

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, July 14, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Gwyneth Neff: Council Vice-President
Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, Council President Pro-Temp

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Neff 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	Linda Steets
Bob Steets		Ed Healy	Robert G Herzog Jr.
David Schnaars		Larry Turoscy	Carol Gildner Ed Ziegler
Gwyneth Neff			Nathan Stubbs Robert Stettner
Jon Rinker			George Moyer Mel Gildner
Bryon Reed			Kris Burek Ron Scheffler
Amanda. Trelease			

EXECUTIVE SESSION – An executive session was held. Matters of personnel were discussed in the executive session.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – (Vice President Neff) Minutes from the various previous meetings are not available at this time.

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 Signed in was recognized by the council Vice Chair to speak but was not present.

Ron Scheffler Signed in was recognized by the Vice Chair to speak but was not present.

Ed Ziegler, 214 N. Walnut Street- Mr. Ziegler asked about the sign at victory park and why the weeds have not been trimmed so you can see it, said he requesting that the Women’s Club replace flowers at the Welcome Sign at Victory Park last meeting, also stated the lower light at Springhouse is out and needs repair. Mr. Ziegler also brought up the 35 MPH sign on Main Street at Victory Park that is only partially visible. The branches should be trimmed so it can be seen. Mr. Ziegler commented on the one way sign on Long Alley. There is a sign in one direction but not in the other direction. A sign should be put one the back of the sign saying one way, and another sign that is damage on Long Alley; also commented on the lot behind the Moose. Mr. Zeigler commented that the Borough should have its own planning commission so residents don’t

have to go to Allentown to meet with the planning commission. He stated it costs too much to build here that is why no one wants to come and build in Slatington. He further discussed other lots in Slatington that could be used for development.

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. Council Vice-President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
Gwyneth Neff	None
Bryon Reed	
David Schnaars	
Galen Freed	
Bob Steets	
Jon Rinker	

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer announced his municipal update stating he attended at Neff's Other Side the Northern Lehigh –Palmerston area chamber of commerce with some from Carbon County that gave an update of what there municipalities were doing. He also stated on July fourth he attended the Heritage Day ceremony at Slatington Baptist church for a one hour ceremony. Expressed concerns and wishes more people would show up at these ceremonies.

Police Chief David Rachman reported that 31 applicants applied for the civil service exam, 25 took the test, all passed but 2, that leaves 23 to move on to the agility test and hopefully there will be a few that will pass the background checks and can be given to council to make a choice on hiring. All is going well otherwise. There are a few other things but those will be brought up under public safety.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

1. 2013-2014 CDBG update: Larry Turoscy stated there is a delay because of bidding because the contractor is working in Bethlehem. The project will start in late August or early September. We have to ask for an extension which we have been told we would get. He expects to take three weeks to do the project but should be within the project deadline.
2. Center Avenue project: The contractor said he would be very interested when he is here with his people to give the Borough a quote but he wants to meet with somebody to sit down and discuss the project so he can give us a price and get information on the amounts and type of materials. Councilor Reed asked when we would get a price on the Center Avenue project. Larry Turoscy answered that the contractor would like to come up before he starts the project so he can give us a price, either late August or earlier Sept. Mr. Turoscy stated he would keep the council updated on the project.
3. Halloween Parade: A motion was made to allow the Halloween parade on 10-25-2014. Motion made by councilor Freed and seconded by Councilor Reed.

All in favor of the motion to allow the Halloween parade. Motion passed unanimously.

B. Public Safety –

Mr. Rinker stated discussed the antique printing press that had belonged to the Slatington News. The historical Society is willing to give the press to the Borough as long as we have a place to display it publicly which would be in the lobby of the Borough Hall Building; with the stipulation that it is to be sold and must be maintained. Maintained meaning it the borough will not place it somewhere where it could be rained on or damaged. It will be given with no strings attached except for those just mentioned.

Councilor Rinker made the motion to accept the printing press from the Historical Society with the condition that is never to be sold, must be publically displayed, and maintained. The motion was seconded by Councilor Reed. Attorney Healy asked if it was the Borough intention to take possession of the press or just allow it to be displayed? Councilor Rinker stated it is being given to us. Coucilor Schnaars asked where it would be displayed. Councilor Rinker stated in the lobby of the borough building. Rinker explained that the printing press is not owned by the historical society but has possession of it and that is came from the Slatington news. It is an originally George Washington printing press and once we accept it we cannot send it back.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Schnaars stated he really doesn't have anything at this time. The Halloween parade has already been discussed. The topic of our sister city in Fairhaven Vermont was discussed by Councilor Schnaars. They gave us coasters for the 150th celebration to recognize the relationship between Fairhaven and Slatington.

