

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, January 13, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Daniel Stevens: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Gwyneth Neff, Council Vice-President

The meeting was called to order by President Stevens at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Galen Freed		Mayor Niedermeyer	Vince Morris Bill Carlton
Bob Steets		Ed Healy	William Stein Ron Scheffler
Bryon Reed		Larry Turoscy	Kris Burek Carol Gildner
Daniel Stevens			Melvin Gildner George Moyer
David Schnaars			Ed Ziegler Robert Herzog Jr.
Gwyneth Neff			Robert Stettner Sharon Stanley
Jon Rinker			Russell Hallman

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None at the present time

President Stevens noted that the Resolution pertaining to “Rules and Regulations of Good Conduct” are posted on the wall, to either turn off their cell phones or silence them, and he also reminded everyone about the procedure for signing in for attendance and for addressing the Council. He then clarified the following: when a motion and a second is on the floor and he asks for questions, this request pertains only to Council; there are no questions accepted when a motion is being considered. Any questions on the agenda items may be made during the Visitors Section. The only exception is when any items which are not on the agenda on which action is taken.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Reed to approve the following sets of minutes as amended: Council Meeting December 9, 2013; Workshop Meetings, December 16 and December 23, 2013 and Special Meeting December 23, 2013. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 7 Ayes, No Nays

You will have five minutes to address Council from the podium. If you reach the five minute limit, you will be given thirty seconds to conclude your remarks. The five minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor, and any time you have remaining.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (Agenda and Non-Agenda items)

Kris Burek, 1235 Fourth Street – Ms. Burek gave a brief introduction for the new Lehigh County Executive Mr. Thomas Muller.

Melvin Gildner, 528 Pine Street- Mr. Gildner said that for the last 5 years he has been coming to meetings questioning the water and sewer rates. He said that he received at notice from the Pennsylvania Borough Code noting that the monthly, quarterly or annual amount or fixed sum shall be apportioned equably among the properties served by the sanitary sewer. Mr. Gildner asked if Council if they believe that water and sewer rates are equally distributed to everyone. Councilor Steets said that as far as he is aware everything is equal.

Ron Scheffler, 1335 Oakhurst Drive- Mr. Schleffler asked why the minutes haven't been posted online since September. He also asked the status of the news letter, Council informed him that they would be in the mail sometime this week. Mr. Scheffler also asked if they would be repairing the dip in the road where the sewer was repaired; Councilor Reed said that it will be done in the spring.

Ed Ziegler, 138 North Walnut Street- spoke to Council about several of his concerns.

REPORTS

The reports of various committees, officials and officers are on file in Borough Hall and are available for public inspection.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/TRANSFER

Councilor Freed made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens	Gwyneth Neff
	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed
	Jon Rinker	

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer noted that most of the meetings were canceled because of the cold weather. He said he worked on citizens complaints.

Chief Rachman that the oral interviews for the full-time Police Officer will take place on January 25, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. He said that hopefully we will be ordering a new police cruiser if it is passed tonight.

STANDING COMMITTEES

C. Human/Community Services

1. Request to move the Boy Scout Monument- Councilor Schnaars read a letter from Troop 65 requesting moving the monument that is located on the north side of the creek on Scout House Road; and move it near the information post on the Slate Heritage Trail. He said that it will be more accessible there, and it will hopefully stop people from vandalizing it. Bill Carlton also noted that because of the 150th Celebration coming up he would like to move it so it is more accessible. Mr. Carlton also asked if the Borough if they would be able to help move the monument. Councilor Schnaars made a motion second by Councilor Rinker to authorize movement of the Boy Scout Monument located on Scout House Road to Borough property right off the Slate Heritage Trail with the sight to be determined. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens	Gwyneth Neff
	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed
	Jon Rinker	

2. Request to use the Covered Bridge- Councilor Schnaars said that Heather Henning is requesting to use the covered bridge as the site for her wedding. He said that the location is public property, and we won't be able to

guarantee that there won't be bikers or walkers. President Stevens said that we can check to make sure that there isn't anything scheduled for that day. Councilor Schnaars said that he would get in contact with her to find out more specific details.

3. Request from the NL PTO- Councilor Schnaars said we received a request from the Northern Lehigh PTO President Ashley Fenstermaker asking for permission to hold a Color Run on May 17, 2014. They are asking to hold it on School District property and a portion of Shadow Oaks Lane; they are asking to close the street between 9am-2pm. President Stevens asked what colored corn starch pit stops are; Vice President Neff noted that it is very messy. She asked who will be cleaning up the mess afterwards. Councilor Freed suggested that we find out about the clean-up before we make a motion to approve their request. Councilor Schnaars said that he will contact her and find out more information on the event.
4. Lutheran Academy's 5k Run- Councilor Schnaars said they are requesting to use the Trailhead on April 12, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. for their annual 5k run/walk. Councilor Schnaars made a motion second by Councilor Steets to approve the Lutheran Academy's request to use the Trailhead on April 12, 2014. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 7 Ayes No Nays.

A. Highway

1. Winter Maintenance Agreement- Councilor Freed said there has been no change.

Councilor Freed said that there was a blow out over the weekend with a 4 foot metal pipe that is located on Orkin property. He said that John Bolton explained to him that the pipe collapsed, it has rotted over the years and now has collapsed. Councilor Freed said that the water was squirting out all over the place and this pipe connects into a plastic pipe that the Borough installed. Councilor Freed said that the pipe needs to be replaced. President Stevens asked if the pipe belonged to Orkin Steel; Councilor Freed said no it is just located on Orkin property. Councilor Reed said that he thinks we should talk about this further at the Committee Meeting.

