

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
11/9/20**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, November 9, 2020**, at 7:05 PM, at the Vigilant Fire Company, 110 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Bryon Reed: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Daniel Stevens, Borough Manager/Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Reed at 7:05 PM with the following in attendance:

**ROLL CALL:**

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed	Ronald Kratz	Dave Rachman	Jeffrey Hausman, Crystal Hausman
Jason Ruff		Ed Healy	Austin Berger, Abel Boyer
Joseph Wechsler via phone		Mayor Niedermeyer	Shannon Boyer, Robert Herzog, Jr.
David Schnaars		Daniel Stevens	Kristie Wilkes
Thomas Bartholomew		Larry Turoscy	
Kevin Steckel			

**NOTIFICATION:**

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.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel to approve the following minutes with the following corrections: Councilor Schnaars noted on the Highway Committee Meeting October 26, 2020, section A.1.b - the word “there” in order instead of “their” Council **Meeting** of October 12, 2020; **Committee Meetings** – October 19, 2020, and October 26, 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.

Robert Stettner – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Robert is representing the Slatington Parks and Recreation Commission. He provided an update to the Council on the clean-up that was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> 2020. There were over 40 people who participated this year. It had been originally scheduled for the spring, but it was delayed due to COVID19. There were representatives from: Slatington Rotary, Northern Lehigh High School Interact Club, Giant Market from Walnutport, and Cub Pack 66 had several scouts there. They cleaned up areas at the Trailhead and along the trails. Robert thanked the Slatington Fire Department for hauling a lot of the trash away.

Kristie Wilkes - Northern Valley EMS. Was recognized to speak. Kristie informed the Council they are at 2,496 calls as of the end of October. Their subscriptions will be sent out in about 2 weeks. They have put in a grant for a powerless stretcher. Kristie stated that their call volume is a little bit lower due to COVID19. President Reed asked Kristie about non-emergency transports for doctor’s appointments. She informed him that they never did them. However, they do use the Palmerton non-emergency transport system and they receive their subscribers’ discount.

**PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Abel Boyer, representing A. F. Boyer Hardware, informed the Council that they had a Glock event on August 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020. They held a raffle to support the Slatington Police Association. Some of the items in the raffle included: a wooden plaque that stated “Back the Blue”, Glock backpack, flag painting, Boyer’s T-Shirt, pistol case, Glock license plate, etc. They had a very large turn out and the tickets were sold for \$5.00. Abel Boyer presented a check to Deron Dorward of the Slatington Police Association for \$780.00. President Reed stated that was very nice of a local business and the Council thanked him.

**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 Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS**

**Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer**

Mayor Niedermeyer is still very concerned with the storm sewer located at Main and Walnut Streets, especially with the winter coming. He would like to know when this will be repaired. Manager Stevens informed him that the work was supposed to start tomorrow, but something came up so they will be coming at the end of the week. The mayor stated that next year, the Balloon fest will be a 3-day event and it is imperative to start looking at traffic control. Chief Rachman added that this fest is usually held down in Quakertown airport, but due to COVID19 restriction it was changed.

**Chief Rachman**

Chief Rachman provided an update for Sgt. Alercia. Sgt. Alercia had knee surgery and is going for therapy. Chief Rachman received the clearance from DA Jim Martin stating the shooting was justified.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve contribution agreement between Slatington and PennDOT. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		

Thomas Bartholomew  
Kevin Steckel

2. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve Resolution R-16-20, *a resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Slatington, Lehigh County, PA, approving the contribution agreement with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the State Route 0873 and 4016 intersection realignment project.* 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 Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel		

3. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve Resolution R-15-20, *a resolution approving the application of Multimodal grant (\$1,499,104.78) from the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation for the Borough of Slatington, Lehigh County Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.* 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 Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel		

4. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve contribution letter to PennDOT concerning Multimodal grant application. Borough contribution \$449,731.43 (30% grant match). 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 Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel		

5. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve application and certification for payment for Memorial Park CDBG grant - \$94,239.78 for G&B Construction Group contingent upon them completing all items to the engineer's satisfaction. 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		

Dave Schnaars  
Thomas Bartholomew  
Kevin Steckel

6. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to approve Ordinance 702 changing Kuntz Street to one-way east bound between Second Street and Chestnut Alley.

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

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Kevin Steckel**

Chief Rachman clarified that the donation from A. F. Boyer was made to the Police Association Union Shop, not the police department.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Jason Ruff**

1. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to declare Catherine Nelson's seat vacant on the Parks and Recreation Commission for failure to appear at 3 consecutive meetings. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to appoint Dawn Tworkosky to the Parks and Recreation Commission for the remainder of the existing term just vacated by Catherine Nelson. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

2. Thank you letter from Meals on Wheels. Informational only
3. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve purchase of historic lights for Slatinton Memorial Park (total costs of lights \$6,990.00; Borough share \$2,144.00). (\$3846.00 from CDBG, \$1000.00 private donations). 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

Councilor Ruff extended thanks to all those who donated to this project.

4. Thank you to Vigilant Fire Company for \$300.00 donation for the flags on Main Street.

- Notification that the Lehigh County 2020 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event has been rescheduled to Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Informational only.

**D. Finance/Planning/Zoning**

**Councilor Thomas Bartholomew**

- Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to donate \$2,000.00 to the Northern Lehigh Pool Association for the year 2020. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

- Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize Borough Manager Stevens to purchase items as per budget in COVID-19 County Relief Block Grant. Total amount of \$70,769.66. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

- Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve lease agreement between the Borough of Slatinton and Steckel and Stopp, LLC, from 2021 through 2025. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

- Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve lease agreement between the Borough of Slatinton and State Representative Zach Mako from December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020, through November 30, 2022. 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		

Dave Schnaars  
Thomas Bartholomew  
Kevin Steckel

5. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve PMHIC Board of Directors. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
6. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to authorize Borough Manager Stevens to approve Exemption Report from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc. for Delinquent Per Capita Tax for: Kristine Rinker – Non-resident - \$11.00 (2 x \$5.50); Charlene Banks - Deceased - \$5.50; Nihaet Eminor – Non-resident - \$16.50 (3 x \$5.50); George Tyler – Deceased - \$5.50. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve entering into agreement with LCA concerning televising and jetting of sewer collection system \$20,000.00 per year; 7 years to do entire system. 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 Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel		

2. Councilor Weschler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to accept Generator Service Agreement from Emergency Systems Service Company – additional recommended work for \$2,339.31. 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 Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel		

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Ronald Kratz**

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to accept Generator Service Agreement from Emergency Systems Service Company– additional recommended work for \$2,205.82. 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  
Dave Schnaars  
Thomas Bartholomew  
Kevin Steckel

3. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff to approve quote from Essex Service Corporation for new panel for \$7,550.00 plus shipping. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Councilor Bartholomew reminded the Council that they will be paying the insurance on the unused fire truck. He is asking if we want to pay for another year, or move it to another spot such as the maintenance building and not insure it. President Reed had requested that it be relisted. Manager Stevens will contact the insurance company and see if they can insure it, but not at replacement value.

Manager Stevens informed the Council that AMS was out crack sealing today. They didn't get all the streets completed due to there being completed due to more work than material on hand.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Councilor Ruff asked if it would be possible to lower the rent on the vacant offices. Manager Stevens informed him has already been lowered.

Councilor Ruff asked about the motion for Sewer/Solid Waste, E.1, for the entering into an agreement. He stated that the motion doesn't clarify as to who actually be making that agreement and will the Borough approve that agreement before it gets signed. Manager Stevens stated that LCA does not want to enter into a formal long-term agreement concerning the televising, but rather do a trial for one year. Ed Healy discussed legal issues of the agreement with Washington Township and LCA. Manager Stevens had received a letter from LCA outlining what they would like.

Councilor Schnaars informed the Council that Lindsay Taylor from the NLRA will not accept the community center building due to economics. Fund raising has been halted due to COVID19. Councilor Ruff asked what the next step would be for the community center. Councilor Schnaars feels that the Borough and the NLRA should work together to obtain answers, along with the other communities involved. Councilor Schnaars suggested this be placed on the Human Community Service committee.

**NEW BUSINESS: None**

**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 recessed to executive session at 8:25 PM. At 9:10 PM President Reed reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel, arbitration, and union contract negotiations 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 Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 9:11 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens  
Borough Secretary