

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, January 12, 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	Galen Freed	Mayor Niedermeyer	Drew Snowberg-TV-13
Bob Steets		Ed Healy	Carol Gildner Melvin Gildner
Bryon Reed		Larry Turoscy	Robert Herzog Ed Ziegler
Gwyneth Neff		Dave Rachman	
David Schnaars			
Joseph Wechsler			

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None at the present time

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Reed to approve the following sets of minutes: Council Meeting December 8, 2014, Special Meeting December 2, 2014, Workshop Meetings, December 15, 2014, December 22, 2014, Public Hearing December 8, 2014, Special Meeting June 16, Council Meeting August 18. Committee Meetings July 21, and August 25, 2014. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 6 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)

Ed Ziegler, 208 N. Walnut Street- spoke to Council on the high cost of the audit. He also suggested to Council that they should look for a new workers compensation provider.

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:

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

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer noted that is has been slow; he added that it normally is around this time of year. He stated that he worked on complaints with the Chief.

Chief Rachman agreed with the Mayor that this is the slow time of the year. He noted that everyone in the department has been recertified with the taser. Chief Rachman added that he is waiting for the new server to arrive and be installed. He also noted that the cameras for the Borough office and the front door have been re-routed to the DVR in the police department.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

1. Approval to begin the design and authorize the advertising for the 2014 CDBG project- Larry Turoscy stated this project will be improvements to the rest of Washington Street from, First to Fairview. Councilor Reed made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars for the approval to begin the design and to authorize the advertizing for the 2014 CDBG project. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

2. Approval to begin the 2015 CDBG project- Larry Turoscy suggested that we should table this until the next committee meeting so we can go over the list of projects.
3. 2014 ARLE Grant- Mr. Turoscy stressed to Council that he doesn't recommend signing the agreement tonight. He added that there is a 25 page agreement that has items in it that he isn't sure about. He noted that he did speak with Penn Dot and they did invite us to come down to go over the agreement. He urged Council to meet with them, so that these questions can be answered. Mr. Turoscy stated that we have +3 years to complete the project, so there is no need to rush into an agreement. Councilor Schnaars suggested that we table this until the next Council Meeting.
4. Larry Turoscy suggested that the Borough begin a crack sealing program. Council agreed to discuss this further at the Highway Committee Meeting.

B. Public Safety

1. Re-hiring of part-time police officer Matthew Houser- Councilor Rinker made a motion second by Councilor Schnaars to ratify the re-hiring of Matthew Houser to Part-Time Police Officer. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

2. Emergency Generator- Councilor Rinker noted that we need a generator for the police department. He added that we received a quote from Defrain Electric which includes the unit, installation and the installation of the gas line, by the gas company. Councilor Rinker added that the generator will run the whole department along with the server room. He said that the quote that we received is \$15,000, which is less than the collective bargaining agreement threshold. Councilor Rinker suggested that we make a motion to move forward with the emergency generator project. Councilor Reed noted that we are still required to have 3 different quotes before we can move forward. Councilor Rinker stated that we will have to table this until the next Public Safety Committee Meeting. A discussion took place on the generator. Attorney Healy suggested that Councilor Rinker get telephone quotes. Councilor Reed suggested that we put together a set of bid specifications. Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Rinker to give the Public Safety Committee the authorization to award the lowest quote for the emergency generator with the price not to exceed \$15,000. Vice President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

3. Councilor Rinker made a motion to appoint Gwyneth Neff as President of Slatington Borough Council Vice 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		None	Gwyneth Neff
Bryon Reed	David Schnaars		
Bob Steets			
Jon Rinker			

C. Human/Community Services

1. Repeal Ordinance 666- Attorney Healy explained to Council on how to repeal Ordinance 666. Councilor Schnaars stated that the project isn't completely over with. He noted that he was contacted by Washington Township Supervisors; and they are still interested in moving forward with the Authority. President Neff stated that the Community Center is interested in paying Walnutport's portion, because we don't want to see the project

die. Councilor Schnaars stated that we are having a meeting on Tuesday to discuss this further. He added that we also need to see if what the Community Center is proposing is even possible. Councilor Schnaars asked if we decide to still move forward with the project can we repeal Ordinance 666 with a new Ordinance creating the NL Recreational Authority. Attorney Healy said yes.

