular meeting will be June 1st, 2026 on the third floor of borough building at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Norella made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by V.P. Scalzo. President Obelenus adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.