

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
8/13/2018**

The Regular Meeting Minutes of Council was held on **Monday, August 13, 2018** at 7:00 P.M., in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Daniel Stevens: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order by President Stevens at 7:00 P.M. following in attendance:

**ROLL CALL:**

PRESENT

Daniel Stevens  
Jason Ruff  
Bryon Reed  
Joseph Wechsler  
David Schnaars  
Thomas Bartholomew

ABSENT

Russell Hallman

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Niedermeyer  
Chief Rachman  
Larry Turoscy  
Attorney Healy

VISITORS

Ed Ziegler Heidi Eckhart  
Elaine Miller Jeffrey Hausman  
Crystal Hausman Dwight Miller  
Kris Burek Deb Amico

President Stevens requested that, as a courtesy, everyone turn off their cell phones, iPhone, and electronic devises off, or on vibrate. If you must take a call, please exit the council chambers so as not to disrupt the meeting. President Stevens announced that all public sessions of Borough Council are electronically recorded and such recordings are maintained as part of the meeting record until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Board, at which time the recordings shall be erased.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – An executive session was held at 6:30 PM on 8/13/18 in which matters of personnel were discussed.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff to accept the following minutes with the following corrections to the Council Minutes, page 3, under Human/Community Services, Item 2, should read “under the direction and at the expense of Future Focus; page 5, under Finance, Item 5, should read proceed, not precede; Council Minutes, July 9, 2018, Committee Meetings – July 16, 2018, and July 23, 2018. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (Agenda and Non-Agenda items) You will have three minutes to address Council from the podium. The three minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor, and any time you have remaining.

Ed Ziegler – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ed complained about the sewer line that collects grit at the sewer plant was blocked up which could damage the pump. He also informed the council of a big rock located at the sewer plant entrance that is blocking the pipe that goes under the highway and with all the rain, it was flooded. Ed feels that it is the Borough’s responsibility. President Stevens feels it is PennDOT’s.

Heidi Eckhart – 250 So. Walnut Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. She has an issue with parking on her block. Heidi stated there are approximately 16 parking spaces and 12 houses and some of the houses don’t have parking in the back. There are people who have 5-6 cars and parking over the line to save a space. Chief Rachman informed Heidi the police are unable to ticket people who park over the line. He stated that as far as the amount of spaces and amount of residences, the police are unable to do anything unless the vehicle is abandoned. Larry Turoscy informed Heidi about South Street grassy lot. They were

considering turning that into a parking lot a few years ago with 14-15 spaces. However, this would be quite expensive. He asked Heidi if this were to be done would people park there. Heidi feels people would.

Dwight Miller - Signed in and was recognized to speak, but declined.

Kris Burek – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Burek distributed documents that she provided at the February 12, 2018, Council meeting. These documents contained documents and aerial surveillance and a ruling from PennDOT regarding a street that she thinks should be one-way. She feels that since this is not one-way, it is prone to near accidents. She is requesting the status of this issue. Kris complained about the service being received from the current Building Code Officer and the length of time to receive a permit, inspection and lack of respect. Kris addressed other issues: July Robo call concerning the water plant issue – there was not follow up Robo call; lack of Sewer Authority meetings, why are the minutes for the Parks and Recreation are not on the website and why does the Borough continue to own the Vigilant. She is requesting up-dated information on these.

Deb Amico – 31-33 Willow Ave. - Signed in and was recognized to speak. She is concerned about an abandoned property next to her. The grass has gotten extremely high. She has maintained part of the grass, even some of the Borough property access from the D&L. She has completed a formal complaint about the property and talked to Tony Lopsonzski. President Stevens informed Deb he will talk with Tony Lopsonzski.

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

### **REPORTS**

The reports of various committees, officials and officers were provided to Council and are on file in Borough Hall and are available for public inspection.

### **APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/TRANSFER**

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

### **MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS**

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer attended the NOVA open house.

