The sixth joint public meeting of the Adams Township Board of Supervisors and the Mars Borough Council was held on October 29, 2026, at 7:00 pm at the Adams Township Municipal Building.

Present at the meeting of Mars Borough Council were Mike Fleming, William Lambert, Brad Price, Eric Pomeroy, Jim Garrity, Jana Snavely, Mayor Greg Hartung and Chris Reese, Mars Borough Solicitor. Adams Township Supervisors Russ Ford, Darryl Brandon, Ron Nacey, Ron Shemela, Dave Goodworth, and Township Manager Mike Tylka.

Meeting began at 7:08 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike Tylka introduced the Mars Council, Mayor and the Township Supervisors.

Chairman Russ Ford explained that they will not be going through a slide show but only taking questions at this meeting. Being transparent has been the goal from the beginning and informing the residents of the facts of the merger is top priority. Chairman Ford stated that regardless of whether you are for or against the merger they want residents to have the facts when they go to vote on November 3rd.

Public Comments and Questions

Chris Reel, Adams Township, asked why money had been spent on renderings for a new library if it wasn't going to be built without the merger. Chairman Ford explained that plans for the library were already underway before merger discussions began.

Clint Colpo, Adams Township, asked why we don't have a firm picture of the library. Chairman Ford stated that every option was considered to keep the library on Grand Avenue, Mars. Supervisors are not going to ask Adams Township residents to build a library in Mars Borough. Mike Fleming explained that current renderings of the library are basically showing the square footage that will be used for the library.

Ed Rice, Adams Township, asked what the bond rating of Mars Borough and Adams Township was. Chairman Ford said he honestly does not know the answer, they have not had anything financed in the 18 years he has been on the board.

Krista Kulh, Adams Township, stated that at merger meeting number 2 a representative from the State presented guidelines. Krista asked how much we paid for the State's guidance. Chairman Ford said we paid absolutely nothing and the State is 100% supportive of the merger.

Jim Manning, Adams Township, asked if the voting districts will change. Chairman Ford said no changes will be made.

Staci Nelson, Library Board Member, asked for voters to consider voting YES to the merger.

Luann Tacznosky, Adams Township, asked how the merger will affect events, sports and Splash Pad. Chairman Ford said the merger will enhance these events.

Mike Fleming commented that one of the drivers for the merger is the stability of the Sewage and Water Authorities. Neither of them is for sale.

Erin Hetrick, Adams Township, asked the council and board of supervisors what they think will be the biggest win for Adams Township. Ron Nacey, Township Supervisor, said that Adams Township will now have a downtown. Darryl Brandon, Township Supervisor, stated that there will be less government.

Ron Shemela & Dave Goodworth, Township Supervisors, said the consolidation of services. Chairman Ford, said people will want to invest in downtown Mars if there is a merger.

Dave Smolenski, Adams Township, Adams business owner, commented on how wonderful Adams & Mars area is compared to Allegheny County where he came from. He never saw such caring people in government. He feels the merger will draw revitalization and new business.

Leslie Brooks, Adams Township, stated that Adams is not going to buy property on Grand Avenue and make everything pretty. Chairman Ford agreed that Adams Township will not be buying property.

Stacy Nelson, Mars Borough, asked what Adams is going to do for the restoration of Mars. Chairman Ford said that Adams will be involved in the code and safety of restoration but not the development.

Joey Shaw, Mars Borough, asked how Mars was going to be represented if the merger goes through. Chairman Ford explained that one Supervisor seat will open in 2027, anyone can run against Ron Nacey for that seat. An advisory board, made up of Mars Borough council, will be in place to help with the transition.

Treavor Moore, Adams Township, asked Mike Fleming how a NO vote will be detrimental to Mars Borough. Mike explained that there will be disappointment of a missed opportunity for the community to grow. There are investment inquiries due to the merger. Treavor also asked what caused the merger talks to begin. Chairman Ford said that location of a new library sparked the discussion. Finally, Treavor asked if he could see the financial slide of the presentation.

Krista Kuhl, Adams Township, asked if the library will be built if the merger is voted down. Chairman Ford said Adams Township will not build a library in Mars Borough.

Danielle Ditzell, Mars Borough business owner, commented that the Mars business owners are very excited for a possible merger and asked everyone for their support.

Art Fromm, Adams Township, commented that when taxes go down, property values go up.

Chuck Tanner, Butler City, commented that mergers in the state of Pennsylvania do not happen very often. There is a lot of duplicity of the 2500 municipalities in the state.

Final Statements made by the Mars Council and Adams Supervisors

Jana Snavely, Mars Council, believes it is a win-win for both communities and is asking for a Yes vote.

Jim Garrity, Mars Council, stated that a lot of work has gone into this process and is excited for Tuesday.

Bill Lambert, Mars Council, said that he is still undecided.

Eric Pomeroy, Mars Council, began this process as a NO vote, but after meeting Mike Tylka, and seeing how things are done at Adams Township, he has changed his vote to Yes.

Brad Price, Mars Council, stated that he has had over 200 conversations with people in the community. We are one community with two governments.

Mike Fleming, Mars Council, thanked everyone who attended the meeting. He thanked the Adams Township supervisors and staff and said Adams Township works at a very high level and would like Mars Borough to be part of that. Let's take this opportunity.

Mayor Hartung, Mayor of Mars Borough, other communities are watching us, we are cutting new territory, and we can help other communities.

Dave Goodworth, Adam Supervisor, thanked everyone that attended, and said if the merger is voted for he will represent a new community.

Ron Shemela, Adams Supervisor, said they were 100% transparent.

Ron Nacey, Adams Supervisor, said it's our responsibility for the next generation to do something good.

Darryl Brandon, Adams Supervisor, said that being a supervisor is very rewarding, the supervisors are doing what is best for the community.

Chairman Russ Ford, Adams Supervisor, said that this merger is monumental. Don't be misled by social media. Please call with questions, get the facts. This decision will be up to the residents.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Jennifer Ford