D. Finance-

1. Vigilant, Borough Hall and Springside Roof Quotes- Vice President Neff stated that she has received two quotes one quote from Mint Construction and one from Paul Wright roofing and that getting a third quote has been very difficult. The Paul Wright roofing quote was \$5950.00. There was discussion on the bids by individual councilors. Councilor Reed brought up the roof quotes stating they are not comparable since the contractors are quoting different materials. Further discussion was held between Councilor Schnaars, Reed, and Neff concerning the comparability of the quotes. Councilor Neff tabled the project till the next committee meeting to compile more information.
2. Tax exemption was discussed. A motion was made to accept the tax exemption since the resident does not live in the Borough. Vice President Neff made the motion. A discussion was held as to the Vice President making a motion. Solicitor Healy interjected that it is acceptable to do so, but Slatington has had a tradition of the Chairman asking for a motion to be made by another member of council. The motion was then made by Councilor Schnaars and seconded by Councilor Steets. The vote was taken.

ROLL CALL

AYES
Bob Steets Galen Freed
Bryon Reed Jon Rinker
Amanda Trelease
David Schnaars Gwyneth Neff

NAYES
None

Approval for the second draft of the financial audit report.

There was a correction made to the audit report. Dan had reviewed it prior to him resigning. Solicitor Healy stated that there was a correction made and that the auditor did not feel comfortable completing it without the council's approval. A motion was made by Councilor Schnaars to accept the corrections and move forward with the publishing of the audit report. The motion was seconded by councilor Freed.

ROLL CALL

AYES
Bob Steets Jon Rinker
Amanda Trelease Galen Freed
David Schnaars Gwyneth Neff
Bryon Reed

NAYES
None

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

1. Authority Bills- Councilor Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Freed to transfer funds in the amount of \$13231.35 to the Slatington Borough Authority for the Following Bills: Steckel & Stopp – \$821.10, Rettew Associates for \$3579.50, a second Rettew for \$2680.75, Joan Cheesbrough – \$250.00.

ROLL CALL

AYES
Bob Steets Galen Freed
Jon Rinker Amanda Trelease
David Schnaars Gwyneth Neff
Bryon Reed

NAYS
None

2. Fines - Another motion was made by Councilor Steets to approve transfer of funds to Borough Authority for DMR violations for effluent limitations for May of 2014. Four@ \$500.00 each or \$2000.00 seconded by councilor Freed.

ROLL CALL

AYES
Gwyneth Neff
Jon Rinker
Amanda Trelease
David Schnaars
Galen Freed
Bob Steets
Bryon Reed

NAYS
None

2. Digester Quotes- Councilor Steets asked if councilor Reed had any quotes. Councilor Steets stated he has not received any from Doug yet but he will call him back. Councilor Reed stated he had received one quote from a company but it does not include the cleaning of the digester.
3. EPA Grant - Councilor Steets opened the discussion on the EPA grant valued at \$158,000.00. Solicitor Ed Healy stated he was in contact with Allan Ringer. EPA is requesting a resolution identifying the authorized signatories for the Borough. The resolution was past a few years ago,

there were to many changes to the candidates for the resolution to be valid so an new one needed to be passed. Solicitor Healy stated there should be one in your packet. You can change the names to whomever you want.

The resolution is needed to authorize the signatories for the man –hole rehab grant. It authorizes those people to sign documents that back and forth between DEP and the Borough. There was Further discussion on the original grant monies awarded and the remain funds between councilors the solicitor and Larry Turoscy.

A motion was made by Councilor Steets to authorize signatures to be used on the EPA grant Resolution R-13-14, and accept the grant; those names are Vice President Gwyneth Neff, President Pro-tem Bryon Reed and Assistant Secretary Karen Gill.

ROLL CALL

AYES

NAYES

Bob Steets

Galen Freed

None

Amanda Trelease

David Schnaars

Gwyneth Neff

Jon Rinker

Bryon Reed

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

1. Water was tested and found safe for human consumption

2. Councilor Reed opened a discussion on the utility bill questions arising from the utility Bill Estimates and discussed briefly the different situations with the estimated bills. Councilor Reed stated that the last accurate reading was the first week of November and that there were large leaks. He also stated that it is the responsibility of the residents to check for leaks.

3: Small Water & Sewer Grant Update:

The grant for Shadow Oaks water main replacement was submitted however the reading of the grant to see who it would be awarded to, that was scheduled for the DCED meeting on July 8th. DCED postponed the meeting till September. Councilor Reed stated the meetings are scheduled ever two months. Councilor Reed stated he does not have more of an update than that. Borough solicitor asked if the grant was through the Wealth Financing Authority. Councilor Reed said he did not know.

4: Timing of Utility Bills:

Councilor Reed started a discussion on the due dates of utility bills and the timing of them being sent in respect to residents receiving their Social Security Checks. The discussion continued with other council members adding input. Councilor Schnaars stated that it would difficult to time the bills when residents get their Social Security checks because they come at different times of the month for different people based on their Birthday. Councilor Reed stated it could be something that could be discussed in a committee meeting.

5: TAP Grant: Larry Turoscy gave an update on the TAP grant (or sidewalk grant) that was Awarded in the June 11th letter which was the scope of work and reimbursement agreement. It was stated at some point and time we will need to sit down with Penn-Dot. Once that is Completed the Borough will have two years to complete the project.

Grant for Signal Light: Larry Turoscy gave an update on the signal light for Main & Church

Street. Penn Dot ARLE program. This will be a complete reconstruction of the signal lights, the arms, and the handicapped ramps. The grant paperwork was sent in but he has not received any notification. This grant is a large grant of about \$145,000.00.

MS4 Issues: Larry Turoscy discussed the MS4 citations, stating the Borough along with most Municipalities in Lehigh and Northampton counties were cited for things we did two years ago. When filling out the MS4 paperwork EPA's MS4 project. LCCD wants to do a new MOU (memorandum of understanding) to make sure the Borough gets involved we need to sign the document and send it back to them so they can meet with the Borough and go over the new MOU and get the EPA issues taken care of on the MS4. This has to be done so that the Borough is on track to have the citations removed both past and prevent future citations. The EPA cited everybody. It was no fault of the Borough.

G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee

1. Councilor Schnaars and Councilor Rinker talked about the advertising and agenda and brochures are out in the Borough. The billboards have been placed and were paid for and donated by Lehigh Engineering for the 150th celebration. Council thanked Lehigh Engineering. Councilor Schnaars also thanked the committee and all those who were involved in the set up and preparation for the celebration. Councilor Freed added that John Bolton told him that he would have the line painting down before the celebration.

Unfinished Business:

Councilor Schnaars made a motion to nominate Amanda Trelease to chair the finance committee. Councilor Rinker asked if council doesn't first have to appoint a president of council to see where councilor would fit into the committee positions.

Attorney Healy stated that technically it doesn't We have a vacancy in the Presidency position and the Vice President takes over until the position is filled. Further, the motion to make her a member of the finance committee is the only thing on the floor now. She is being put on because there is no action putting her on the related committees.

Normally the committee on committees would address this. Committee on committees would be the three most senior members. A further discussion on the ordinance was held between council members and the Solicitor.

Councilman Freed suggested tabling the action. Councilman Schnaars stated that would then leave her with no participation in any committee. Councilman Reed asked council woman Trelease if she wanted to be on the finance committee. She responded yes. Councilman Schnaars amended the motion making a motion to have council woman Trelease chair of the finance committee, and a member of both the public safety committee and the human services committee. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rinker.

All in favor of the motion. Unanimous

Councilor Reed made a motion to allow the Solicitor to compose an offer of employment letter, to the candidate revealed to the Solicitor, for the position of Borough Manager. The letter to read that the candidate can take the position, and start employment upon acceptance of the offer. The motion was seconded by Councilor Schnaars.

ROLL CALL

Bob Steets
Jon Rinker
Gwyneth Neff
David Schnaars
Amanda Trelease
Galen Freed
Bryon Reed

Solicitor stated he will attempt to get the offer letter out in the next day or so.

George Moyer (241 Main Street) posed a question to council concerning the appointment of Councilor Trelease to the position of Committee Chair of Finance.

The question concerns having two chair persons of the finance committee. He stated he has not heard that Vice President Neff had stepped down from the position. A short dialogue among the council members and solicitor Healy resulted in the Solicitor stating that by virtue of the appointment of Councilor Trelease, Vice President Neff is no longer chair of the Finance Committee and no further action is needed.

A motion was made to put Vice President Neff in as council President was made by Jon Rinker. There was no second to the motion.

Solicitor Healy then asked for a first call to the motion and a second call to the motion which was the third attempt at a second and hearing one the motion died.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 .

Kevin Deppe
Secretary