2. West End- Councilor Schnaars stated that Reta Stein gave him a bag of items that were Bill's. He noted that in the bag was paperwork for a savings account that was designated for West End Playground. Councilor Schnaars stated that he would like to table this until after the parks and recreation meeting, so we have a change to look over the items and give a recommendation to Council. A discussion took place on reviving West End and some of the activities they used to hold there.

D. Finance-

1. Hire an Accounting Firm (2015 Audit)- Councilor Wechsler noted that we are looking to hire an accounting firm to help with our books, so we are better prepared for the 2015 Audit. Councilor Reed noted that we met with Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits and they informed us that the auditing rules are changing and this will be the last year that they will be able to audit and adjust the books. Councilor Reed stated that the accounting firm will come into the office quarterly to review and adjust our books. Councilor Schnaars asked where we are at with QuickBooks. Councilor Reed stated that we are going to begin transitioning, he stated that it is going to take a long time to integrate the two. He also added that it will take Karen a long time to do all of the work herself, and keep up with all of her other daily tasks. Councilor Reed stated that CRY said that we can use someone from their company who specializes in data transferring; Councilor Schnaars asked how long the process will take. Council agreed that they will get a list of accounting firms from the auditors, so we can move forward with picking someone.
2. Hire Crystel Stein as part-time secretary- Councilor Reed noted that the Chief did perform a background check and everything came back ok. Councilor Wechsler made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to hire Crystel Stein as part-time office secretary as of December 22, 2014, with an hourly rate of \$12.00, with a 6 month probationary period. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Jon Rinker	
	Bob Steets Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars	
	Gwyneth Neff	

3. Resolution R-1-15 (R-20-14)- Councilor Wechsler made a motion seconded by Councilor Rinker to approve R-1-15- Providing the wages of certain employees of the Borough for 2015. President Neff declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Jon Rinker	
	Bob Steets Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars	
	Gwyneth Neff	

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

1. Sludge Hauling Quotes- Attorney Healy noted that the bids were opened on Wednesday January 7th at 10:00am. He noted that we received 3 bids, All State Septic- \$54,600.00, McGovern Environmental- \$48,516.00 and Biros Septic and Drain Cleaning- \$45,968.00. Attorney Healy noted that Biros did not comply with the bid requirements. He recommended that Council go with McGovern Environmental because they complied with all of the bidding qualifications, he noted that quoted us at \$0.0933 cents per gallon, with 20,000 gallons of sludge being hauled to Hazleton to be incinerated. A discussion took place on the sludge removal. Councilor Bob Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Bryon Reed. President Neff declared the motion passed following Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL AYES NAYS

Bob Steets Bryon Reed
Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars
Gwyneth Neff Jon Rinker

2. Engineer Up Date – Approve engineer plan of action dated 1/9/15. Councilor Bob Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Bryon Reed. President Neff declared the motion passed following Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL AYES NAYS

Bob Steets Bryon Reed
Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars
Gwyneth Neff Jon Rinker

3. Repair sewer pick-up truck at a cost, not to exceed, \$1300.00. Councilor Bob Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Bryon Reed. President Neff declared the motion passed following Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL AYES NAYS

Bob Steets Bryon Reed
Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars
Gwyneth Neff Jon Rinker

4. One (1) year garbage contract with no increase. Councilor Bob Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Jon Rinker. President Neff declared the motion passed following Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL AYES NAYS

Bob Steets Bryon Reed
Joseph Wechsler David Schnaars
Gwyneth Neff Jon Rinker

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

1. Water was tested and found safe for human consumption
2. H2O Grant Extension-June 20, 2016. A discussion took place on the remaining monies from the H2O Grant.

G. Slatinton Sesquicentennial Committee

Nothing at this time

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Vice President Neff recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:15 and called for an Executive Session. At 9:20 P.M. she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive session matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

A motion to authorize president Neff to be liaison to office staff. Motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL AYES NAYS

Jon Rinker Bryon Reed
Bob Steets
David Schnaars
Gwyneth Neff

At 9:30 p.m. Councilor Schnaars made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary

