

**PAXTANG BOROUGH
Workshop Meeting
3423 Derry Street
March 4, 2025**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS ABSENT

Thomas Wingert
Jennifer Britten
Corbin Bower

BOROUGH OFFICIALS

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

President Bloss called to order the March 4, 2025, Workshop meeting at 7:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bloss opened the floor for anyone wishing to share comments. President Bloss stated since no members of the public approached Council, 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 reported he would offer comments regarding a discussion on chickens for egg production, private use only, under Business. Mayor Martin took this opportunity to acknowledge and extend well wishes to Borough residents celebrating Ramadan.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES

Administration – Vice-President Fillman extended his gratitude to Borough staff for their hard work and research devoted to the recent purchase of a backhoe.

President Bloss stated Paxang is very fortunate to have someone on staff who has become very adept at grant writing, be awarded the grant, and to only have the need to put forth a minuscule amount towards the purchase.

Health, Sanitation, and Codes – Councilman Thomas reported a sewer backup on Kelso Street. Through the efforts of the Borough Highway Department and Swatara Township, the issue has been resolved. President Bloss stated Paxtang is very fortunate to have staff members who are very knowledgeable in situations such as this and are willing to work weekends to make sure Borough residents are cared for as quickly as possible.

Highway and Stormwater – No Report from Councilman Leonard

Property and Recreation – No Report due to the absence of Councilman Bower

Public Relations and Grants – President Bloss reported Councilwoman Britten indicated there would be no report for this evening. Any matters relating to grants would be brought forth by the Borough Manager.

Public Safety – No Report due to the absence of Councilman Wingert

REPORT OF THE SOLICITOR – No Report from Solicitor Bonn

REPORT OF THE BOROUGH MANAGER

BACKSTOP - LOWER FIELD

The backstop at the Lower Ball Field was damaged by a fallen tree. Work to begin shortly. Incident to be covered by Borough insurance.

FENCE – CAPITAL AREA GREENBELT – BRIDGE

The fence along the Capital Area Greenbelt in the vicinity of Paxtang Commons was damaged by fallen trees. Information with regard to fencing would be available at a future meeting.

SHADE TREE ORDINANCE – UPDATE ADVERTISEMENT REQUIREMENTS

In order to be in compliance with the State Borough Code, the Shade Tree Commission should consider adding at least one extra meeting to their yearly schedule. The additional meeting would enable the Commission to discuss the planting and removal of trees in the time frame for advertising as mandated by Borough Code. No further discussion is necessary at this time.

PHASE II – SAUSSAMAN PARK

Borough staff and Borough Engineer Smith are working towards the start of the Saussaman Park Phase II Improvement Project. The project is well funded through a grant that will encompass electrical upgrades, new roof on the pavilion, new roof on the concession stand building, additional Americans With Disabilities Act pathways, improvements to the rest facilities and fencing at the recreation courts.

APPOINTMENTS – SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Manager Stambaugh presented for Council's consideration, Ms. Linda Ruddle, and Mr. Nicholas Port to fill vacancies on the Shade Tree Commission. Candidates have spoken with Manager Stambaugh and Shade Tree Commissioner, Mr. Shane Philipps. Ms. Ruddle has been a Borough resident since 2000, has been involved with trimming and pruning in the past as a volunteer for the Commission, and is looking forward to the opportunity to serve and spending time trimming and pruning Borough Shade Trees. Mr. Nicholas Port, a newer resident of the Borough, has an interest and knowledge of trees, has an appreciation for the community and the beauty it holds, would be honored to serve on the Commission and appreciated Council taking the time to consider an appointment to the Commission. To be addressed under Business.

BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT OF CANDIDATES – SHADE TREE COMMISSION

Prior to entertaining any motions, Ms. Ruddle and Mr. Port were given the opportunity to address Council. Hearing none, members of Council expressed their gratitude to the candidates for their willingness to serve.

APPOINTMENT OF MR. NICHOLAS PORT – SHADE TREE COMMISSION

*1) Vice-President Fillman made a Motion that Council appoint and approve Nicholas Port to the Shade Tree Commission to the partial term expiring January of 2026. Motion seconded by Councilman Thomas. Councilman Leonard thanked both applicants for willing to serve the community. Motion carried after commentary.

APPOINTMENT OF MS. LINDA RUDDLE – SHADE TREE COMMISSION

*2) Vice-President Fillman made a motion that Council appoint and approve Linda Ruddle to the Shade Tree Commission for a term ending January of 2029. Motion seconded by Councilman Thomas. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Martin administered the Oath of Office of Shade Commission to Ms. Ruddle and Mr. Port.

CHICKENS FOR EGG PRODUCTION – PRIVATE USE ONLY – RESIDENTIAL – MIXED RESIDENTIAL ZONE

Due to confirmation of Avian Influenza in Dauphin County by the State Department of Agriculture and requests from residents to raise chickens for egg production – private use only, commentary by members of Council was offered as follows: consider maximum number of chickens possibly allowable on site, consideration of possible available space to house/care for chickens, mandate a coop that would accommodate housing of chickens, possible requirements for

fencing, coexistence of domestic animals as well as animals that traverse the Capital Area Greenbelt, situations and management issues associated with raising chickens, addressing responsible practices in the best interest of surrounding neighbors, and mandates from the State on raising, housing, and caring for chickens. Councilman Leonard will contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture regarding mandates and requirements. Another suggestion was to contact Penn State Extension for information. Mayor Martin stated and or offered information on the following: many municipalities allow backyard chickens in some format, healthcare/vaccine practices for birds, and that there is a protocol to follow when purchasing/registering birds.

SHADE TREE ORDINANCE – UPDATE ADVERTISING

President Bloss reported that due to information furnished by Manager Stambaugh earlier this evening, a discussion on this matter would not be necessary.

PUBLIC COMMENT

President Bloss opened the floor for anyone wishing to share comments. President Bloss stated since no members of the public approached Council, it would not be necessary to present the protocol for voicing opinions on matters of public concerns and proceeded with this evening's meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

*3) Councilman Thomas made a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded by Vice-President Fillman. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Secretary

1. Appoint Nicholas Port – Shade Tree Commission
2. Appoint Linda Ruddle – Shade Tree Commission
3. Adjourn