

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
3/8/21**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, March 8, 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:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed	Jason Ruff	Dave Rachman	Jeffrey Hausman, Andreas Hassold
Joseph Wechsler via phone		Ed Healy	Phillips Armstrong, Jerlyn Schoch
David Schnaars		Mayor Niedermeyer	William Erney, Aaron Schoch,
Thomas Bartholomew		Daniel Stevens	Denise Martinez, Ted Martinez
Ronald Kratz		Larry Turoscy	Austin Martinez, Robert Herzog
Kevin Steckel			Austin Berger

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Executive session was held at 6:30 tonight concerning personnel matters.

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 February 8, 2020; **Joint Committee Meetings** – February 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.

Andreas Hassold – 1067 Pine Tree Drive - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Andreas is following up with the Council on the properties on Arbor Lane that are being developed. Andreas followed the advice of the Council and got in touch with Duane Dellecker and filed a right-to-know request. He received the print outs of the plan. Andreas pointed out there are no requirements for a grading plan, just building and zoning. The plans show that downspouts must discharge to the street on Arbor Lane. The first house has owners and none of the downspouts currently discharge to the front of the house. They discharge to the side of the house. Manager Stevens spoke with Duane Dellecker concerning the down spouts. Duane informed Manager Stevens that he feels that these are just temporary. Andreas questioned how an occupancy permit could be issued. President Reed stated that since the work was done in the winter, once the weather gets warmer, grading will be done and grass will probably be planted. Manager Stevens will follow-up with Duane Dellecker on the down spouts.

Denise Martinez – 2697 Lehigh Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Denise is the founder CEO and president of Caring Hearts Non-Profit Organization. The organization is growing and is looking for the help from borough, community, and a store front for the betterment of the community. They just recently opened up a store in Allentown on Linden Street. They are currently operating out of a garage up by Victory Park, but they have to leave because the owner is selling the house. They are moving down to Second Street. St. Johns Church is letting them use the parsonage garage to distribute

and collect clothing for the community. The organization is looking for a store front in Slatington and requesting opinions, or advice, on what she can do. Denise informed the Council they are getting some pretty big grants from the PPL center and Capital blue is one of their sponsors. Denise has tried to get in touch with the owner of Gallio's but has had no success.

Phillips Armstrong – Lehigh County Executive – Phillips and the mayor have worked this past year. He informed the Council that Slatington is in the design phase of the bridge, and the County are supporting the realignment. They just closed on piece of property, just south of Slatington, where they will open up another trailhead to relieve some of the pressure on Slatington's trailhead, and construct a boat launch. He has met with Carbon County and they are working with the Delaware and Lehigh Heritage corridor to expand the D&L trail all the way from Wilkes-Barre. The goal is to put together one large group for the D&L Trail. Phillips stated that biking is becoming very popular on the trail. They have given Slatington \$25,000.00 for the amphitheater. Phillips was appointed to a National organization, that includes 25 counties from the USA. Phillips informed the Council that if the COVID relief bill passes Lehigh County will be receiving \$72,000,000.00. Phillips informed the Council that his understanding is that this grant money is going to go directly out to any city over 50,000. Counties and the municipalities under 50,000 they will get their grant through the regular process.

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:

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

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

Mayor Niedermeyer stated that with COVID there aren't any meetings; nothing to report.

Chief Rachman

Chief Rachman followed up a citizen complaint on speeding on E. Church Street. The speed sign will be moved to address this matter.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded Councilor Kratz, to authorize submission to CDBG for selected projects; 1) East Franklin from Main to 2nd Street; 2) South Street from 2nd

Street toward Fairview Ave. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

2. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to authorize Lehigh Engineering to proceed with bidding for CDBG project on E. Church Street from 1st Street toward Walnut Street. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
3. Larry Turoscy provided an update on bidding for traffic signal at Main and Church. Larry stated they are working on the schedule now and giving all the information to the attorney so he may authorize that everything is correct. It will then go out to bid. Manager Stevens added that it will not be voted on until the May Council meeting. As requested from the Council, Manager Stevens had checked with Senator Browne's office and was informed there is no additional money for this project.

Councilor Schnaars mentioned that all the new lights are up around the park.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Kevin Steckel

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to ratify the hiring of Christopher Pfortner as a part-time police officer effective March 8th, 2021. 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		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

Officer Pfortner was sworn in by Mayor Niedermeyer

2. President Reed gave an update on sale of fire truck. President Reed stated there were no bidders this time.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to approve 2021 Community Yard Sale dates: 5/14-15-16/21; 9/10-11-12/21. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
2. Electronic Recycling Day – Saturday, April 3rd, 2021 9 AM -12 PM (informational only)

Manager Stevens contacted Senator Browne's office in regards to the swimming pool and their need for funds. Senator Browne's office will contact the treasurer of the swimming pool directly. This is to be placed on the next committee meeting.

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: Tammy Schmitt – Non-resident - \$11.00 (2 x \$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 Joseph Wechsler Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to award the sludge hauling contract for 2021 through 2024 to Biros Septic & Drain Cleaning Inc. 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 Joseph Wechsler Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

2. Manager Stevens, President Reed, Duane Szczesny, and John Bolton met with LCA concerning the televising on the sewer collection system. This work started today and will take about 2 weeks.
3. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize March 8, 2021, Meeting Sewer Authority bills: Ed Healy - \$369.60; Tad Miller - \$125.00; petty cash - \$50.63; total \$545.23. 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 Joseph Wechsler Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel		

4. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve Assistant Treasurer's Time and Travel Report for the period of December 14, 2020, to March 8, 2021 - \$496.35 (time \$368.75, travel \$127.60). 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 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. Councilor Kratz made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, that we award the contract for rehabilitation with the 2 Roberts Filters at the water filtration plant to Water Service Professionals of PA, and authorize the Borough Manager to execute such change orders, as he, the solicitor and president may deem appropriate for this normal maintenance work. The cost of the quote of work is \$104,500.00, plus additional work. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u> Bryon Reed Joseph Wechsler Dave Schnaars Thomas Bartholomew Ronald Kratz Kevin Steckel	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Property on Cherry Street was sold. We anticipate that the new owners will be a big improvement to the areas.

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 7:47 PM. At 8:45 PM President Reed reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel matters and real estate were discussed in executive session.

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 8:46 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens
Borough Secretary