

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, May 11, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Gwyneth Neff: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order by 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		Mayor Niedermeyer	Carol Gildner Mel Gildner
Bob Steets		Ed Healy	Robert Herzog, Jr. Ed Ziegler
Bryon Reed		Larry Turoscy	Kelley Andrade (Times News)
Gwyneth Neff		Duane Dellecker	Bruce Kern Robert Stettner
David Schnaars			
Joseph Wechsler			
Galen Freed			

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Freed made a motion to accept the minutes, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, for the following minutes with one correction (spelling of Ms. Burek’s name): Council Meeting – April 13, 2015; Committee Meetings – April 20, 2015 and April 27, 2015. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Bob Steets	Galen Freed	None	None
Bryon Reed	Joseph Wechsler		
David Schnaars	Jon Rinker		
Gwyneth Neff			

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

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.

Ed Ziegler signed in and was recognized to speak. He raised concerns over UGI at Main Street and questioned the status of the parking lot project along W. Church Street, sidewalk project at Victory Park and the Victory Park stair railings.

Mel Gildner signed in and was recognized to speak. He accused Council of violating the State Ethics Act, lying, deceit and fraud with no specifics. When questioned on the accusations by Councilor Freed, Mr. Gildner refused to answer.

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, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve payment of the Bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	None	

Bryon Reed Bob Steets
David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler
Jon Rinker

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer said he attended a COG meeting where it was announced that PENNDOT will be repaving Route 873 in 2017.

Councilor Schnaars read a statement, on behalf of Borough Council, into the record outlining all the positive contributions Councilor Wechsler has made since being appointed to Council and supporting Councilor Wechsler in the unwarranted slanderous attacks by several residents.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor Galen Freed

1. Paving Roller - Councilor Freed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to purchase a used re-built 2 ½ ton vibrating paving roller at a cost of \$1,500. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff Galen Freed	None	
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		
	Jon Rinker		

2. R-07-15-Green Light Go Program – Councilor Freed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve Resolution No. R-07-15 naming Councilor Reed as authorized signatory on behalf of the Borough for this grant. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff Galen Freed	None	
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		
	Jon Rinker		

3. 2014 Alt. Bid – Center Alley/Police Station – On motion made by Councilor Freed, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, Council approved awarding this bid to Bruce George Paving & Excavating at a cost of \$19,373.38 for this project. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff Galen Freed	None	
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		
	Jon Rinker		

4. Parking Lot - Church Street & Short Alley - Larry Turoscy submitted a draft proposal for creating the parking lot on the W. Church Street property extending Short Alley through the lot to W. Church Street. This proposal is referred to committee.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Jon Rinker

1. Forestry Truck – Councilor Rinker introduced Mike Dempsey, Captain of the Slatington Fire Dept., to present an opportunity to acquire a 2 ½ or 5 ton forestry truck from DCNR. It is surplus equipment that has a 10 man capacity. It is free to the Borough, with the exception of licensing, insurance

and maintenance. This proposal is tabled pending insurance costs. The Office Manager was directed to contact the Borough Insurance provider.

2. Generator – Borough Hall – Annual Service Agreement - Councilor Rinker suggested contacting Arc Electric about tying all four (4) emergency generators into one (1) service agreement. Councilor Wechsler will look into this.
3. Fencing at Electric & Generator, Borough Hall – Councilor Rinker stated the fencing at the electrical service for the building was in need of repair & the new generator should have fencing installed. This was tabled for more information.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Electronics Recycling – No discussion.
2. Victory Park Sign – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to approve a replacement sign at Victory Park at a cost of up to \$1,300. The Office Manager was directed to contact advertising organizations about upgrading their signs too. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	None
	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler	
	Jon Rinker		

3. Employee Manual – Councilor Schnaars asked that this item be tabled for executive session.
4. Municipal Yard Waste Agreement – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to approve the agreement with Washington Township to handle yard waste generated in the Borough. This agreement puts in writing what has always been a gentleman’s agreement. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	None
	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler	
	Jon Rinker		

5. Recreation Committee Appointment – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to appoint Corena Olsin to a 3-year term on the Recreation Committee, expiring 1/01/18. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	None
	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler	
	Jon Rinker		

6. St. Luke’s Hospice Charity Bicycle Ride – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Freed, to approve this request for Saturday, June 6, 2015. The rider’s should be coming through town on the D&L Trail between 10am and noon. Fire Police and the fire department UTV are requested. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
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Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	None
Bryon Reed	Bob Steets	
David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler	
Jon Rinker		

- Vigilant Fire Company Donations – The Vigilant Fire Company has made nearly \$5,000 in donations to the community for flags, air conditioning improvements at the Vigilant, carport at the Fire Company and helmets for the West End Softball Team. Council thanked the Vigilant volunteers for their generosity.
- Zoning Hearing Board Vacancy – The Borough is looking for volunteers to serve as members of the Zoning Hearing Board. One regular member seat and one alternate member seat is open. Interested residents should submit letter of interest to the Borough office.
- Peer to Peer – Repeal Ordinance No. 666 – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to authorize the solicitor to draft an ordinance repealing Ordinance No. 666. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Neff Galen Freed	None	
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		
	Jon Rinker		

D. Finance

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

- Tax Exemption Request - Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve a tax exemption due to military service to Christian Lenhart. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Galen Freed	None	
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Neff		
	Bryon Reed Jon Rinker		
	Bob Steets		

- Personnel – Elizabeth Miller – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to hire Elizabeth Miller as a full-time regular employee at the rate of \$14.00 per hour, subject to a 90 day probationary period; subject to the same benefits provided to employees under the non-uniform collective bargaining agreement. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Galen Freed	None	
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Neff		
	Bryon Reed Jon Rinker		
	Bob Steets		

- Newsletter – Councilor Wechsler announced that the newsletter was delivered last week and that the Borough has received many accolades regarding the quality and professional appearance of the newsletter. He thanked everyone for their hard work on this project.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Bob Steets

- 1. Authority Bills – Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the affirmation of the Authority’s Transfer request in the amount of \$2,692.03; Steckel & Stopp \$447.70; Rettew Associates \$531.21; Commonwealth of PA \$1,500; Joan Cheesbrough \$125.00 (March minutes); and Petty Cash \$88.12. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Joseph Wechsler	Galen Freed	None	
David Schnaars	Gwyneth Neff		
Bryon Reed	Jon Rinker		
Bob Steets			

Councilor Steets reported that the digester at the sewer plant has been emptied and is awaiting inspection.

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Bryon Reed

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

G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee

Councilor David

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Mayor reported concerns about brick maintenance at front and side entrances of the Borough Hall.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Neff called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:42 pm. At 9:30 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive Session, matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

Borough Manager Selection Committee - Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to create a committee to interview applicants for the Borough Manager position and make recommendations to the Borough Council. The committee shall be comprised of Councilor’s Schnaars, Freed & Reed. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote.

Sewer Letter to Walnutport - Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, not to send a letter to the Borough of Walnutport regarding their sewage system as recommended by Karl Schreider. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote.

At 9:31 Councilor Rinker made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary

