

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
2/10/20**

The Regular Meeting Minutes of Council was held on **Monday, February 10, 2020** at 7:00 PM, in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Bryon Reed: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Jason Ruff, Vice President

The meeting was called to order by President Reed at 7:00 pm following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Bryon Reed
Jason Ruff
Joseph Wechsler
David Schnaars
Thomas Bartholomew
Ronald Kratz
Kevin Steckel

ABSENT

Dave Rachman

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Niedermeyer
Larry Turoscy
Ed Healy

VISITORS

Daniel Stevens, Phil Armstrong
Danni Demcks (TN), Kristie Wilk
Robert Herzog, Jr., Kris Porter
Crystal Hausman, Jeff Hausman
Kylie Adams

President Reed 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.

President Reed announced there had been an Executive Session on Monday, January 27th, 2020. Matters of personnel were discussed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the following minutes: Re-Organization Meeting – January 6, 2020; Council Meeting – January 13, 2020; Committee Meetings – January 20, 2020 and January 27, 2020; Joint SBA/Council Meeting – January 27, 2020. President Reed 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.

Jeffrey Hausman – 46 So. Walnut Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Jeffrey informed the council that the Vigilant has offered space to have Company No. 1 to store their information. He said they would like to see the heritage of the Fire Company stay in the community. Eventually, he would like to see the hall converted in to a museum.

Kristie Wilk – NOVA - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Kristie thanked the council for the Borough's contribution. She stated for 2019 they had 3,054 calls; 642 of them were in Slatington. Currently for 2020 they have had 295 calls; 56 are in Slatington. Their 2020 budget has been approved for \$1.6 million. NOVA has a Comedy Night scheduled for Saturday, February 29th, 2020.

Kylie Adams – Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber -Signed in and was recognized to speak. Kylie informed the council of events for February: Beer, Box and Bourbon Event for a Veteran's mixer and Winter Restaurant Week from February 23 to February 29. Local restaurants will be participating. In the Spring they will conduct their annual Spirit Award on April 3rd 2020, at the Woodstone Country Club.

Phil Armstrong – Lehigh County Executive – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Phil attends council meetings to see if he can help the community in any way. He is stressing the importance of the census and stated the community is losing \$2,093.00 in income each year for every person that is not counted. Phil informed the council of the new voting law which states that you can vote 50 days prior to the election with a written ballot. President Reed thanked Phil for his help on the bridge. Phil stated that it is a done deal and construction could possibly start in 2023.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None

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 Kratz made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	David Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer informed the council to get in touch with Mr. Armstrong about overnight parking at the Trailhead.

Chief Rachman

None

Councilor Ruff made a motion to, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler to appoint Daniel L. Stevens to the positions of: Borough Manager, Borough Treasurer, and Borough Secretary, in accordance with the Offer of Employment and Job Descriptions related to the above positions and dated February 6, 2020, and agreed upon by both Daniel L. Stevens and the Borough of Slatington. Before entering upon his duties, as treasurer, he shall give a bond to the Borough in accordance with the Slatington Borough Code. He may exercise all powers and duties as Manager upon employment, except those authorizing him to make purchases which power can only be used after he has given a bond as manager in accordance with the Slatington Borough Code. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	David Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Councilor Schnaars would like to table the parking at the Trailhead to committee meeting.
2. Council reviewed the letter from SEIU 668 informing of the intention and desire to negotiate a successor agreement covering the employees’ current contract which expires on December 31st, 2020. Councilor Schnaars stated a committee must be chosen.
3. Councilor Schnaars discussed the parking at the Veteran’s Memorial. The plans have been reviewed and Option #1 was chosen. This will be one-way, but it will create more parking spaces. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, that the Borough proceed with Option #1, with a caveat the Borough provide proper signage to warn people using Chestnut Alley. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Kevin Steckel

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve quote from ECCO Communications, LLC for 4 portable radios for \$3,064.00. (item budgeted) President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		

David Schnaars
Thomas Bartholomew
Ronald Kratz
Kevin Steckel

2. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler Motion to approve quote from OfficerStore for annual ammo order for \$2,661.26. (item budgeted) President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

3. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve quote from Keystone Technologies for ConnectWise system Monitoring – monthly- \$19.95, approximate time to install connection - \$320.00; total \$699.05. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

4. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the resignation, with regrets, from Part Time Officer Stephen Kiefer effective 1/17/20. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

5. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to accept the bids and award the sale of the 2007 Dodge Durango and 2002 Ford Crown Victoria to the winning bidder from Municibid. President Reed informed the council the Durango was sold for \$888.00 and the Crown Victoria was sold for \$1,650.00. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

6. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize president of council and appropriate borough officials to sign the certificate of title and all related paperwork to transfer title to the 2007 Dodge Durango. and 2002 Ford Crown Victoria. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. The council reviewed the thank you note from the Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool Association thanking the Borough for \$1,000 donation and providing the chlorine. (informational only)
2. Councilor Ruff just wanted to remind everyone of the 2020 Electronic Recycling dates: Saturday, April 4, 2020 and Saturday, October 10, 2020. He is requesting some volunteers.
3. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31st, 2020, rain date Sunday, November 1st, 2020

at 6:00 PM, and with the assistance of the Slatington Fire Police closing the roads for the parade route beginning at 5:00 PM. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

D. Finance

Councilor Thomas Bartholomew

1. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz to authorize President Reed to approve Exemption request from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc. for Delinquent Per Capita Tax for: Mark Spalding – deceased - \$5.50; Sheila Stahley – deceased - \$5.50; Tina Miller – deceased - \$5.50. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	David Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

2. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler to enter into an agreement with a realtor for the purpose of renting vacant office space in the Borough Hall. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Councilor Wechsler informed the council of the 2019 Annual Recycling Report that was submitted to Lehigh County. Total recycle tonnage 696.54 and 186 TV's and monitors. (informational only)

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Ronald Kratz

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. Councilor Kratz made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the proposal for Technical/Inspection Services from Water Service Professionals for \$9,180.00. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bryon Reed		
	Jason Ruff		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	David Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilor Ruff inquired as to the status of the new street signs. President Reed had provided a list of the signs that have been ordered and installed. Not all street signs are ordered at one time. This will be done yearly until all the street signs have been replaced.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Larry Turoscy asked the council when they can put the bids out for the traffic light at Church Street and Main St. Larry would like to get this started as soon as possible.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

Bryon Reed

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – (Agenda Items Only – You will have two (2) minutes to address Council from the podium on Agenda Items Only.) **None**

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Reed recessed to executive session at 7:53 PM. At 8:25 PM, President Reed reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel issues were discussed in executive session.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to authorize the Borough Manager to suspend without pay for up to 24 work hours, any employee, except police, for disciplinary reasons. Suspension beyond 24 work hours must receive council approval. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, for the Borough Manager Daniel Stevens be added as a signatory to the Borough's checking account. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to amend the motion, to approve a resolution, the number to be supplied by the office, authorizing Dan Stevens, Borough Manager and Treasurer, for signatories on all bank accounts for the Slatington Borough. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to appoint Borough Manager Daniel Stevens as Open Records Officer. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Colleen Bresnak
Assistant Borough Secretary