

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON  
COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES  
5/10/21**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, May 10, 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, Ed Ziegler
Joseph Wechsler-phone	Mayor Niedermeyer	David Lear	Jason Nicholas, Jeralyn Schoch
David Schnaars		Ed Healy	Austin Berger, Thomas Mizgalski
Thomas Bartholomew		Daniel Stevens	Robert Herzog, Zachari Halkias
Ronald Kratz			Christine Leslie, Aaron Schoch
Kevin Steckel			Katherine Herzog

**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 Katz made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the following minutes: **Council Meeting** of April 12, 2021; **Committee Meetings** – April 19, 2021, & April 26, 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.

Ed Ziegler – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ed Ziegler informed the Council of a loud bang that occurred over the weekend. Chief Rachman told Ed to call the state police because the noise is going on behind the covered bridge in Washington Township and is outside the Borough of Slatington jurisdiction.

Katherine Herzog – Signed in and recognized to speak. Katherine thanked the Borough for the donation of chlorine, water, and monetary donation over the years. The pool could not survive without this. The pool was patch repaired about 5 years ago, but during that time repairs were still needed. Katherine stated that the pool is in dire need of repairs. The pool association has an estimate of \$170,000.00 for the repairs. The association had contacted Senator Browne and they suggested they go to the local level to see if there is any COVID19 money that could be used for the renovations. Katherine informed the Council that the filtration system is from 1963, and that should also be replaced at the same time. Katherine provided information about their budget. Katherine stated that if the pool could not be repaired completely within 4 years, the property would have to be sold. Manager Stevens has been in contact with Senator Browne’s office concerning possible use of GTRP Grant to repair the pool. Manager Stevens then contacted Lindsay Taylor concerning the grant; Lindsay had contacted Katherine, and Lindsay will write the grant. Manager Stevens stated the grant is for up to \$250,000.00, and is due by the end of the month. Hopefully, the association could raise the 15% match. Councilor Schnaars added that since the NLRA is a multi-municipal group, they would have more pull in obtaining certain grants.

**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 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**

President Reed informed the Council that Mayor Niedermeyer’s wife had passed away today.

**Chief Rachman**

Chief Rachman commented on Ed Ziegler’s issue about the fireworks. Chief Rachman stated they are aware of them. The police know who it is, but it is outside of the Slatington Police Department jurisdiction. They will contact the state police. Chief Rachman informed the Council that the new cruiser should be arriving soon. The old SUV is at the mechanics, and the equipment is being transferred to the new cruiser. Chief Rachman mentioned 2 traffic items: PennDOT has painted a white line on north Walnut Street in order to demarcate the shoulder of the road, which is not a right turn lane. However, people are using it as a turning lane. The police have contacted PennDOT to rectify this. The police would like either to have PennDOT get rid of the line or put hash marks in to signify it is not a right turn lane. There is an issue with an increase of truck traffic on Main Street which is causing noise. Main Street is in need of being repaired. A speed sign has been placed at Franklin Street. The police need to know where the 20 MPH PennDOT zone ends. The police will work to maintain the 25 MPH. There is a drafted policy in best practices that the Lehigh District Attorney Detectives’ office, the MERT team, and the PA State Police use.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Kevin Steckel**

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to ratify the hiring of Anthony Ballerini as a part-time police officer effective May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll call, voting as follows:

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

2. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, to have a no burn ordinance for the Borough. President Reed declared a tie vote following a Roll call, voting as follows:

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

Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to reconsider the previous action regarding the burn ban ordinance to allow a no burn ordinance to be passed. 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	

Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, to have a no burn ordinance for the Borough. President Reed declared a tie vote following a Roll call, voting as follows:

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

The Council agreed to have a special meeting on Monday, May 17th, 2021, at 6:00 PM

