

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, August 18, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Gwyneth Neff: Vice President of Council

Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem

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>	
Jon Rinker	Galen Freed	Mayor Niedermeyer	Robert Stettner	Sharon Stanley
Bob Steets	Amanda Trelease	Ed Healy	Nathan Stubbs	Ed Ziegler
Bryon Reed		Larry Turoscy	Kris Burek	Carol Gildner
Gwyneth Neff			Melvin Gildner	George Moyer
David Schnaars				

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None at the present time

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to approve the following sets of minutes as amended: Council Meeting July 14, 2014. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 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)

Charles Fehr, 121 Hill Street- asked Council if they would consider changing the due date on the utility bills to a little later in the month. Councilor Reed stated multiple residents have asked him the same question recently. Councilor Schnaars stated that we can't change the date to accommodate one, when changing it may negatively affect another. Councilor Reed stated he thinks Council should discuss this further.

Kris Burek, 1235 Fourth Street- suggested to Mr. Fehr to pay his bill in monthly installments rather than quarterly, so when due date comes around he won't have to come up with as much money. Ms. Burek asked Council several questions. She asked about the status of the Borough website, the status of the grease trap letters, the leaf pick-up schedule, the waste water treatment plant repairs, what revenue has parks and recreation generated to offset the engineering bills and what is the status of the emergency generator. Councilor Rinker addressed the emergency generator by saying we are not looking to purchase one at this time, he added that in the case that we have an emergency we have one available at the Fire Company. Kevin Deppe stated that he is working on repairing the website. He also added that he is looking into an emergency management grant to fund the purchase of an emergency generator for the police department. He stated that he will look into the status of a leaf pick-up schedule. Councilor Rinker noted that we don't have a schedule because the weather is unpredictable and emergency work takes first priority.

Terry Bossard, addressed council about a problem he had with his water meter. A lengthy discussion took place on Mr. Bossard's meter.

Melvin Gildner, 528 Pine Street- asked Council several questions about water and sewer rates. He also asked if council is making sure employees are following their job descriptions. Mr. Gildner added that there are bigger problems in this town other than high grass.

Nancy Trescot, Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce- noted that back in May she asked Council if she could write a grant to create parking at the Trailhead. She stated that we received the grant and is presenting Council with the necessary paperwork to complete the process. She noted that the grant is in the amount of \$1,250.00, the project will cost approximately \$2,000.00. Jason Breidinger noted that the project must be completed by the end of 2014.

Matt Chewett, on behalf of Senator Pat Brown- introduced himself and noted that if the Borough needs anything feel free to contact him.

Ed Ziegler, 208 N. Walnut Street- noted various concerns to Council.

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

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

## **MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS**

Mayor Niedermeyer noted he attended the opening ceremony. He added that the whole week was a great success. Mayor Niedermeyer noted that Chief Rachman couldn't make it tonight however, he wanted him to note that the computer has been installed. He also noted that the Civil Service Testing has been completed and we should have a full time officer by September.

## **STANDING COMMITTEES**

### **A. Highway**

1. 2013-2014 CDBG Update- Larry Turoscy noted that the 2013 project will begin in September and will be completed in roughly 2 weeks weather permitting.  
Jon Rinker

### **B. Public Safety**

Councilor Rinker noted that he doesn't have anything at this time. However he did note that we have been trying to get the original printing press back from the historical society in Allentown. He noted that we finally have it back in the Borough.

C. Human/Community Services

1. Peer to Peer Study Update- Councilor Schnaars noted there is a lot of information included in your packets tonight, from the peer study. He went over the information in length. Councilor Schnaars noted we are hoping to have the study completed by the end of the year.
2. Bike Stand- Councilor Schnaars noted that Kurt Miller approached him about possibly placing a bicycle repair station at the Trailhead. He noted there will be no charge to the Borough and no charge to use it. He added it will be available for public use. Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to allow Kurt's Cyclery to place a bike stand at the Trailhead provided that there will be no cost to the Borough. 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
	Bob Steets	
	Jon Rinker	

D. Finance-

1. Roof Quotes- Vice President Neff noted we have been working on a decision for the roof quotes. She added that Kevin Deppe has provided us with another quote. She stated that no one has had time to review them, she suggested tabling this until the next Council Meeting. Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to give the Finance Committee authorization to award the contact to the lowest quote. 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
	Bob Steets	
	Jon Rinker	

2. Approve Tax Exemptions- Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Reed to approve the tax exemptions as presented. 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
	Bob Steets	
	Jon Rinker	

3. Approval for 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the Financial Audit- Vice President Neff noted that Council made some corrections to the draft and the final copy should be completed soon.
4. Appointed Kevin Deppe as Borough Manager- Vice President Neff introduced Kevin Deppe as the new Borough Manager.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

1. Authority Bills- Councilor Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to authorize the affirmation of the Authority's Transfer request in the amount of \$2,197.20; request as listed: Steckel & Stopp – (June) \$1,047.20, Brown and Brown-\$900.00 and Joan Cheesbrough- (June Minutes) \$250.00. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL                    AYES                    NAYS  
                                       Jon Rinker  
                                       Bob Steets        Bryon Reed  
                                       David Schnaars  
                                       Gwyneth Neff

2. Digester Quote- Councilor Steets noted that he has finally received work from Eastern Environmental. He noted they will here sometime this week to give us a quote. A discussion took place on the repairs. Larry Turoscy suggested that Council get someone in who specializes in sewer plants, so they can access the all of the possible problems that we may have at the plant.

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

1. Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. DCED Shadow Oaks water line replacement- Councilor Reed noted that in July DCED was supposed to review the grants; however they postponed it until September. Councilor Reed noted that we won't know anything until then.
3. Slatington Street Light Update- Councilor Reed noted he is still working on this. He added that as you know we rent our street lights which cost us approximately \$3,800 per month and then an additional \$600 to \$800 per month for usage depending on the season. Councilor Reed stated they gave us an approximate quote for 305 lights which is \$106,000. Councilor Reed noted that he is still working on this and when he finds out more he will inform the rest of Council.
4. Memo of Understanding (MOU) - Larry Turoscy urged Council to sign and accept the MOU; he noted that it will protect the Borough from receiving citations from EPA. Councilor Reed made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to accept the agreement of cooperation between Lehigh County Conservation District and the Borough of Slatington. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL                    AYES                    NAYS  
                                       Jon Rinker  
                                       Bob Steets        Bryon Reed  
                                       David Schnaars

Gwyneth Neff

Larry Turoscy noted that the manhole rehabilitation project will need a small resolution as part of the project. He noted that we will need to adopt it before we can move forward.

G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee

Councilor Schnaars thanked everyone who made the event a huge success. He added that it was a fantastic celebration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Vice President Neff recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:38 and called for an Executive Session. At 9:45 P.M. she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive session matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Councilor Rinker made a motion seconded by Councilor Reed to give Karen Gill a raise of \$2.00 per hour, beginning the next pay period. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

At 9:46 p.m. Councilor Schnaars made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary