

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES
MONDAY February 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:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

No announcements

PUBLIC COMMENT: (President Obelenus)

No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from January 5th, 2026. 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 meeting minutes from January 22nd, 2026. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve January Treasurer Report. Councilman Zasik made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve Resolution #4-2026, to fill the vacancy left by the 2025 General Election. Three candidates applied for the vacancy - Donna Gasper, former Mayor Ginton and Jamie Walker. Two candidates where present. President Obelenus asked if Christopher Ginton had anything he wanted to add, he then added a few more things. President Obelenus asked Donna Gasper if she had anything to add, she then added a few more things. President Obelenus asked for a motion, Councilwoman Lazier made the motion for Donna Gasper, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was 3 – 2, Councilwoman Lynch abstained her vote, Donna Gasper filled the vacancy and was sworn in.

President Obelenus stated that Letters of Financial Interest need to be completed and handed into the Secretary/Treasurer by May 4th, 2026. President also stated bidding thresholds for 2026 are in your folders.

PUBLIC WORKS: (V.P. Scalzo)

The Public Works report for January 2026 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of January was \$229. V.P. Scalzo also thanked Stephen Mikloiche for the use of his garage to fix the Public Works truck.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella stated that Councilwoman Lynch had the elevator information. She stated that we are waiting for the green light of The Department of L & I.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

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Gus Fahey came from Valley in Motion to explain about the grant we received for the Muriel for town and when they will start painting. Gus and his crew will contact the building owners about what best fits.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella updated the Parks & Recreation soup and chili cook off for February 28th, 2026. Kathy Murphy stated that they have about 30 patriciates so far. Councilman Norella stated that if anyone was interested in helping to come out that day to give a hand. Kathy Murphy mentioned that WNEP will be there the day before for a live broadcast. Councilman Norella met with the Forest City Little League who is asking to do improvement to the fields but it is not their property so Solicitor McAndrew is working on a lease.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (John Zasik)

Councilman Zasik is asking that something be done with the sidewalks in front of Machek, Marissa McAndrew, and the flower shop. The sidewalks are in rough shape and something needs to be done. President Obelenus asked Secretary Stone about when are the bids going out and she believes this Spring. Councilman Zasik also asked about the fire hydrant in front of Kameens building, and President Obelenus stated the work order was put in. Councilman Zasik would also like to see the sidewalks cleaned up two days after a storm to prevent anyone from falling. Councilman Zasik also wants something done with the vehicles parked to close to the corners so you can't see.

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for January 2026. Councilwoman Lynch stated that Joe contacted the EMA of Susquehanna and there are no Federal funds available that it has to federal emergency to receive funds. Mayor Cost stated if we don't bid out and we get hit with a blizzard and then call someone down the line and they are busy, then what do we do. The Proclamation was then explained in detail about receiving funds. Councilman Norella mentioned that we discussed that Joe was to be at meeting for stuff like this that involves him, so why is he not here. Councilwoman Lynch stated that he has prior commitments that all his meeting is the same time of month. Councilman Norella stated he should be here every other month for thing like this. Councilman Zasik asked the price on rental inspection and how many Joe did and that a couple of rentals did not get inspected in the 400 hundred block. Mayor Cost asked if we can get Joe to come to meeting and Councilwoman Lynch said that Joe stated that he was not hired to come to meetings. Councilwoman Lynch will speak to him.

Councilwoman Lynch asked for a motion to advertise Ordinance #529 Pave Cut, President Obelenus would like to table it to look over a little more with the Public Works Crew. Council agreed to table it.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Nick Cost)

Mayor Cost asked if there are any questions or concerns on the January 2026 Police report. Mayor Cost also mentioned there is a lot of speeding in town and will put someone on to catch them. He also reminded that there is a curfew for under the age of 18. The Mayor is also disappointed in Vandling for not waiting to talk to him about the Police contract

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

Solicitor McAndrew asked council if they would like her to update the Zoning Ordinance about data center and solar farms, that would have to be in an industrial park. V.P. Scalzo asked if the County has an Ordinance for data and solar farms. She stated that the County has one for solar farms but not data centers. A reporter from The Transcript said the Commissioner did do a data center Ordinance for the County.

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CONTINUED BUSINESS: (Various Council Members)

Councilman Norella agreed that printing the sewer names in the paper is not a good idea for the Borough. If someone else wants to let them have the responsibility to do so. Secretary Stone said there 17 families in arrears that don't have a lien were just going to the paper. The rest have liens on the properties. Secretary Stone explained what she is doing to work with Marissa.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to petition to reduce the number of council members from 7 to 5. President Obelenus explained why he is looking at this. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch. The roll call vote was 3 yay, 4 nah. Council will not petition the courts.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus discussed the purchasing of new LED lights for the borough building, library and borough garage. He did contact some contractors and waiting on bids. Vote was tabled to next meeting.

President Obelenus stated there was a discuss about signatures for the Emergency Proclamation in earlier 2025, council amended the resolution to have the mayor, President and/or Presidents appointee. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Zasik, roll call was all in favor.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathy Singer stated about the Police department about pulling over at stop signs and she had laws printed out about the correct way. She had a lot to say about the law and which officers were doing so. Mayor Cost stated he would look into the problem

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

Next scheduled regular meeting will be March 2nd, 2026 at the Forest City Emergency Service building on Railroad Street at 6 p.m. Council announced that there will be a special meeting about sewer/garbage bill on resident's taxes, and the debit credit machine on February 22nd, 2026 at 6 p.m. The 250th celebration meeting is February 9th at 6 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

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