3. The Council reviewed the bid for the 1991 KME fire engine from Bryan Crawley for \$6,650.00. Councilor Steckel informed the Council there was another bid from Muncibid for \$6,500.00. Fire Chief Nicholas is questioning if the fire engine can be sold to a private bidder. Councilor Steckel recommended they take the bid from Bryan Crawley. Bryan would like to buy it and donate it to the fire company he works with in Tennessee. Councilor Bartholomew suggested taking the bid from Muncibid. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to accept the bid for the amount of \$6,500.00 from Muncibid. 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		

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, to accept the bid for the ARLE project for the traffic signal at Main and Church from Wyoming Electric and Signal for \$348,580.80. 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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Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to award the traffic signal contract to Wyoming Electric and Signal for \$348,580.80 provided they meet all the requirements. 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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Manager Stevens added that Wyoming Electric and Signal must understand there is no money for any change orders.

2. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to renew the Borough's agreement with ARRO Consulting, Inc. for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) for \$5,500.00. 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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3. Notification on North Slatington Drainage and Road Repair Project on multimodal Transportation Grant. (informational only)
4. Dave Lear provided an update on CDBG projects. Status of bidding on E. Church St road repair project. Dave stated they are reviewing the bid documents and they should be going out to bid. They have submitted 2 possible projects for next year and the applications have been accepted by Lehigh County.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Jason Ruff**

1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to approve two NLRA events – Wednesday UnWine'd and Everything Outdoors Food Truck Festival on July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021, approval includes sale of alcohol at both events. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Bartholomew, to approve a request from Lindsay Taylor at NLRA to use Victory Park Monday thru Thursday, starting June 21<sup>st</sup>, thru August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Manager Stevens informed the Council that Lindsay is waiting to hear from the school to see if she can use their property. 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 request from Ann Marie Hankee from Northern Lehigh Graduating Class of 2021 requesting a rolling parade on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021, from 6 PM to 7 PM in honor the 2021 graduates. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
4. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve request from The American Legion requesting the Borough block Second and Kuntz Sts. around the Veteran's Memorial on Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 8:00 AM till 1:00 PM. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
5. The Council reviewed a letter from The Giant Company concerning 2021 Healing the Planet Grant Program Guidelines. Manager Stevens informed the Council that he found this grant for playground equipment and explained it to Lindsay Taylor. This grant is for up to \$25,000.00 with no match requirement. However, they encourage some type of match. Councilor Schnaars made a motion duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to apply for a grant through Healing the Planet Grant Program, funded by The Giant Company. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
6. Thank you from Troop 66 for Borough providing firewood.
7. Photo of finished tables and benches at Victory Park Eagle Scout project by Ricardo Babilonia (informational only) Borough will send thank you letter.
8. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve request from Kylie Adams from the Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce requesting permission to use Slatington Memorial Park, possible blockage of portion of Second Street, on July 3, 2021, at 10 AM, for the Heritage Day celebration. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
9. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars to authorize Manager Stevens to apply for GTRP grant for repair and renovation on the Slate Heritage Trail. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
10. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize President Reed to send an official request to change Victory Park Restroom Grant from total replacement to renovation. President Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Schnaars informed the Council that they have official broken ground to start construction for the amphitheater. The plan is to have it be completed by July and a dedication at the Food Truck Festival.

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: Lorraine Muth – Deceased - \$5.50; Jennifer & Craig Wilt – paid elsewhere - \$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		

2. Thank you from 2020 United States Census Bureau. (informational only)

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to continue the program for I&I that we had last year. (with LCA sewer collection system maintenance goals and future cost estimates). 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. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Kratz, to authorize purchase of pans for those manholes that have been televised by LCA, cost not to exceed \$2,500.00. 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		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Dave Schnaars		
	Thomas Bartholomew		
	Ronald Kratz		
	Kevin Steckel		

Manager Stevens informed the Council that the roof at the sewer plant’s main building and garage was finished.

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Ronald Kratz**

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. Manager Stevens informed the Council the work for the media replacement project is scheduled to start tomorrow. (informational only)

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Councilor Bartholomew asked that the location for the special meeting be advertised in the Council chambers.

**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:** None

#### **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 8:30 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens  
Borough Secretary