

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
6/14/21**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, June 14, 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 Weschler
Thomas Bartholomew
Kevin Steckel

ABSENT

David Schnaars
Ronald Kratz
Dave Rachman

OTHERS PRESENT

Ed Healy
Mayor Niedermeyer
Justin Gross
Daniel Stevens

VISITORS

William Smith, Ron Hausman
Jeffrey Hausman, Lindsey Bowman
Jeralyn Schoch, Aaron Schoch
Robert Stettner, Zachari Halkias
Melanie Peters

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 Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to approve the following minutes: **Council Meeting** of May 10, 2021; **Committee Meetings** – May 17, 2021, & May 24, 2021; **Special Meeting** of May 17, 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.

William Smith – Signed in and was recognized to speak. William Smith discussed the problems with garbage. William stated that he could not sit in his own backyard, due to the stench of the garbage from his neighbors. William said the tenants living at the property that had the garbage have been evicted and it is now empty. William is concerned that the new tenants will be just as bad. William feels the Borough should take responsibility to fix the problem. William has suggested having a police presence near that property. Manager Stevens informed William that the code enforcement officer is aware of the situation and has told the landlord that this property may not be rented until it has been inspected.

Melanie Peter - 251 Main St. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Melanie's issue is with the school bus stops in the Borough. Melanie stated that cars fly through the bus stop. Melanie has called the police, PennDOT, Borough, and the school for help. Manager Stevens stated that the Borough had put out the pedestrian crossing sign and added another "no left turn" sign. Melanie suggested getting crossing guards. Melanie added that the pedestrian crossing sign is constantly removed. Councilor Bartholomew informed her the crossing guards are the school's responsibility. Councilor Ruff suggested Melanie attend a school board meeting.

Jeralyn Schoch – 301 E. Church Street. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Jeralyn questioned inspection at the property next to her house. Manager Stevens stated that Tony told him that 2 units passed, 3 units failed and 1 needs inspection at this time. Jeralyn informed the Council that 2 units that

failed are occupied. Jeralyn doesn't understand how they can be living there without moving permits. Councilor Bartholomew stated that it is a legal issue. Tony will continue to work on this issue.

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 Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer stated that we still have the Chestnut Street problem. Mayor Niedermeyer said the police need new chairs without arm rests, or with fold up arms.

Chief Rachman

None

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to apply for the multimodal grant for the Northern Slatington Stormwater 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

2. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to authorize submission of a letter to PennDOT concerning changing the speed limit at entrance to town. President Reed reviewed the change for the speed limits with the Council. Councilor Wechsler withdrew his motion. Councilor Wechsler referred this to be sent back to committee.
3. ARLE project (stop light at Main & Church). Update from Lehigh Engineering. Justin Gross stated the contractors are ordering materials. The notice to proceed will be issued once the materials are received.

4. CDBG project on E. Church St – currently out to bid. Update from Lehigh Engineering. Justin Gross stated that the bid process is proceeding.
5. The Council reviewed the e-mail from Kristina Thompson, dated 5/27/21, regarding additional mitigation for the So. Walnut Street Bridge project and individual responses requested by June 27th, 2021.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Kevin Steckel

None

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, to approve request for Slate Heritage Trail trash receptacle Borough cost of \$476.00. (\$500.00 match from the Second Chance Shoppe). Total cost of project \$976.00. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u> Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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2. Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to finish the project at Center and Main with the left-over pavers. The Borough just received permission to utilize the Veterans Memorial pavers using President Reed’s plan. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u> Bryon Reed Jason Ruff Joseph Wechsler Thomas Bartholomew Kevin Steckel	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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3. Thank you letter from Springside Sportsmen Club (informational only)

D. Finance/Planning/Zoning

Councilor Thomas Bartholomew

None

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to authorize preparation of bid documents for the municipal solid waste contract. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to authorize the skin patching project at sewer plant (approximately 40% of total project) and on Borough streets, not to exceed \$18,000 total. 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

- Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff to approve March 8 and April 12, 2021, Meetings Sewer Authority bills: Ed Healy - \$633.60; Tad Miller services from March 9 through April 12, 2021 - \$25.00; Tad Miller services from April 12 through June 14, 2021 - \$125.00; Petty Cash - \$63.77; total \$847.37. Motion withdrawn. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to transfer \$847.37 to the Borough Authority for the following bills incurred Ed Healy - \$633.60; Tad Miller services from March 9 through April 12, 2021 - \$25.00; Tad Miller services from April 12 through June 14, 2021 - \$125.00; Petty Cash - \$63.77; total \$847.37. 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

- Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve Assistant Treasurer's Time and Travel Report for period June 14, 2021, Time \$337.50; Travel \$64.38; Total - \$401.88. 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Ronald Kratz

- Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
- Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to approve quote for \$1,530.00 from BEI Electrical for WTP lighting upgrades. 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		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Kevin Steckel		

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mayor Niedermeyer informed the Council the police couldn't get in at the police station due to a lightning strike, which fried one of the boards. There was a miscommunication with the phone which is why it took so long to repair the doors.

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Bryon Reed

President Reed informed the Council that this will be last advertised meeting at the Vigilant Fire House. Starting in July the meetings will be held at the Borough Hall at 125 So. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

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

Thomas J. Mizgalski - 512 W. Washington Street. Thomas asked who decided to paint the new lines on Main Street, and now the road is torn up. The Council stated it was PennDOT.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President recessed to executive session at 7:58 PM. At 8:12 PM President Reed reconvened the meeting. Matters of union contract negotiations and personnel involving the police department were discussed in executive session.

Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to create a non-uniform contract negotiating committee consisting of Councilor Bartholomew, Councilor Kratz, and Manager Stevens. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Councilor Ruff made the motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, 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