

FOREST CITY BOROUGH MINUTES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 6th, 2025

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:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

An executive session was held after the October 6th, 2025 meeting on employee’s issues.

A Special Budget Workshop held on October 20th, 2025. Elevator Bid and Zoning Fees were also reviewed.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (President Obelenus)

No comments

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ADMINISTRATION: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve regular meeting minutes from October 6th, 2025. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Scoggins, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve October 20th, 2025 special meeting minutes. 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 October 2025 treasurer report. Councilwoman Scoggins made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call vote was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the 2026 General Fund Budget V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Scoggins, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Sewer Budget. V.P. Scalzo made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the 2026 tax levy. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the 2026 meeting schedule. Councilwoman Lynch made the motion, seconded by Councilman Norella, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the revising Forest City Employee Handbook. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by V.P. Scalzo, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve to open a new bank account dedicated to garbage payments at either First National Bank or The Honesdale National Bank. Council chose First National Bank with Councilman Norella making the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Scoggins, council voted 5 to 0 with Councilwoman Lynch abstaining.

PUBLIC WORKS: (V.P. Scalzo)

The Public Works report for October 2025 was offered. V.P. Scalzo also stated recycling donations for the month of October was \$190 and donations are what keeps the program going. V.P. Scalzo had a meeting with JHA about the Upper North Main Street and the Penn Dot permit will be another 5 months before it comes through. JHA applied for an LSA grant for the project. More updates will come in the future.

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BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella updated on the elevator the contract will be signed and sent back to the company and work will be started soon. Council tabled hiring a temporary cleaning person until Kara Erdman returns.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: (Amy Bean)

Councilwoman Bean stated that the Action team is still looking for volunteers. FCOTAT team meeting with Jason Wood from Woodlands design is November 10th, 2025, to discuss the Pocket Park.

PARKS & RECREATION: (Michael Norella)

Councilman Norella mentioned the Trunk and Treat was a success with over 300 hundred kids and thanked everyone who helped in the event. Councilman Norrella thanked Public Works for winterizing the park for the winter, the park is closed. Disc Golf Course is all cleaned and thanked the two volunteers. The next event at the park will be in February a soup and chili cook off. Councilman Norrella also mentioned downtown Halloween event was a success also even in the pouring rain.

COMMUNITY SAFETY & HEALTH: (President Obelenus)

No Updates

CODE ENFORCEMENT (Eileen Lynch)

Councilwoman Lynch read the code enforcement report for October 2025. Councilwoman Lynch mentioned that The Code Enforcement Officer will be looking for resident not following the town's ordinance's and will be fining them. There was a discussion about the Rental Inspection if annual or if it changes renters or owners. It was confirmed that only if there is a change of occupancy or they sell the property. There was discussion about 501 Main Street about the time it is taking for the owner to do something with it. Council will stay on top of it to make sure something is done. Councilwoman Scoggins asked about the church sale and it was said that answers, questions, and payments are still in the works.

MAYOR'S REPORT: (Mayor Christopher Ginton)

Mayor Ginton asked if there are any questions or concerns on the October 2025 Police report. Councilwoman Scoggins asked if the Police report can contain better information, example criminal offenses, was it 7 people or was in one person doing all 7 offenses. Just clarify it better. The Police department will look into this suggestion. The Mayor stated the drug take back was successful. The Mayor thanked all the volunteers that helped with the Steam Town Marathon. The Mayor stated free parking on Main Street from December 15th, 2025 through January 6th, 2025.

Council tabled the purchase of two blinker signs at the cross walks until further information was received through Penn Dot.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve \$1350 two laptops for the Police Department. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Scoggins, roll call was all in favor.

The Mayor stated that overnight parking on Main Street was in effect now, and will be enforced until March 31st, 2026 from 2 a.m. to 5 a.m.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT: (Solicitor McAndrew)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve at the cost of \$2500 to execute the sale of Virginia Lucas's property at 62 Depot Street. Solicitor McAndrew gave advice of what the details included, Council then decided to table the matter for further information.

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CONTINUED BUSINESS: (Various Council Members)

President Obelenus stated the paving on Fell, Carly, and North Street was completed and 95% of Erie and Center Street is completed.

NEW BUSINESS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve to pay an invoice to Griffin Pond Shelter for 3 animals from Hudson Street that the Forest City Police brought to the shelter for \$360. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Scoggins, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve the advertising of part-time Police Officers. Councilman Norella made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor.

President Obelenus asked for a motion to approve \$250 donations for the FCR students Christmas tree lighting. Councilwoman Scoggins made the motion, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, roll call was all in favor.

Councilman Norella asked if Joe the Code Enforcement Officer come to the meeting since a majority of the meeting is about him. Councilwoman Lynch said she would ask him.

CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENT:

Robin Kingsbury from Delaware Street asked if something was done with the Code Enforcement Officer from complaints to the Borough. Solicitor McAndrew stated confidential issues cannot be discussed in public or if action had taken place. Robin asked if we come here and spill our guts out to you and you can't tell us what's going on, how are we supposed to know what's going on. Councilwoman Lynch stated if I work at a place and where ever you work, I can't just work in and ask if you disciplined that person, Robin said that interesting thank you that she would get back to her. Her next question was CEO UIS disciplined before or after you promoted him. President Obelenus said he can't comment on that. Mrs. Kingsbury also wanted to know how the chain of command works and she also handed out a complaint from her neighbor to council. Councilman Norella stated there will be an investigation to the matter. President Obelenus said that your 5 minutes is up and he would come back to you later. John Kameen thanked PPL for finally fixing the light in front of his building. Mrs. Kingsbury stated that whomever works at the bank, you should not be talking about borough business, violations at work and that it is unethical.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: (President Obelenus)

President Obelenus stated the Borough is looking for volunteers to plan and organize a Celebration for the 250th Anniversary of the USA in the summer of 2026.

The next regular meeting will be December 1st, 2025 at 6 p.m. held at the Emergency Service Building at 380 Railroad Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

V.P. Scalzo made a motion for adjournment, seconded by Councilwoman Lynch, all in favor, none opposed. President Obelenus adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.