

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
1/11/21**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, January 11, 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
Larry Turoscy

VISITORS

Jeffrey Hausman, Robert Herzog
Austin Berger, Robert Stettner
Andreas Hassold
Kris Porter (Times News)

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 Kratz made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the following minutes: **Council Meeting** of December 14, 2020; **Committee Meetings were canceled** – December 21, 2020, and December 28, 2020. President Reed declared the motion passed with 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.

Andreas Hassold – 1067 Pine View Drive. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Andreas Hassold suggested to the Council that the agendas for the council and committee meetings be posted on the Slatington Borough website, as are the minutes. Andreas Hassold asked the council if we have received the grant to redo the storm water system at Maple Springs Acres. Manager Stevens informed him that he received a call from Senator Brown’s office and was asked if we could revise the project for less money. Manager Stevens stated that it is important to get the water down to the river with a main line. Larry Turoscy has come up with some figures to get the main line in to the river and up Oakhurst Drive. Andreas Hassold asked the Council if the building plans for the 2 houses being built on Arbor Lane can be made available, especially for the neighbors that would be impacted, for review. Manager Stevens informed him that Duane Dellecker stated that the plans have been approved. Mr. Hassold is concerned that the work will put water on his property. Manager Stevens will contact Duane Dellecker to discuss Mr. Hassold’s concerns. Attorney Healy stated that Andreas would have to complete a Right-To-Know form to review the plans. Larry Turoscy would like to have this placed on the next Highway Committee agenda. Manager Stevens explained to Andreas that it is not always easy to put our agendas on the website, due to the fact that they are often revised on the day of the meeting. Councilor Schnaars suggested that the borough reactivate their Facebook page and post the information there.

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 Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, 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> Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer received information from National School Choice Week, and made a proclamation recognizing January 24th to January 30th, 2021 as School Choice Week in Slatington. Councilor Schnaars would like more information. Mayor Niedermeyer will send Councilor Schnaars a contact name. Mayor Niedermeyer informed the Council that Victory Park will be 100 years old in July of 2021. This has been placed on the next committee meeting agenda.

Chief Rachman

Chief Rachman informed the Council that the first vaccines are available for all first responders at St Luke’s and Lehigh Valley Hospital. Government officials are in the next round.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Councilor Schnaars informed the Council that new public parking signs were installed at John Freed Way and the 600-block parking lot. Partially paid with Chamber of Commerce grant (grant payment submitted and received). Informational only. Manager Stevens informed the Council that there are still 2 directional signs that say “Additional Public Parking” that will be installed around Church and Main.
2. Larry Turoscy gave an update on bidding for traffic signal at Main and Church. Larry Turoscy stated they have received the 2 approvals from PennDOT and our solicitor. Approval has been made by liquid fuels.
3. Update on multimodal grant submission concerning stormwater improvements on Oakhurst Drive area. Manager Stevens stated that the revised numbers requested by Senator Brown’s office are \$700,000.00 from the state and \$300,000.00 (30% match) from the Boroughs for this grant.

Councilor Kratz inquired about the totem pole. Manager Stevens informed him that another letter went out and there has been no response at this time. He will discuss this with Tony. Next step will be to issue a citation.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Kevin Steckel

1. Councilor Steckel gave an update from FEMA on request for major declaration for Tropical Storm Isaias. Damage from this event was not of such severity and magnitude as to be beyond the capabilities of the Commonwealth. Manager Stevens informed the Council that the Borough will not be receiving any money. No municipalities in the State of Pennsylvania will be receiving any funds.
2. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve purchase of ammo from OfficerStore for \$5,265.52. Councilor Kratz asked if this was a 1-year order. Chief Rachman stated it is for 2 years. 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		

3. The Council reviewed quotes from Kovatch for \$40,097.559 and Chapman for \$41,230.06 for a 2021 Dodge Charger. Chief Rachman explained the differences between the 2 vehicles. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to authorize purchase of new police cruiser from Chapman for \$41,230.06, at a lease/purchase rate of 2-years (3 payments) of \$14,680.35 per year. 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		

4. President Reed has spoken with the buyer several times concerning the sale of the fire truck. President Reed has called him recently, but has not received a return phone call. Manager Stevens reminded the Council that the insurance has been canceled as of January 1st. Councilor Schnaars suggested that we give the potential buyer another 2 weeks and if there is no response, re-list it the truck.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. Thank you for donations for historic light poles at Slatington Memorial Park – 1. Second Chance Shop - \$500.00; 2. Future Focus - \$250.00; 3. Vigilant Fire Company - \$250.00. Manager Stevens stated that he has put in a work order for the highway crew to install the light

poles, but have BEI do the electrical work. President Reed suggested contacting PPL to discuss possibly replacing the light poles on Main Street, because they are old and rusting. This will be placed on the next committee agenda meeting.

2. Thank you from Northern Lehigh Historical society, Inc. for a donation of \$400.00. Manager Stevens stated that they will receive another \$440.00 from the COVID19 grant for cleaning the bathrooms.

Councilor Ruff said that the Victory Park 100-year anniversary will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

D. Finance/Planning/Zoning

Councilor Thomas Bartholomew

1. Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve Resolution R-01-21 authorizing destruction of certain listed documents. 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		

2. The Council reviewed the premiums from BB Insurance. Informational only Manager Stevens pointed out what changes were made.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Councilor Wechsler informed the Council that the video security system was put in place. 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 informed the Council that Bill Weissman, from Essex Service Corp, is progressing with the stated phased approach; there are 3 phases. We are almost done with phase 1. Informational only
3. Councilor Kratz informed the Council that the video security system was put in place. Informational only. Manager Stevens stated the video security systems were purchased with COVID19 grant money.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Manager Stevens provided an update on where we stood financially from December 2019 to December 2020. Our EIT is up 3.7%, Real Estate Transfer down 13%, LST no significant change, Property Tax up 1.63%. In totaling these revenue items, the Borough revenues were \$28,000.00 over the budgeted amount for 2020.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

President Reed has been doing the bidding for electric rates over the years. He will now let Manager Stevens do that job.

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: None

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 8:02 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens
Borough Secretary