

# **FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES**

## **MONDAY JANUARY 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

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### **CALL TO ORDER:** (President Obelenus)

Mayor Cost called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. He welcomed everyone. He then asked everyone to join in the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

### **REORGANAZITION 2026:**

Mayor Cost opened the floor with Council President nominations with Councilman Norella made a motion for Councilman Obelenus for President, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor. Mayor Cost asked for a motion for Vice President with Councilwoman Lazier making a motion for Councilman Scalzo for Vice President, seconded by Councilman Norella, all in favor. Mayor Cost passed the gavel to President Obelenus.

### **ROLL CALL:**

Present: President Obelenus, V.P. Bernie Scalzo, Michael Norella, Tracey Lazier, Eileen Lynch, Secretary/Treasurer Dennise Yankauskas, Secretary Cindy Stone, Mayor Cost, Solicitor McAndrew. Absent was elected council member John Zasik who was not sworn in.

### **Council President:**

President Obelenus asked for a motion for President Pro Tem made by V.P. Scalzo for Councilman Norella, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, all in favor. President Obelenus asked for a motion to reappoint the Vacancy Board Chair, John Kameen. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, all in favor. President Obelenus asked for a motion to reappoint the Borough Solicitor, Marissa McAndrew. Councilwoman Lazier made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor. President Obelenus asked for a motion to reappoint the Emergency Management Coordinator, Paul Mihelc. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, all in favor. President Obelenus asked to approve Resolution #1-2026 to reappoint Borough Secretary/Treasurer, Dennise Yankauskas. Councilwoman Lazier made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor. President Obelenus asked to approve Resolution #2-2026 to reappoint Zoning Office, Joe Unis Jr. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor. President Obelenus asked to approve Resolution #3-2026 to reappoint, Dennise Yankauskas as the Right to Know Officer. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, all in favor. A motion for committee chair holder was tabled for February meeting.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Obelenus)

An executive session was held on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and this evening for personal issues.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:** (President Obelenus)

Amy Bean stated this has nothing to with anyone in the room, but her opinion; before you make any decision on Joe Unis for Code Enforcement Officer, she stated that subornation within the borough has been overwhelmed. If you label Joe because of one complaint, there is a lot more issues that need to be looked at, then put everyone else in the same category. Before council gets rid of Joe, who has done a lot for the borough, think about what you’re doing for just one complaint.

John Kamden asked where is the newly elected council member, President Obelenus stated he has been excused at this time, just needs his oath of office yet.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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### **ADMINISTRATION:** (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lazier, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve January 2026 treasurer report. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to advertise to fill vacancy left by the 2025 General Election. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve Brian T. Kelly for \$7000 for the 2025 Municipal Annual Audit. Councilwoman Lazier made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call vote was 4, with Councilman Norella the one nay.

### **PUBLIC WORKS:** (V.P. Scalzo)

The Public Works report for December 2025 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of December was \$291. LSA Grant paperwork is complete and we are a very good candidate for the grant.

### **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:** (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella updated on the elevator the contract was signed and sent back to the company and all the parts are on order, repair will start as soon as the parts come in. Councilwoman Lynch stated permit are complete and work will start in the next three weeks

### **COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

No updates

### **PARKS & RECREATION:** (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella updated the Parks & Recreation soup and chili cook off for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Councilman Norella also mentioned to register before hand, if not enough reserved the committee will not hold the event. Councilman Norella and council made a committee to meet with the Forest City Little League to see what the little league can do to improve the fields and dugouts. Meeting will be held at the borough building on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @7 p.m.

### **COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH:** (President Obelenus)

No Updates

### **CODE ENFORCEMENT:** (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for December 2025. Code Enforcement Officer has started rental inspections. President Obelenus asked for a motion to advertise Ordinance #529-2026 pave cut. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor. V.P. Scalzo made a motion to continue to employ our current Code Enforcement Officer or advertise/hire another person for the job was tabled, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT:** (Mayor Nick Cost)

Mayor Cost asked if there are any questions or concerns on the December 2025 Police report. Mayor Cost asked if any questions on the annual police report and fire department report for the 2025 year. The motion to hire Terry Thompson as part-time police officer at \$25/hr was tabled for the work session on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026.

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### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:** (Solicitor McAndrew)

No Updates

### **CONTINUED BUSINESS:** (Various Council Members)

Councilwoman Lazier asked about snow removal and who was in charge of the decision. President Obelenus stated according to the Ordinance it is the Council President, Vice President and the Mayor. Councilwoman Lazier asked what to do now that her husband works for Mikloiche. Solicitor McAndrew stated she should abstain her vote just like Councilwoman Lynch does when we are awarding something to the bank. Councilman Norella stated just remember we only have enough money in the snow removal account for 4 removals. President Obelenus stated he spoke with Penn Dot and they have no problem with Public works crew pushing the snow closer to the curbs.

### **NEW BUSINESS:** (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to create a petition to approve a bill to decrease the number of council members for the Forest City Borough from seven to five was tabled. Discuss and motion for number of hours worked per week for the Code Enforcement Officer which includes project manager duties was tabled. The motion to approve the 5 extra holidays and agreed budgeted 5% raise for Non-uniform employ's vs the 2% raise now introduced was made by Councilman Norella, seconded by V.P. Scalzo for 5% raise, roll call was all in favor.

### **CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:**

A gentleman came from Scranton about rails and trails for a snow mobile runs and to use the Yucca Flats. He stated they have insurance and some noise with the machines. President Obelenus stated Linde owns the land and would have to speak with him. The gentleman stated he would collect donations for the local fire department. He does not have a date yet and would get back to council on it.

Amy Bean asked if the new Mayor was changing things in the Police Department and Mayor Cost stated it was a rumor started by one person and it is false information.

President Obelenus asked again about volunteers needed for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration to contact the borough office.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus stated effective January 1, 2026 for the February sewer and garbage bills on Resolutions #12-2025 sewer and garbage bills will go from \$19.75 to \$24.75 for a total of \$54.00 dollars, will be reflected in February 2026 bill.

A work shop will be held at the EMS building on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 @ 6p.m. for delinquent sewer and garbage bills, for sewer and garbage added to the yearly tax bill and for credit card new billing system.

President Obelenus announced Browndale/Forest City line on the bridge change weight limit that was lowered.

The next regular meeting will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 at 6 p.m. held at the Emergency Service Building at 380 Railroad Street.

### **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.