

## **BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The **Finance Planning/Zoning, Public Safety and Human/Community Services Committee Workshop Meetings** were held on **January 18, 2021**, in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

The meeting was called to order by President Reed at 6:30 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed		Daniel Stevens	Austin Berger
Jason Ruff			Lindsay Taylor
Thomas Bartholomew			Jeff Hausman
Kevin Steckel			

**PUBLIC COMMENT: None**

### **A. FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING**

Thomas Bartholomew– Chairman; Members: Kevin Steckel, Jason Ruff

1. Committee Member discussion on listed topics:
  - a. Manager Stevens had received some information from and spoke with Mike Vandling from PSAB, the Borough’s website company. We have to either convert as is, or re-design the website, due to better technology. If we re-design the site it will cost \$165.00 extra for 3 different designs, plus the time to convert the site. The cost to re-design is not much more than converting it the way it is. Councilor Steckel asked if the website would be more mobile friendly. The committee discussed possible changes in the design layouts. Manager Stevens will get more information and have them do 3 designs. Manager Stevens will try to have the designs for the next committee meeting agenda.
  - b. The committee discussed posting of agenda. There is a cost for placing items on the website. The committee agreed, at this time, that there is no need to place the agenda on the website. It had been suggested to place agendas/minutes on Facebook, but the committee agreed not to do this.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned.

### **B. PUBLIC SAFETY**

Kevin Steckel-Chairman; Members: Thomas Bartholomew, Jason Ruff

1. Committee Member discussion on listed topics:
  - a. Councilor Steckel informed the committee that the fire company may have an interest for the 2014 police SUV, which needs a new motor. Austin Berger stated they would like to do something with the SUV, as they had done with the Borough brush truck. Austin is asking for the Council to consider

donating the SUV to the fire company to serve as the officer vehicle. Austin said he has a company that he could work with to fix the motor. There is a high cost to fix this vehicle. The committee discussed the vehicle that Det. T. Wagner is currently using. This vehicle is in need of extensive repairs. Councilor Bartholomew feels it is not necessary to continue providing a vehicle for Det. T. Wagner, since it was never in the contract and is an additional expense.

- b. Councilor Ruff has asked Austin Berger to do a Zoom call with a representative from Bath Borough to find out how they handle their Welfare check program. Councilor Ruff will setup the meeting along with Councilor Steckel. Austin added that Bath has paperwork for descriptions and photos of their children kept on file in the event someone went missing. Jeff Hausman stated that the Borough already does welfare checks through the police department. Austin stated the fire department is willing to do a welfare check. Councilor Bartholomew is concerned about legal implications and law suits.
- c. Councilor Steckel discussed the burn ordinance on who could sign off on the fire pits. Councilor Bartholomew thought the committee was heading to eliminating all fire pits, and only have above-ground manufactured chimineas. This will be placed on the next committee agenda.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Public Safety Committee meeting was adjourned.

### **C. HUMAN/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Jason Ruff – Chairman; Members: Kevin Steckel, Thomas Bartholomew

#### **1. Committee Member Discussion**

- d. The committee discussed NLCC Request for property tax relief. Manager Stevens informed the committee that the only thing the borough is involved in is if we were going to challenge the request for tax relief. The NL Community Center would have to go to the Lehigh County assessment office to apply for tax relief. Manager Stevens will send the NLCC a letter saying that we don't determine who is tax exempt, and explaining that this is determined by Lehigh County.
- a. Lindsay Taylor discussed the proposed Angelo Scarsilletti Amphitheater in Victory Park. The amphitheater project started many years ago. Funds were raised by the 150 And Beyond Committee and have since then been supplemented by DCED, DCNR, and Lehigh County. They are now ready to move forward with construction. The area that was identified was the former sand volleyball court in Victory park. They are hoping it will be a location of concerts, movies, plays, and activities in the park, in hopes of bringing life back to the park. The projects scope includes excavation, installation of a concrete slab for the stage, and electric service installation for the band shell. Lindsay provided a sketch of the proposed building and space. They would like the band shelter to be constructed by Cedar Forest Products and it will be installed by Rollo Playworks. These are COSTAR's approved. Project engineering would be provided by Keystone Consulting with the assistance of Lehigh Engineering. The cost will not exceed the budget of \$129,000.00. Upon receiving

