

PAXTANG BOROUGH
Workshop Meeting
3423 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA
April 7, 2020

BOROUGH OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING

Council President	Kathleen Bloss
Council Vice President	Christopher Spackman
Council Protempo	Jack Thomas

Council Members	Joshua Eisner
	David Gui
	Thomas Wingert

Mayor	Sheilah Borne Fuller
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Council Members Absent	Angel Gonzalez
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BOROUGH OFFICIALS

Borough Manager	Keldeen Stambaugh
Borough Solicitor	J. Stephen Feinour
Borough Engineer	Jeremy Smith
Borough Fire Chief	John Tinari - Absent

Manager Stambaugh announced that due to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19 and under the recommendations of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and Pennsylvania Secretary Rachel Levine of the Department of Health, "Social Distancing" has been put into practice by restricting public access to the Borough building and by Council conducting their first virtual meeting through the telecommunication service of "Zoom". Details of the meeting were provided through the Borough website, social media service of Facebook, and an automated phone call to Borough residents and businesses.

An opportunity for audience participation will be offered. At the direction of President Bloss, instructions are being provided and phone lines unmuted. As there was no video or visual recognition, Council members were asked to provide their name during discussion and when making a motion so as to be recorded for the purpose of meeting Minutes. At this time the meeting was turned over to President Bloss.

President Bloss said the Public Hearing regarding the Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 425 scheduled for this evening has been postponed due to COVID-19 and restricted public access to the Borough building. President Bloss asked for a motion to reschedule the Public Hearing.

*1) Councilman Wingert made a motion to reschedule the Public Hearing regarding the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Chapter 425 to May 19, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilman Vice President Spackman. Motion carried 4 Yea 1 Nay Councilman Thomas voiced a Nay vote.

REPORT OF THE MANAGER

EXTENSION FOR REPAIR OF BOROUGH SIDEWALKS

Manager Stambaugh suggested that due to the lack of contractors being permitted to do certain work during the COVID-19 Pandemic, that Council consider extending the completion date for sidewalk repairs to July 31, 2020.

*2) Councilman Thomas made a motion to extend the deadline for sidewalk repairs to July 31, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilman Eisner. Motion carried.

DAUPHIN COUNTY PROPERTY TAXES

On April 1, 2020, the Dauphin County Commissioners adopted a Resolution calling for a simple flat fee and to waive any penalties between June 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020 for County Property Taxes. Commissioners would like municipalities to support their Resolution. President Bloss was of the opinion that the request was to take steps for implementation of action and for endorsement of the process for the waiving of penalties for 2020 County Real Property Taxes.

President Bloss stated the Resolution does not alter the tax remittance period for any Local Municipality, School District, Municipal Library, Municipal Fire Protection, nor does it change the remittance period for the County Library Tax. It only impacts change to the remittance period of the County Real Estate Taxes. After much discussion on exactly what taxes were involved, Councilman Eisner suggested Manager Stambaugh reach out for clarification and address the issue at the Regular Business Meeting of April 21, 2020.

*3) Councilman Eisner made a motion to table this matter for reasons of clarification and to discuss at the Regular Business Meeting of April 21, 2020. Motion seconded by Councilman Wingert. Motion carried.

BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX EXTENSION

Keystone Collections Group is asking for Council's consideration in extending the date for the filing of Business Privilege Taxes to July 15, 2020. Councilman Wingert asked if an extension would have an impact on the public hearing to be held on May 19. Solicitor Feinour was of the belief that it would not have any impact.

*4) Councilman Wingert made a motion to extend the filing date for Business Privilege Taxes to July 15, 2020 as requested by Keystone Collections Group. Motion seconded by Councilman Thomas. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Due to the absence of Chief Tinari, Manager Stambaugh reported that the Fire Company has implemented extra precautions on calls due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Three sets of turn out gear have been ordered. Delivery will be in approximately 5 months. Council approved this purchase at the March 17, 2020 Regular Business Meeting. Chief Tinari sent his monthly and first quarter reports to members of Council for their review.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Administration - No Report from Councilman Eisner

Public Safety - No Report from Councilman Gui

Property and Recreation - Vice-President Spackman stated due to COVID-19, Borough playgrounds and pavilion have been closed until further notice.

