

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The **Finance Planning/Zoning, Public Safety and Human/Community Services Committee Workshop Meetings** were held on **June 21, 2021**, in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ruff at 6:34 PM with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed-arrived at 7:10		Daniel Stevens	Austin Berger
Jason Ruff			Jeffrey Hausman
Thomas Bartholomew			
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. Councilor Bartholomew provided information concerning Chief Rachman’s noise ordinance recommendations. Councilor Bartholomew pointed out that the noise ordinance was last modified in 2008. Chief Rachman would like to have his recommendations on pages 1, 2, 5 clauses 11 & 12, and page 9 table one, added to the current noise ordinance. This would provide a decibel limit on noise complaints. Manager Stevens informed the committee that changing the ordinance must be approved by Council and re-written by the solicitor. It would then be sent to committee for review, and then changes would be sent to Council for approval to advertise. Councilor Bartholomew stated there is nothing in the current ordinance covering motor vehicle exhaust. Councilor Bartholomew would like to have this placed on the next regular Council meeting to approve having the attorney revise the noise ordinance.
 - b. Councilor Bartholomew reviewed the ordinance for Officers and employees. Councilor Bartholomew would like to increase the managers authorization to sign purchase orders and bills not to exceed \$10,000. The ordinance was last changed in 2008 and Clause 14 sets limits of \$1,000 and \$10,000, which means every time Council wishes to change those figures a revised ordinance must be done. Councilor Bartholomew suggested revising the ordinance one time and take out the numbers and insert amount set by resolution. That way future Council can set those numbers by resolution. Councilor Bartholomew added exemptions for recurring monthly budgeted items, ex. health insurance, garbage, etc. Councilor Bartholomew would like this placed on the next regular Council agenda
 - c. Manager Stevens provided a proposal for the magistrate’s office. The RFP is due by July 7th, 2021. The committee reviewed the proposal. Manager

Stevens has checked the proposal and found that the Borough is basically in compliance with it. The rent has not increased in years. The Borough supplies the heat, hot water, sewer, garbage; the electric and phones are paid by the Magistrate's office. Manager Stevens suggested increasing the rent a nominal amount. The rent is decided on per square feet. Councilor Bartholomew recommended that Manager Stevens continue doing the negotiations. Manager Stevens stated that the Magistrate would like to update the office bathroom and possibly have the kids from VoTech complete the job. The Magistrate does like their location because of easy access and the police department being close for security.

- d. Manager Stevens provided an update on COVID19 Federal funds. Manager Stevens had applied for this 3 weeks ago after he was notified by the state that the Borough must apply within 5 days. It is the same type of grant that was completed for the trail. However, with the Federal they are requesting a SAM number. The Borough had one, but it is no longer active. Manager Stevens is diligently working on obtaining it. The grant for COVID19 funds has been entered without the SAM number. The amount was increased from \$430,000 to \$450,000 over a 2-year period. There are specific criteria for using the monies.

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 would like to discuss going halves for an LED sign at the Trailhead. The fire company got a grant for recruitment retention starting at the beginning of 2021. Part of that stated that the fire company has to erect some type of LED sign, which would mostly be for recruitment. Austin has provided an explanation to the committee what they are looking for. The fire company has, through the grant \$20,000.00 maximum for the sign. He has reached out to 4 or 5 sign companies and only 1 has provided a written quote and 1 a phone quote. Austin stated the fire company is looking for \$40,000.00 for the sign to be designed, installed and up and running, this is including engineer blueprints. Austin recalled that some councilors had shown interest in placing a sign down by the Trailhead. Austin is hoping for a 50/50 split of the cost. The other option for the fire department to find the \$20,435.70, or to place a one-sided LED on the side of the fire house. Councilor Ruff is concerned as to where the Borough would obtain the \$20,000.00, because it was not budgeted. Electrical hook up could be connected to the Welcome to Slatington sign. There is concern as to the location because the Borough does not own that property. The county gave permission to place the Welcome to Slatington sign. The fire department sign would be little bit in front of the Slatington sign. Councilor Ruff thought this sign would be near Victory Park. Austin

feels having the sign closer to Walnutport would be more noticeable. However, Austin is open to suggestions. This sign could also inform road closures, big events, public announcements, snow emergencies, etc. Austin has suggested to have the wording at the top of the sign split – Slatington Borough/Slatington Fire Department. The committee feels there are currently too many signs at the Trailhead. This sign can be changed remotely. There is not a monthly fee for this. Councilor Bartholomew questioned if any of the COVID19 monies could be used towards the sign, since it could be used for emergency information. Councilor Ruff asked if there are any other grants that the Borough could apply for to help. Manager Stevens will research. President Reed stated that the location should be decided on before making a commitment. President Reed has suggested Springside. The committee all agreed the sign should not be placed at the Trailhead. Austin informed the committee that the fire department has the grant for 4 years starting in 2021. Some of the grant monies will go towards the company making websites for the fire department, recruiting video, or school project multimedia. They may have Blue Ridge make a recruitment video, incentivize more training for the fire fighters, especially national certification. President Reed suggested that the road crew could possibly help to defer costs. This will be placed on the next committee meeting.

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 on listed topics:
 - a. The committee reviewed the request for use of facilities from the D&L to conduct their 10th Annual D&L Heritage Half Marathon on Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 8:00 AM. Councilor Ruff would like this on the regular Council agenda for approval.

Councilor Ruff provided the committee with a map outlining a possible dog park. Going up Center Street, on the opposite side, there is a small field that people have been using to walk their dogs, because it was a fenced in field. When the sports team would go to use the field, it was showing a lot of wear and tear from the dog use. The school has put a lock on the gate and residents are upset because they don't have anywhere to walk their dogs. There is an area that is owned by the school on the right-hand side of Center Street that could be used for a dog park. Councilor Ruff spoke with Matt Link from the school district, who took it to a building operations committee meeting and floated the idea of selling or leasing the property to the Borough. The school would be in favor of leasing it to the Borough as long as the Borough incur the fee of putting the fence around it. Councilor Ruff asked the committee if this would be a viable spot for a dog park that Council would support. President Reed questioned who would be responsible for cleaning up after the dogs. Jeffrey Hausman had suggested a piece of property up near Victory Park. The committee discussed other locations for a dog park.

Councilor Ruff will inform the school the committee is not ready to make a commitment for the dog park.

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

D. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Manager Stevens informed the committee that work is continuing up at Victory Park. They poured the footers for the amphitheater and will be pouring for the pad. Manager Stevens and Lindsay Taylor continue to work on the grant for the playground equipment

Councilor Bartholomew made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steckel, to adjourn. Being no further business, President Reed declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Daniel L. Stevens
Borough Secretary