

PAXTANG BOROUGH
Workshop Meeting
3423 Derry Street
November 6, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Council President	Kathleen Bloss
Council Vice-President	Eric Fillman
Council President Pro-Tempore	Jack Thomas

Thomas Wingert
Jennifer Britten
Corbin Bower
Matthew Leonard

Mayor	Nathan Martin
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BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Borough Manager	Keldeen Stambaugh
Borough Solicitor	Joshua Bonn
Borough EMA Director	Robin Bloss

President Bloss called to order the November 6, 2024, Workshop meeting at 7:00: p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bloss stated since no members of the public were in attendance, it would not be necessary to present the protocol for voicing opinions on matters of public concerns and proceeded with this evening's meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR – Mayor Martin expressed his gratitude to those that worked the General Election polls on Tuesday, November 5. Appreciation was extended to the Paxtang Lions Club for all their hard work put forth in making the Halloween Parade such a success on Tuesday, October 22. Mayor Martin took this opportunity to thank the Swatara Township Police, the Swatara Township Fire, and the Lawnton American Legion Post 998 for their assistance and support at the Halloween Parade.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Administration – Council members are to contact Vice-President Fillman or Manager Stambaugh if they have any questions or concerns regarding the proposed 2025 Budget before the First Reading takes place. At this point, no tax increase is anticipated for 2025.

Health, Sanitation, and Codes – No Report from Councilman Thomas

Highway and Stormwater – No Report from Councilman Leonard

Property and Recreation – No Report from Councilman Bower

Public Relations and Grants – No Report from Councilwoman Britten

Public Safety – No Report from Councilman Wingert

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR – Solicitor Bonn presented an update with regard to Paxtang Fire Company litigation. On October 22 and 23, 2024 Judge Dowling held a Hearing to address the cross motions for preliminary injunctions that were filed by the Borough and the Fire Company. Prior to conducting the Hearing, Judge Dowling met with counsel in Chambers and advised that he is moving the ejectment trial to January 2025. After that, Judge Dowling took testimony Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. On Monday, November 4, Solicitor Bonn received an Order from Judge Dowling. He denied the Fire Company’s demand to be placed back on the call boxes for Paxtang Borough and Swatara Township. He denied the Fire Company’s demand to reactivate the siren at the Paxtang municipal building. He denied the Fire Company’s demand to restore the reserved parking signs in the Borough parking lot. Judge Dowling ruled that the Borough must continue to heat and cool the Fire Company’s watch room office area at the Borough’s expense. The Borough must fix the thermostat in the Fire Company’s watch room office area so that the Fire Company can access it to use it, but the Fire Company must keep the thermostat at 68 degrees in the winter weather and 72 degrees in summer weather. He also required the Fire Company to keep the bay door closed during winter and spring months. This resolves the Borough’s concern because the Borough had disconnected the thermostat because the Fire Company kept leaving the bay door open during extreme weather conditions resulting in exorbitant utility bills. Judge Dowling granted the Borough’s demand to prevent the Fire Company from installing security cameras in the day room. He required the Fire Company to provide access to their storage area upon reasonable request. He required the Borough to return the seized security cameras to Austin Schrader. That has occurred and Mr. Schrader signed an acknowledgement of such return and that the Fire Company is not allowed to reinstall the cameras. Judge Dowling ordered the Borough to hire a contractor to repair the flooring and drywall in the basement area used by the Fire Company. Those repairs were ordered to be fixed at the Borough’s expense. Those areas were damaged during a flooding event earlier this year. Although we presented evidence that the Borough may be in violation of the municipal bidding requirements, Judge Dowling ordered that such contract must be awarded tonight and that such work must be completed by December 20, 2024. An Executive Session would be held to discuss compliance with the Order.

The following items were discussed: funding for this project would be discussed at an Executive Session as a portion of funding is available through insurance and that the original trial date scheduled for May 2025 was more than likely moved up by Judge Dowling to January 2025 in order to resolve this issue expeditiously.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER

Manager Stambaugh stated while policy matters were on the Agenda, she requested more time be allotted in order to discuss policy matters with Committee Chairpersons.

NEW BUSINESS

HIRE CONTRACTOR FOR RESTORATION IN THE MUNICIPAL BASEMENT

President Bloss stated Council would address the matter of the hiring a contractor after an Executive Session this evening.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bloss stated since no members of the public were in attendance, it would not be necessary to present the protocol for voicing opinions on matters of public concerns and proceeded with this evening's meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:08 p.m. President Bloss announced Council would retire to Executive Session. The Borough Solicitor, Borough Manager, Borough Mayor and Borough Council Members were invited to remain to discuss matters of litigation. President Bloss will reconvene the Workshop Meeting after the Executive Session.

Secretary Clark was relieved of her duties for the remainder of the evening

President Bloss reconvened the November 6 Workshop Meeting at 8:12 p.m. stating an Executive Session was held where matters of litigation were discussed. Present at the Executive Session were the Borough Manager, Borough Solicitor, Borough Mayor, and Borough Council Members.

NEW BUSINESS - HIRE CONTRACTOR FOR RESTORATION TO THE MUNICIPAL BASEMENT

*1) Vice -President Fillman stated to comply with the Dauphin County Order of October 31, 2024, issued by Judge Dowling in the Borough's Civil Action with the Fire Company, he would make a motion that the Borough hire Allen Restorations, Inc. of Hershey, Pennsylvania to perform repairs to the basement, resulting from water damage in April of 2024; provided the contractor can complete the work by December 20, 2024, as ordered by the Court; and further provided that the project cost shall not exceed \$30,000.00. Motion seconded by Councilman Bower.

*2) Motion amended to read – to perform repairs to the basement and the gymnasium. Motion as originally seconded by Councilman Bower stands. Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

*3) At 8:13 p.m. Councilman Thomas made a motion to adjourn the November 6, 2024, Workshop Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Britten. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Secretary

- 1.Hire Allen Restorations – Repair Work to the Municipal Basement
- 2.Amend Motion – Repair Work to the Municipal Basement and Municipal Gymnasium
- 3.Adjournment