Health and Sanitation - Councilman Thomas said during the televising of Borough sewer lines, the contractor, Mr. Rehab, needed to perform some heavy cleaning including the removal of a root ball necessitating an increase in their original quote. Council approved televising at their March 17, 2020 Regular Business Meeting.

Highway - No Report from Councilman Wingert

Public Relations - No Report due to the absence of Councilman Gonzalez

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

No Report from Mayor Borne Fuller

STORMWATER AUTHORITY

Manager Stambaugh gave an overview of the anticipated formation of a Stormwater Authority that has been under consideration.

A lengthy discussion was held on the desirability of a Stormwater Authority and implementation of a stormwater fee procedures to help fund unfunded Federal Government stormwater mandates, and provide funding for future mandated Best Management Practices (BMP), and whether would be in the best interests of the Borough and its residents at this time.

Solicitor Feinour said the proposed Authority is a separate entity with members of the Board appointed by Borough Council. The Authority would have its own budget, Board, and would administer stormwater funds only. The Authority must have minimum of at least 5 members with a recommendation of 4 members being from Council and 1 non-Council member. The stormwater fee must be used to fund the stormwater management costs. An Ordinance of Intent to form an Authority must be advertised at least 30 days before the required Public Hearing and consideration of formation of the Authority by Council..

Councilman Wingert voiced his concern with leveling any type of additional fee or tax on property owners at this particular time due to COVID-19.

Councilman Eisner voiced his concern that the majority of costs would be shared by residential owners, and had reservations about moving forward with an Authority.

Councilman Thomas was of the opinion that while Council had reservations, questions, and concerns, it should proceed as soon as possible and re-evaluate as the process progresses.

Solicitor Feinour said Council could vote to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance of Intent to form an Authority and then, following the Public Hearing could decide whether or not they would like to continue with the formation of an Authority. Once an Authority is incorporated and Board members are appointed, the body would then be a legal entity. Solicitor Feinour suggested doing as much public relations work as possible with input from the Borough Engineer, Borough Staff, and Borough Manager.

Councilman Wingert expressed his concern with instituting an Authority at this time, but realized this may be the best approach to dealing with funding stormwater expenditures.

Solicitor Feinour stated Council was not required to take action tonight. The first step is to authorize advertisement of an Ordinance of Intent to form an Authority, followed by the Public Hearing to be held within mandated guidelines. Once Council begins the process, they would need to follow the requirements of the Municipal Authorities Act.

Discussion was held regarding procedures for the possible abolishment of an Authority once formed and removal of members if the need would arise. Solicitor Feinour will prepare a summary of the procedure to dissolve an Authority and for removal of a member of the Authority Board.

*5) Vice-President Spackman made a motion to table this matter for the purpose of gathering more information for Council's consideration at the May 19, 2020 Regular Business Meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Wingert. Motion carried.

President Bloss encouraged members of Council to forward their questions and suggestions to Manager Stambaugh well before the May Regular Business Meeting.

Vice-President Spackman made his exit at 8:27 p.m.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

President Bloss asked if anyone participating in the telecommunication would be offering a public comment. Manager Stambaugh announced she would unmute lines and gave instructions on how to mute personal lines if one so desired. Per Manager Stambaugh, everyone was unmuted, stating she did not observe any additional members of the public at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Secretary

1. Reschedule Public Hearing - Zoning Amendment 4 Aye 1 Nay
2. Extend Borough Wide Sidewalk Repairs Till July 31, 2020
3. Table Dauphin County Commissioners Resolution - Waive Penalties County Tax for 2020
4. Extend Business Privilege Tax Filing to July 15 Per Keystone Collections Group
5. Table Discussion On Establishing A Stormwater Authority