

**PAXTANG BOROUGH
Workshop Meeting
3423 Derry Street
December 6, 2022**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

Council President	Kathleen Bloss
Council Vice President	Christopher Spackman
Council President Pro-Tempore	Jack Thomas

Thomas Wingert
Jennifer Britten
Corbin Bower
Eric Fillman

Mayor	Nathan Martin
-------	---------------

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Borough Manager	Keldeen Stambaugh
Borough Solicitor	Joshua Bonn

President Bloss called to order the December 6, 2022, Workshop meeting at 7:00 p.m.

On the advice of Counsel, President Bloss stated the following would be read at the beginning of each Council Meeting:

Public comment is an opportunity for residents and taxpayers to voice their opinions on matters of public concern. Borough Council will listen to each speaker and should not interrupt or engage speakers in debate. Public comment is not a question-and-answer session. Borough Council handles complex issues and further research may be necessary to insure accurate dissemination of information. Certain matters such as legal proceedings, contractual negotiations, or investigations may involve privileged or confidential information that cannot be publicly disseminated without adverse legal consequence to the Borough and its taxpayers. Ordinarily questions raised during public comment will be referred to the appropriate committee or the Borough Manager. The Council President may ask or permit other members of Council or Borough staff to ask clarifying questions of the speaker to obtain information necessary for an appropriate referral. The Borough Manager shall respond as appropriate generally by contacting the individual speaker directly. The Council President retains discretion to respond to questions that do not require further research such as the dates of upcoming events or services available to Borough residents. And with that as we have been stating, we allow 3 minutes per speaker for general public comment. You may approach the microphone and state your name and address. Everyone who would like to share comments is welcome to do so. We will begin with comments from the Paxtang Borough residents, business, or property owners. If there are no additional comments from Paxtang Borough residents, business, or property owners, we will proceed with comments shared by any other concerned individuals, and with that, it is open for public comment.

After the reading with regard to protocol for audience participation, President Bloss opened the floor for audience members to share their comments.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Hearing no comments from the audience, President Bloss proceeded with the Workshop Meeting.

GUEST SPEAKER – MR. WILLIAM MINSKER – AMERICA 250PA

Mr. William Minsker, representing AMERICA 250 PA, encouraged Council to consider signing and approving a resolution in support of the PA Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial (AMERICA 250PA) program. Mr. Minsker presented an overview of programs, projects, and events planned for celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States during 2026. A resolution would be brought before Council for consideration at a future meeting.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Martin thanked the Paxtang Lions Club and Borough staff for their time and effort in making the Christmas Tree lighting celebration on Sunday, December 4 a success. A sincere thank you to the Paxtang Elementary students and former staff member, Ms. Brenda Rodriguez, for leading a well attended audience in an evening of caroling.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Administration – No Report from Vice-President Spackman

Health and Sanitation – No Report from Councilman Thomas

Highway – No Report from Councilman Bower

Property and Recreation – No Report from Councilman Fillman

Public Relations – Councilwoman Britten mentioned the deadline for submission of articles to the Paxtang Post is December 15.

Public Safety – No Report from Councilman Wingert

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR

TAX ASSESSMENT PRO RATA SHARE OF AN APPRAISAL TAX ASSESSMENT APPEAL DAUPHIN DEPOSIT BANK BUILDING 3607 DERRY STREET.

Solicitor Bonn reported further negotiations are occurring as there are inconsistencies among the three appraisals as prepared. More information will be provided when available.

RIGHT TO KNOW APPEAL – MR. GAVIN FORD

A Right To Know appeal, filed in the Pennsylvania Office of Open Records by Mr. Gavin Ford, would be addressed during an Executive Session later this evening. If a decision were to be offered by Council, the decision would be made in the public meeting following the Executive Session.

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

CAPITAL REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS DINNER (CAPCOG)

CAPCOG will hold their 2023 Annual Dinner and Reorganization Meeting on January 16, 2023. Council members are to contact Manager Stambaugh if interested in attending.

PENNSYLVANIA SMALL WATER AND SEWER PROGRAM GRANT

Borough Public Works employee, Brian Rotolo will be taking the lead with the PA Department of Community and Economic Development Grant application. Grant is for repairs and upgrades to the Paxtang Borough sanitary sewer and storm sewer system. Additional information will be presented at the December 20, 2022, Regular Business Meeting.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

President Bloss noted no additional individuals had joined the meeting since the protocol for public comment was last read and the floor would now be open for members to share their comments. Hearing no remarks from the audience, President Bloss proceeded with the Workshop Meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:20 p.m. President Bloss announced Council would be retiring to an Executive Session to address potential action on Gavin Ford’s Right to Know Appeal with the Office of Open Records and to seek advice from legal Counsel. Council members, Borough Mayor, and Borough Manager were invited to attend the meeting. The Workshop meeting would reconvene following the Executive Session.

Secretary Clark was excused from the remainder of the meeting

At 7:53 p.m. President Bloss reconvened the December 6, 2022, Workshop Meeting stating legal advice from Counsel was sought with regard to potential action on Mr. Gavin Ford’s Right To Know appeal with the Office of Open Records.

FURTHER BUSINESS

Councilmen Fillman offered the following comments: The Right To Know Law, as discussed, gives discretion to release documents that we determine are in the public interest despite the fact that they may be legally justified to be shielded from the public. In this instance, we believe the request that was made, although there is some question as to whether it was actually received or not, we believe the request by Mr. Gavin Ford is reasonable.

*1) Councilman Fillman made a motion to direct staff to release the documents requested by Mr. Gavin Ford as specified in the November 22 Appeal docketed in the Office of Open Records to the extent that they exist. Motion seconded by Councilman Thomas. Councilman Fillman stated he was appreciative of staff and counsel on this matter, these things do not have to be as tedious as they sometimes are, but when they are, we have expert advice and expert staff dealing with them. Both counsel and staff can easily be overwhelmed by these requests, and we thank them for their excellent work. After discussion, motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

*2) Councilman Thomas made a motion to adjourn the December 6, 2022, Workshop Meeting. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Secretary

- 1. Release documents – Gavin Ford’s Right to Know Request
- 2. Adjourn