approval from Council, the NRLA would move to order the structure and scheduling its installation. It is their goal to have it complete and ready to be dedicated to host its first performance this summer at the Everything Outdoors Food Truck Festival in Victory Park. It is also the 100-year anniversary of Victory Park and it would be a good opportunity to have a really nice event in the park. Tentative day would be July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Lindsay informed the committee that in September the amphitheater company raised their prices from \$48,049.00 to over \$51,000.00, and they looking to raise them again in the next 2 weeks. This is due to the interruption in the supply chain due to COVID19. Councilor Ruff wanted to make sure that if DCED grant expiration date is June 30, we won't risk losing that \$30,000.00. If for some reason the project doesn't get completed until later, Lindsay stated she could probably obtain an extension till the end of the year. There is a site visit on Wednesday, 1/20/21, at 1:00 PM where the installer, provider of the amphitheater, (Cedar Forest), and Keystone Consulting will meet at the site. Because this is COSTAR they have to do a visit and will fine tune the budget numbers. The committee reviewed and discussed the layout that Lindsay provided.

Councilor Ruff mentioned completing a project at the parking lot entrance at Main and Center Sts with pavers. President Reed had made a plan for this project. Councilor Ruff requested this be put on the next committee meeting agenda.

On behalf of Councilor Kratz, President Reed questioned LindsayTaylor regarding Walnutport backing out of the NLRA. 1) We have fiduciary responsibility with our residence's finances, please let us how you will make up the \$15,000.00 loss of revenue from Walnutport. We need to be assured that the NRLA is a viable concern. 2) Councilor Kratz is requesting they provide monthly profit and loss statements to Council so we can see if your plan is being actualized. 3) Do you have any insight as to whether the NRLA will qualify for the next round of COVID19 assistance. 4) What are the risks to your above plan and how probable is that risk? If this risk would manifest for you do you have a mitigation plan. Overall, we are pushing to have the NRLA be as prepared as possible to be successful in this tough environment. With the loss of Walnutport making the success even tougher, if we can assist with ideas and fund raising, etc., please don't hesitate to ask.

Lindsay answered the questions. Lindsay stated there would be a pricing policy for programs that would separate NLRA residence municipalities, and non-resident municipalities. Summer programs will have a rate increase. They will be putting out a sponsorship program for their events. They will offer more programs that are not for free and go after more grants. Lindsay stated that they may have to increase the summer help salary. Lindsay has a meeting in February with elected officials from Lehigh Township to talk with about joining the NRLA. Lindsay is looking at other facilities to conduct programs at a lower cost. President Reed asked Lindsay if the NRLA could work with the Parks & Recreation Commission. Lindsay has spoken with Parks & Recreation Commission concerning activities.

Councilor Ruff clarified that the money for the amphitheater is not coming from the Borough

Lindsay is requesting approval to place and construct, to run electric, and waive all permit fees, for the amphitheater in Victory Park from council because it is Slatinton property. President Reed requested this be placed on a special meeting agenda for Monday, January 25, 2021.

- b. Councilor Ruff suggested that Lindsay Taylor talk with Parks and Recreation and let them do the planning and coordinating for the Victory Park -100-years old celebration, tentatively planned for Saturday, July 24, 2021. Hopefully, this could coincide with the Everything Outdoors Food Festival and the dedication of the amphitheater.
  
- d. The committee discussed the future possibility of replacing the light poles on Main Street. President Reed informed the committee that PPL charges for each of the poles. He stated that \$60,000.00 of liquid fuels account yearly goes toward for electric. The Borough buys the electric from another company, which is currently at \$.054 k/w per hour. President Reed stated that PPL will not sell us a pole with another wire on it; another pole would be required. Some time ago, PPL had offered to come in and replace the lights with LED's; however, the Borough would have to sign a long-term contract. This has not happened. Councilor Ruff suggested looking into some grants for historical lighting. Manager Stevens will do research for historic lighting.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Human/Community Services Committee meeting was adjourned.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

Manager Stevens informed the committee that the Borough will have to bid for the sludge removal with WWTP. The contract runs out at the end of February. This will be placed on the special meeting agenda.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: NONE**

Councilor Ruff made a motion, duly seconded by, Councilor Steckel, to adjourn. Being no further business, President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens  
Borough Secretary