Police Chief David Rachman

Chief Rachman stated the police were very busy in July. He said they will be hiring a new part-time police officer tonight. Chief Rachman stated a former part-time police officer has reached out to return as a part-time officer. The new schedule is working out well; coverage is a little bit better than before. The police have established a Face Book page. The page will be monitored by the chief and Officer W. Borst and has had a very good response. Councilor Ruff inquired about the GoFundMe page for the bikes. Chief Rachman stated there is still some money in the account which is being used for repairs to the bikes.

## **SLATINGTON REVITALIZATION PARTNERSHIP – NO REPORT**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**



David Schnaars  
Jason Ruff  
Joseph Wechsler  
Thomas Bartholomew

5. Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize award repair roof at the Borough Hall building up to \$650.00. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens Bryon Reed David Schnaars Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew		

6. Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, authorizing the payment of the 2017 CDBG project on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, between W. Franklin Street and Center Avenue, based on the project being 100% complete with all engineering approvals. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens Bryon Reed David Schnaars Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew		

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Jason Ruff**

1. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to accept Cynthia M. Green's resignation as Board Member for the Slatington Parks and Recreation Committee, effective immediately. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
2. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve Resolution R-22-18, *a resolution of the borough of Slatington, Lehigh, County, Pennsylvania providing support by the municipality for trails, a trail friendly culture, and the Delaware & Lehigh National Heritage Corridor's D&L Trail towns process, which seeks to connect towns and trails in the municipality.* President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
3. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to allow Robert Stettner and Mike Kukitz to purchase a new sign for the Walnut Street Playground not to exceed \$300.00. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens Bryon Reed		

David Schnaars  
Jason Ruff  
Joseph Wechsler  
Thomas Bartholomew

4. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve application for use of facilities request for Homecoming Parade on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
5. Letter dated July 26, 2018 from Senator Browne – grant program for local businesses informational only
6. President Stevens informed the council of a couple dead trees that need replacing on Main Street. This to be placed on the next committee meeting.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Thomas Bartholomew**

1. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve investments for the water and sewer funds into CD's. \$200,000 for sewer and \$100,000 for water. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens Bryon Reed David Schnaars Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew		

2. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve draft year 2017 financial statements and adjustments prepared by CRY. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens Bryon Reed David Schnaars Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew		

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Addendum: Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to accept draft docket No. D-2003-015 CP-3 from DRBC (no ammonia limit) President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
2. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve MS4 professional services agreement from ARRO. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

- Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve \$5,500 payment to ARRO for the MS4. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens		
	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Thomas Bartholomew		

- Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve purchase of explosion proof heater and any additional repairs to the controls at the pump station. Any additional repair costs would be approved by Councilor Wechsler and Duane Szczesny. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens		
	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Thomas Bartholomew		

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

- Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
- Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Weschler, to approve remaining payment for South Street water line project for \$7,453.00 to Bellview Pump. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Daniel Stevens		
	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Thomas Bartholomew		

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Larry Turoscy informed the council he had reviewed the information concerning a historic district at Walnut Street bridge and stated it is in a historic district. Councilor Wechsler asked Larry when the work was going to start on Main and Church. Larry stated he has been trying to get a meeting date. He also said he has received 2 bids for inspection from the four he had sent out. Larry is hoping to have them all by next Monday.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None**

**Daniel Stevens**

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** – (Agenda Items Only – You will have two (2) minutes to address Council from the podium on Agenda Items Only.)

Kris Burek brought to the attention of the council, items #7 – approval of accounts payable/transfers, C-2 and A-1 (resolutions), copies were not available to public review. Councilor Schnaars provided Ms. Burek with copies.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Stevens recessed to executive session at 8:13 pm. At 8:54 p.m., President Stevens reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel and legal matters were discussed in executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Being no further business, Councilor Schnaars made the motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to adjourn the meeting. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

President Stevens declared the meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Colleen Bresnak  
Assistant Borough Secretary