

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
4/12/21**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, April 12, 2021**, at 7:00 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 7:00 PM with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Dave Rachman
Ed Healy
Mayor Niedermeyer
Daniel Stevens
Dave Lear

VISITORS

Austin Berger, Jeralyn Schoch
Aaron Schoch, William Erney
Ciera Schoenoberger, Kris Porter
Jeffrey Hausman

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to approve the following minutes: **Council Meeting** of March 8, 2021; **Committee Meetings** – March 15, 2021, & March 22, 2021. 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.

Ciera Schoeneberger – 323 E. Church St. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ciera informed the Council that she had just been evicted from her home, due to the issues she had addressed the Council about last time she appeared at a council meeting. After the meeting the landlord took her to court. Ciera provided all the necessary information to the magistrate, but was still evicted. Ciera stated that after the court date they did catch a rat. Ciera said there is an infestation of rats for the whole property. Ciera stated that there was a company from Lehigh Engineering doing some work in front of that property and also saw, and took pictures, of the rats. Ciera feels something should be done with slum lords. Manager Stevens informed Ciera that Tony Lopsonzski has recently issued at least 10 citations for that property. Manager Stevens added, that Tony had been informed by the landlord that work was being done, but there was no certificate stating the property was deemed clean by a licensed exterminator. Tony is working on this matter on a daily basis.

Jeffrey Hausman – 46 So. Walnut St. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Jeffrey informed the Council that on April 24th, is Trail Clean Up Day from 9 AM to Noon. Jeffrey is requesting from the Council if they could use the Borough's pickup truck. The Council agreed to have a road crew member work on that day to help pick up the garbage. Jeffrey inquired about the garbage company; they don't seem to be picking up on the designated day.

Jeralyn Schoch – 301 E. Church St. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Jerayln asked the Council if they needed permits to work the row houses on top of the Danny. President Reed stated it depends upon the type of work that is being done. Manager Stevens added if it is just maintenance, probably not. Jerayln said the workers are now ruining her property.

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 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:

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

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer hopes everyone gets the vaccine and we get back to normal. There are no meetings due to COVID 19.

Chief Rachman

Chief Rachman informed the Council they are waiting to hear about the cruiser that was ordered in January. Chief Rachman will be reaching out to the sales person tomorrow to narrow down a time as to when they will be receiving the vehicle. The 2 Interceptors are on a rotation schedule. Chief Rachman feels that 3 vehicles are not enough. One vehicle is always breaking down. Chief Rachman informed the Council that Officer Pfortner, who was sworn in at the last Council meeting, has all his equipment, started training on Friday, and in 8 to 16 weeks he should be good to go on the road. Chief Rachman stated there is another potential candidate. The department is losing another officer, but with this potential candidate, the department would increase its man power.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Councilor Schnaars provided an update on CDBG projects. Councilor Schnaars stated the projects for Franklin and South Street have been submitted. Dave Lear stated they are in the process for CDBG project for Church Street and should be done by the end of the week, and sent over to the solicitor’s office as far as the bid package.
2. Update on bidding for traffic signal at Main and Church. Dave Lear informed the Council on the bidding process for the Church Street project. They are still in the process. They did have a pre-

bid meeting, but nobody showed up. However, they did have positive input but a contractor and they will be bidding again.

3. Councilor Schnaars is concerned that the cost to pave Factory St is \$6,500.00. Councilor Schnaars questioned where the money would be coming from. President Reed informed the Council that Buzzy's contractor would be doing some of the work and would have all the equipment there. Manager Stevens added that other areas need to be done and is hoping that some of the COVID money could be used for paving. President Reed stated that once the bridge work is started, that maybe Factory Street could be taken care of at that time. Councilor Schnaars suggested we table this.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Kevin Steckel

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve listing of police 2014 SUV on Municibid for sale after the Borough receives the new cruiser. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Councilor Steckel, made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve listing of police 2010 Crown Victoria on Municibid for sale. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
3. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to approve, with regrets, the resignation of Officer Brandon Gianopulos. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
4. Councilor Steckel informed the Council there have not been any bids on the sale of fire truck, which was listed for \$7,500.00. Councilor Steckel will talk with Fire Chief Nicholas to discuss re-posting it.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to approve Springside Sportsmen Club Inc request for their 1st Annual Kids Fishing Contest to be held at Trout Creek on May 1, 2021, from 11: AM to 4:00 PM. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
2. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve St. Luke's Hospice Families and Community 10th Annual charity bike ride on June 5, 2021 (rain 6/6/2021) from 10 AM to 3 PM. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
3. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the Human/Community Services committee to make decisions on relocation, or removal, of playground equipment at Victory Park. Manager Stevens had met with Lyndsay Taylor and she had requested to move the lower swings and the monkey bars, so this area could be used for food trucks, etc. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
4. Parks and Recreation Earth Day Cleanup, Saturday, April 24, 2021, from 9 AM – Noon. informational only

Manager Stevens provided an update on the electronic recycling event. Last fall there were 44 TV's, CRT's, and LED's; and this spring there were 63 TV's, CRT's, and LED's. Councilor Ruff will schedule another electronic recycling event for October.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve a resolution authorizing the manager to obtain the best possible price for the 2002 Crown Vic since its value is under \$2,000.00. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

D. Finance/Planning/Zoning

Councilor Thomas Bartholomew

1. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to authorize Borough Manager Stevens to approve Exemption Report from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc. for Delinquent Per Capita Tax for: Pamela Peters – 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

2. Extension of local tax filing deadline to May 17th, 2021. (informational only)
3. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to appoint Borough Manager Daniel Stevens as the delegate to the Tax Collection Committee. 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 award contract for roof replacement on main control building to Joel R. Alpha Home Improvements for \$18,000.00. 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		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

2. Manager Stevens provided an update on LCA televising sewer collection system. Manager Stevens informed the Council that all the work has been done and we have received the reports and video.
3. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve transfer of \$557.45 to the Slatington Borough Authority to cover the \$307.45 advertising expense for the Authority's annual audit and \$250.00 to cover the annual fidelity bond for the Authority 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		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Ronald Kratz

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. Status of well at Victory park – March test – passed
3. Flushing the water system starting on Monday, April 12, 2021. (informational only)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

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 8:07 PM. At 8:12 PM President Reed reconvened the meeting. Matters of possible litigation were discussed in executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

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

President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens
Borough Secretary