

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
2/9/26**

The Regular Meeting of the Slatington Borough Council (Council) was held on February 9, 2026,
Presiding: Ryan Mayberry: President of Council
Recording Secretary: Roy Hambrecht

The meeting was called to order by President Mayberry at 7:00 PM with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Ryan Mayberry	William Borst	Justin Frable	Giovanni Romero, Ron Hausman
David Schnaars		Abigail Wieder	Robert Herzog, Jr., Karen Moyer
Andreas Hassold		Lisa Young	Kim Cooper, Erica Woodland
Robert Krebs		Jeralyn Schoch	Karl Drumm, Pat Rabenold
Kevin Steckel		Roy Hambrecht	Bryon Reed, Frank Hoffman
Aaron Schoch			Nancy Treskot, Bob Treskot
William Schippers			Kim Neff, Thomas Bartholomew

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

NOTIFICATION:

President Mayberry 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 Council, at which time the recordings shall be erased.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – Councilor Schippers made a motion as amended, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the following minutes: with corrections:

- a. Re-Organization Meeting – January 5, 2026: Solicitor Young noted Councilor Schippers seconded the nomination for Councilor Mayberry for President; Page 2 - should be appointment of the Fire Police Captain; Page 3, #8 should be Vice President Schnaars (2 sections); Page 3, #11 should read “following additional” holidays; correction on Junteenth – should be 6/19/26, not the 6/29/26; #13 - spelling correction for Councilor Steckel; President Mayberry noted #11 Councilor Steckel was mistakenly placed as the 1 nay, should be Councilor Hassold.
- b. Council Meeting – January 12, 2026 –
Page 2 - should be “deed” of the property;

Previously read “other State agencies to determine is dumping is occurring” changed to: “other State agencies to determine if dumping is occurring” (Kris Burek);

Mayor/Police Remarks:

Traffic citations should read - increase “of” 56%;

Parking tickets should read decrease “of” 25%;

Correction in spelling of Chief Borst;

Borough Manager Remarks: should read Manager Hambrecht informed the Council “that” the Borough;

B.1.b – should read Acela will have an answer next month; after executive session – should read for monies that were “assigned”, not “signed”, originally for a grant project

- c. Committee Meetings – January 20, 2026;
 - 1.a. – should read “fee” not “free”;

Should read “Manager Hambrecht to verify it for \$5,500.00”.

- d. Water/Sewer/Highway – January 26 – canceled

President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - (For Agenda/Non-Agenda Items) please use Podium (*three minutes per person/five minutes per group*) You will have three (3) minutes to address Council from the podium. The three (3) minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor and any time you have remaining.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS, COMMUNICATIONS:

Pat Rabenold – 105 Main Street. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Rabenold asked why the intersection at Main and Railroad Streets has not been cleared of the snow. There is a lot of traffic due to work being done on the bridge. Manager Hambrecht stated Ms. Rabenold should contact himself concerning any snow removal from any intersection and he will make sure the road crew removes the snow. Ms. Rabenold asked who replaced Tony Lopsonzski. She has concerns about residents who have not shoveled their sidewalks. Manager Hambrecht informed Ms. Rabenold letters have been sent out, and citations will be sent out if residents are not compliant.

Nancy Treskot – 856 So. Lincoln Ave., Walnutport. Representing the Venture Group. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Treskot is expressing, on behalf of the Venture Group (VG), her displeasure and the disrespect that this Council has shown the VG.

The incident in question represents the second time Council has “disrespected” it. The first time was when it was automatically charged for the electric bill and it was not told of the change with the electrical supplier.

There is now a free health kiosk at the Trailhead which is the responsibility of the VG. Ms. Treskot had some concerns about the cost of the electricity. Manager Hambrecht indicated that he will be working out a reimbursement with Michelle from the Drug and Alcohol group.

Ms. Treskot cited the following issues:

- Did anyone talk to the people who must look at it?
- What kind of police protection will be provided for the area where the machines resides?
- The Venture Group has not included that item in its insurance policy. Is the Borough including it and who is responsible for damages? Councilor Schnaars stated the County is taking all the expenses.

- Ms. Treskot asked what kind of survey was done to determine that the Trailhead was the best place for this kiosk? Ms. Treskot is stating the location is detrimental to where it should be used.
- Ms. Treskot informed the Council that the D&L was unaware of this kiosk being placed there. Ms. Treskot stressed that she must be informed as to what happens at the Trailhead.

Thomas Bartholomew – 722 Main Street. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Bartholomew congratulated the new council members and thanked them for their service to the community.

Mr. Bartholomew had been on Council until 2023. Mr. Bartholomew was elected to Council in 2018. At that time, Mr. Bartholomew read from the minutes from 2019 as follows:

Councilor Bartholomew had made a motion to approve draft of year 2018 audits. In 2021 – Councilor Bartholomew made a motion to approve draft audit and documents for 2019.

Mr. Bartholomew stated in 2018 and 2019 there was not a borough manager in the office. Manager Stevens became borough manager in February of 2020. Then in March 2020 the COVID pandemic occurred, causing the office to fall a year behind. Mr. Bartholomew worked diligently in the office to help with all the federal mandates that occurred due to the COVID pandemic. At the end of 2020 the Chief of Police retired. In 2021 the Borough lost its solicitor due to an accident. Mr. Bartholomew’s last year in Council was in 2023 when Council approved the 2021 audit. Vice President Schnaars stated that the Borough was only 1 year behind at that point. In 2022, the Borough continued to fall behind due to the work of the Borough was not being done as per standards.

Bryon Reed – 405 Diamond Street. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Reed informed the Council that at the re-organization meeting there were no re-appointments of the Zoning Hearing Board. Mr. Reed discussed the notice concerning the meeting on February 2, 2026, which stated approval of the budget and advertising for letters of interest to the board. However, the meeting for February 2, 2026, was solely for Ordinance 728. Mr. Reed noticed there could be a discrepancy between when the budget can be approved, versus when the public notice was issued.

Mr. Reed mentioned that at the 600-block parking lot, the overhead traffic lights on Main Street have not been on for many months.

Mr. Reed stated the plowing done for the 600-block parking lot was just plowed down the center and not in between the cars.

Mr. Reed offered his services to clean that parking lot.

Mr. Reed bought the tires from the Borough for \$575.00. President Mayberry assured Mr. Reed that those winter tires could be sold as the Police cars are now using all-season tires.

Frank Hoffman – 302 First Street. Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Hoffman is concerned about First and Center Avenue Alley. Mr. Hoffman stated FedEx trucks driving on to First Street, running over his flower bed and sidewalk. Mr. Hoffman is requesting to have a “no right turn” sign placed at that location.

He also added, there had been a streetlight at Center Avenue and First Street, but PP&L removed the light due to a fire. Mr. Hoffman is requesting to have the light replaced.

Mr. Hoffman stated the Code Enforcement vehicle should be moved to the Borough garage so there would be parking space available in the Walnut Street parking lot.

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 Schippers, to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u> Ryan Mayberry David Schnaars Andreas Hassold Robert Krebs Kevin Steckel Aaron Schoch William Schippers	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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MAYORS/POLICE REMARKS

Mayor Jeralyn Schoch

No comments

Police Chief Borst

Police Chief Borst was absent so Mayor Schoch provided his reports.

Mayor Schoch provided statistics for January 2026, compared to January 2025:

- Incidents 2026 - 317, increase of 27%,
- Incidents Report filed 2026 – 229, increase 26%
- Criminal arrests 2026 – 3, -0-
- Parking tickets 2026 – 55, increase of 150%

Mayor Schoch informed the Council that the Police Department (the Police) was not awarded the LSA grant for the new Police cruiser. The intent is to revisit that grant for the coming year.

Pending approval of the finalized budget, the Police will be completing the purchase and outfitting of the new patrol car.

Also pending the finalized budget, the Police will be completing the purchase of the 12 new firearms. The intent is to return the current firearms, along with the ammunition, to help offset the purchase of the new.

Police squad room renovation update - quotes are being secured from contractors to drop the power in to the office.

The Police are obtaining quotes to update the dash cameras.

Fire Chief Justin Frable

Chief Frable informed the Council that during the snowstorm, the Fire Department (“the Department”) was standing by for 24 hours. The Department responded to five (5) incidents during the storm. During January the Department responded to 22 calls which includes EMS assist and some dwelling fires in Lehigh Township.

Chief Frable stated the new truck should be having a 2027 spring delivery.

Borough Manager Roy Hambrecht

No comments at this time

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Public Safety

Councilor William Schippers

Councilor Schippers will be talking with Fire Chief Frable.

B. Highway

Councilor Aaron Schoch

1. Updates on the following:

- a. CDBG 2026 Project. Abigail Wieder informed the Council the roads have been surveyed but will talk about design in the Committee workshop. The roads are as follows:
 - i. South Street, from 5th Street to 4th Street;
 - ii. South Street, 4th Street to Main Street; and
 - iii. E. Washington, from Hill to S. Walnut.
- b. 100 Steps - Update from Acela on comments to PennDot. Ms. Wieder informed the Council the comments between the Borough and PennDot are complete. The Borough is waiting on the final comments for the maintenance and protection of traffic.

Manager Hambrecht asked Abigail if the \$390,000.00 would still be available to the Borough. Abigail will investigate and provide a response.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Kevin Steckel

- 1. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schippers, to approve Moyer-Cooper Families request to place a memorial along the D&L Trail. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- 2. Councilor Steckel made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize Solicitor Young to create an ordinance for the committee of the Economic Development Town Beautification Committee (EDTBC) in addition to advertising said ordinance. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		
	Andreas Hassold		
	Robert Krebs		
	Kevin Steckel		
	Aaron Schoch		
	William Schippers		

D. Finance/Planning/Zoning

Councilor David Schnaars

- 1. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch, to approve the \$5,500 contribution to Slatington Public Library. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		
	Andreas Hassold		
	Robert Krebs		

Kevin Steckel
Aaron Schoch
William Schippers

2. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Krebs, approve payment to Bracalenta for the paving of Willow St. for the sum of \$88,890.70. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry David Schnaars Andreas Hassold Robert Krebs Kevin Steckel Aaron Schoch William Schippers		

3. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Krebs, to approve Resolution R-07-26, a resolution to adjust the quarterly Garbage rates from \$90 to \$110. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry David Schnaars Andreas Hassold Robert Krebs Kevin Steckel Aaron Schoch William Schippers		

4. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Hassold, to approve Resolution R-08-26, a resolution to adjust the 2026 Fee Schedule – rental registration fee increases. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry David Schnaars Andreas Hassold Robert Krebs Kevin Steckel Aaron Schoch William Schippers		

5. Discussion and possible approval of adding a fourth member of staff to the Highway crew. The posting for this position shall indicate the need for a Class A CDL and general automotive skills. Councilor Schnaars informed the Council that the Highway crew has a couple of employees close to retirement. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch, to approve adding a fourth member of staff to the Highway crew. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

6. Discussion and possible approval of partnering with Venue22 for community programming via grant opportunities. If approved, next steps would be an MOU. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch, to develop an MOU. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

7. Discussion and approve the 2026 Budget (attachment). Due to a conflict with the time requirements concerning advertising, the Council agreed revert to the December 2025 approved budget. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch, agreed to alter the original budget and rely on the December 2025 approved budget. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		
	Andreas Hassold		
	Robert Krebs		
	Kevin Steckel		
	Aaron Schoch		
	William Schippers		

8. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Krebs, to approve rental inspection letter with corrections. It is expected that this letter will be sent out in the coming days, beginning the Borough's new rental inspection program. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		
	Andreas Hassold		
	Robert Krebs		
	Kevin Steckel		
	Aaron Schoch		
	William Schippers		

9. Vice President Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch, to approve payment to Bracalenta for the paving of Cherry Street for the sum of \$158,908.60. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		
	Andreas Hassold		
	Robert Krebs		
	Kevin Steckel		
	Aaron Schoch		
	William Schippers		

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Andreas Hassold

1. Councilor Hassold made a motion, duly seconded by Vice President Schnaars, to approve the cost proposal from Cowan Associates regarding the requirements of the Toxics Reduction Evaluation (TRE) work at the Sewer Plant. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Ryan Mayberry		
	David Schnaars		

Andreas Hassold
Robert Krebs
Kevin Steckel
Aaron Schoch
William Schippers

2. Councilor Schoch made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the request from William Smith to become a member of the Slatington Sewer Authority for a term of five (5) years. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch to amend the agenda to consider an additional person to the Sewer Authority. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Krebs, to re-appoint Crystal Fink to the Slatington Sewer Authority. President Mayberry declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Robert Krebs

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: None

Ryan Mayberry

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

Frank Hoffman – 302 First Street. Frank congratulated the Council for seeing the Borough needs people on the road crew.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: President Mayberry recessed to executive session at 8:22 PM. At 8:59 PM President Mayberry reconvened the meeting. Matters of legal and real estate were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Councilor Schnaars made the motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schoch to adjourn the meeting. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

President Mayberry declared the meeting adjourned at 9:06 PM.

Roy Hambrecht
Borough Manager