B. Public Safety

1. Generator Update- Councilor Rinker said there is no progress at this point.
2. Purchase of New Police Vehicle- Councilor Rinker went over the quotes from two places; one is from Beyer Ford in the amount of \$27,885.54 and Milham Ford in the amount of \$27,667.00. Councilor Rinker made a motion second by Councilor Schnaars to approve the purchase of the new police cruiser from Beyer Ford providing the quote from Kovatch is not lower and also including the same equipment, as per the written proposal. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens	Gwyneth Neff
	Bryon Reed	David Schnaars
	Galen Freed	Bob Steets
	Jon Rinker	

3. Appointment to Police Pension Committee- President Stevens appointed David Schnaars to the Police Pension Committee for a 2 year term.
4. Medication Drop Box- Councilor Rinker said that we were issued a Mediation Drop Box where you can drop off old or expired medication. It has been installed inside the Police Department.

Councilor Rinker read a letter from Sergeant George Burke that he is officially retiring on January 21, 2014. Councilor Rinker said that we appreciate the 25 years of service that Sergeant Burke gave us along with his service in Iraq. Everyone gave Sergeant Burke a round of applause. Chief Rachman read the retirement letter from George Burke.

D. Finance-

1. Retirement finding for part-time employees- Vice President Neff tabled this until after executive session, because it is a personnel issue.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

1. Authority Bills- Councilor Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Reed to authorize the affirmation of the Authority's Transfer request in the amount of \$2,275.10; request as listed: Steckel & Stopp – (November) \$1,205.10, Lehigh Engineering- \$945.00, and Joan Cheesbrough- (November Minutes) \$125.00. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens	
	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	
	Gwyneth Neff	
	Galen Freed	
	Bryon Reed	
	Jon Rinker	

2. Repairs to the Cannon Mixer and pipe- Councilor Steets said that they haven't had time to make it to the plant yet. Councilor Reed said that they made it to the plant on Friday, however they were unable to prepare us a quote for before the meeting.

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

1. Water was tested and found safe for human consumption

Councilor Reed said that last year when we purchased the loggers for \$9,000. When Steve did the year end numbers this year we used 4 million less gallons in December, compared to December 2012.

Councilor Reed updated Council on the miscommunication between well #4 and the reservoir.

G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee

1. Councilor Schnaars and Councilor Rinker said that there is no update at this time.

Larry Turoscy noted that DEP asked them for additional information on the Flow Monitoring Report. He said they asked for 2 comparable rain fall years. He said that 2012 and 2009 because one year was 44 inches and the other year was 41 inches. In that case there was a decrease of 33.38%. He said in that case the project that was done really helped a lot. Mr. Turoscy also noted that they have completed the manhole study and most of them are down in the Orkin Steel area which wasn't covered in the Penn Vest project.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Stevens recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:08 and called for an Executive Session. At 9:57 P.M. he reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive session matters of real estate, personnel and legal issues were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Vice President Neff made a motion second by Councilor Schnaars to amend the agreement for the pension covering non-uniform and office personnel to reflect the following:

1. All payments will be held in a prefund account until they are apportioned by the fund administrator.
2. The 35 hour per week requirement will be eliminated.
3. the 1000 hour per year requirement to take part in the plan will be retained.

President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens Galen Freed	
	Bob Steets Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars Jon Rinker	
	Gwyneth Neff	

Councilor Schnaars made a motion second by Councilor Steets to move that benefits for employees concerning vacation, personal and sick days for office personnel and part-time employees be administered according to the description given in the non-uniform contract which states that there is no accumulation of vacation or personal days, and you can accumulate sick time up to 50 days. He added that the said employees be notified of this in writing and that they are required to use up any previously accrued days by December 31, 2014. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens Galen Freed	
	Bob Steets Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars Jon Rinker	
	Gwyneth Neff	

Councilor Steets asked if would be ok if the sewer plant operators could take the scrap copper wire that was left over from the generator to the recycling facility on route 145. Councilor Steets made a motion second by Councilor Schnaars for the operators at the sewer plant to take the scrap copper wire that was left over from the generator project to the recycle company and get a check issued to the Borough. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Daniel Stevens Galen Freed	
	Bob Steets Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars Jon Rinker	
	Gwyneth Neff	

President Stevens turned the meeting over to Vice-President Neff and left the room because Council was going to discuss Borough Manager position and President Stevens stated he may be interested in the position.

Councilor Schnaars said that we have put money aside in the budget. He said he thinks we need to move forward with this, because some of the issues that came up in this office this week could have been handled by a Manager. Councilor Schnaars said that he believes that it's time we pull out the job description for the Manager and review it and make sure it's what we want, and get ready to advertize for the position. Councilor Schnaars made a motion second by Councilor Rinker that the finance committee review the job description for Borough Manager and make any necessary changes and propose it to the full Council, and once we are confident the description is

what we want that we advertise the Borough Manager position. President Stevens declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, voting as follows 5 Ayes, 1 Nay, 1 Absent. President Stevens was not present for the vote because he may be interested in the Borough Managers position.

At 10:10 p.m. Councilor Rinker made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary