

The first joint public meeting of the Adams Township Board of Supervisors and the Mars Borough Council was held on January 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Twelve Oaks Mansion, 160 Scharberry Lane, Mars PA 16046.

Present at the meeting for Adams Township were Supervisors Russell R. Ford, Ronald J. Shemela, David M. Goodworth and Ronald G. Nacey, Solicitors Michael Gallagher and Sean Gallagher and Township Manager Michael Tylka. Present for the Mars Borough Council were Mike Fleming, John McWilliams, William Lambert, Eric Pomeroy, Bradford Price and Jim Garrity, Mayor Gregg Hartung, Solicitor Chris Reese and Secretary Christine Clutter.

Mars Borough Mayor Hartung called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Hartung introduced the Mars Borough Council members, and Adams Township Manager, Mike Tylka introduced the Adams Township Supervisors and municipal staff.

Mars Borough Council President Mike Fleming made introductory remarks, stressing that this meeting was to be transparent and provide the residents with information. Adams Township Chairman Russ Ford worked through a PowerPoint presentation detailing the purpose and process of the possible merger. The PowerPoint presentation will be available on Adams Township website. Chairman Ford concluded his presentation stating that the next meeting would be held on March 24, 2026 and that DCED would be attending that meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Solicitor Mike Gallagher opened the meeting to public comments asking that speakers give their name and address and that speakers be respectful and courteous.

Anastasia Nelson, 338 Clay Avenue, asked for clarification of the merger timeline. Chairman Ford stated that there would be several meetings this year, they would file with the state in July of this year and the merger would be on the ballot in November 2026. If both Mars Borough and Adams Township residents vote to merge, the merger would be effective January 1, 2028.

Tim Williams, 1776 Freedom Way, asked if Mars Borough would be dissolved. Chairman Ford stated that in following the DCED rules, yes the Mars Borough Council would be dissolved and the merger of Mars Borough and Adams Township would result in a 2nd Class Township.

Mr. Williams also questioned the revenues on the Mars Borough Budget.

Council President Mike Fleming explained that this was the operational budget for Mars and that there are two grant applications that are in process.

Pam Alikhani, 157 Brickyard Road, asked about MS4 stormwater.

Chairman Ford stated that Adams Township is up to date with the requirements. Council President Mike Fleming stated that stormwater management is a priority for Mars Borough.

Tina Wilson, 105 Goodluck Lane, asked if the Adams Township ordinances would be transferred to Mars Borough.

Chairman Ford said ordinances will be looked at by staff.

Dale Ferguson, 547 Juniper Court, asked about the collective bargaining agreements and how that would be handled.

Chairman Ford stated that Adams Township just signed a 5 year contract with the police and a 3 year contract with the public works department. Mars Borough currently does not have any contracts.

Ed McCaul, 727 Pine Avenue, asked why Mars Council would be dissolved and why there would not be any open seats.

Chairman Ford stated that the DCED would provide more detail and that they would be attending the next merger meeting in March.

Ernie Ramella, 615 Stanton Avenue, asked about redevelopment of Mars.

Chairman Ford stated redevelopment will be based on the communities wants and needs.

Council President Mike Fleming stated that Mars has some great businesses that he would like to see receive more support. He would like to clean up the sidewalks and make them safer for events.

Pam Robinson, 534 Beaver Street, asked if a community center had been considered. Chairman Ford said yes, a Recreation Center has been considered in Adams Park.

Renee Pomeroy, tax collector for Mars Borough, offered several points for consideration. Her first point is that revitalization talk does not mean that new businesses will move in. This is determined by each individual business owner. Her second point was that the amount of tax saved would be dependent and in some cases would not be a lot. Her last point was that Borough residents don't know who will be on the board and whether promises made will be kept. Both Chairman Ford and Council President Fleming stated this was a merger to help both communities by combining forces and doing more together.

Harmony Fredley, 306 Garfield Avenue, has two little girls and is concerned that Mars Borough could not offer 24 hour police coverage. She feels that the Borough is small and has limited resources and that a merger would offer more services.

Mary Ann NudiSembrat, The Print Shop, 133 Grand Avenue, asked if there will be a mercantile tax in the future. Chairman Ford offered no comment other than no new or higher taxes is the goal.

AJ Nelson, 338 Clay Avenue, thanked Adams and Mars for coming together and hopes they can keep the Borough charm. She also asked if Mars residents could get goats?

Clem Rosenberger, CEO Nextier Bank, stated that the bank will remain a partner.

Lori Thee, 550 East Vanderbilt Dr, asked about the level of use of the library.

Chairman Ford asked the room what the name of the Township should be if there is a merger. Most of the residents in attendance said Mars Township.

Dave Peters, 201 Horseshoe Drive, asked about the zoning and how it would be addressed. Chairman Ford said that still needs to be determined.

Sarah Ramella , 615 Stanton Avenue, asked if the bank was being torn down for the new library and if the Discovery Center was still part of the new library. Chairman Ford answered yes, the bank would have to be torn down as the building was not ADA compliant and that it is unknown if there will be a Discovery Center.

Ed Pfeifer, Pfeifer Hardware, 300 Marshall Way, asked about the parks in Mars. Chairman Ford said there are no discussions to remove them.

Clinton Colpo, 801 Hazel, asked if the post office will stay open and if there will be rent on the boxes. Mr. Colpo also asked about leaf removal. Council President Fleming stated there are no changes to the post office or where you get your mail. This is controlled by the Postmaster, not the Township. Chairman Ford said the leaf removal would continue.

Tim Williams, 1776 Freedom Way, asked about the water plant. Council President Fleming stated that the water plant was efficient and well maintained.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Ford thanked the Santas for the free use of the venue for this meeting and stated that they were an example of community.

The next merger meeting was set for March 24, 2026 at 6:00 pm. The meeting was concluded at 7:45pm.



Theresa L. Turner, Township Secretary