

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Gwyneth Jones: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Jon Rinker
Bob Steets
Bryon Reed
Gwyneth Jones
David Schnaars
Joseph Wechsler
Galen Freed

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Niedermeyer
Ed Healy
Larry Turoscy
Duane Dellecker

VISITORS

Carol Gildner Mel Gildner
Ed Ziegler Dwight Miller
Kelley Andrade (Times News)
Bruce Kern Robert Stettner
Jeff Hausman Kris Burek
Janice Perry Ron Corkery, Esq.
Mike Dempsey
Matt Szuchyt, Liaison to Sen. Brown

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Schnaars made a motion to accept the minutes, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, for the following minutes: Council Meeting – June 8, 2015; Committee Meetings – June 15, 2015 and June 22, 2015. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES

NAYS

ABSTAIN

Bob Steets Galen Freed
Bryon Reed Joseph Wechsler
David Schnaars Jon Rinker
Gwyneth Jones

None

None

President Jones announced an executive session held July 6, 2015 for personnel matters.

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.

Carol Gildner signed in and was recognized to speak. She spoke on generator costs; accounting firm hired and water grant deadlines.

Dwight Miller signed in and was recognized to speak. He informed council about a sinkhole at the storm sewer grate by Orkin (intersection of Lehigh St. & Iron Alley); a storm sewer drain on S. Walnut that is blocked and questioned the use of fireworks.

Ed Ziegler signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke on the importance of completing the W. Church Street parking lot and informed council that someone stole batteries from equipment on his property.

Mel Gildner signed in and was recognized to speak. He questioned the accuracy of minutes from the May 11, 2015, meeting regarding his comments under courtesy of the floor relating to Councilor Wechsler. Mr. Gildner indicated that he felt Councilor Wechsler should not be sitting on Council due to fraud and called him a criminal. An exchange between Mr. Gildner and Councilor Wechsler ensued. Councilor Schnaars requested we move past this issue as it has been previously settled.

Ron Corkery, Esq. signed in and was recognized to speak. He informed council that he represents Janice Parry (216 Centre Street) and spoke on rumors regarding the intentions of Mr. Rentschler and the recent zoning hearing.

Matt Szuchyt signed in and was recognized to speak. He is the local government liaison for PA Senator Pat Browne's office and asked how the Senator's office could assist the Borough.

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 Steets, to approve payment of the Bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer reported on the recently formed Slatington Veteran's Memorial Committee. They are evaluating locations for a Veteran's Memorial in the Borough.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor Galen Freed

1. 2015 ARLE Grant Program – Signal at Walnut & Main- Upon evaluation, the signal at Main & Walnut appears to be in good shape and functioning properly. As such, no application was made for this project.
2. 2015 ARLE Grant Program – Shadow Oaks - Larry Turoscy informed Council that an application was submitted for the 2015 Automated Red Light Enforcement program (ARLE) grant round. This is a safety project at Shadow Oaks at the main access to the High School with an estimated cost of \$319,900 dealing with new Stormwater drainage and road surface. It will require \$14,500 in matching funds; for a total of \$334,400.
3. CDBG – E. Washington Street - Larry Turoscy recommended a contract change order for this project to reduce the cost. Due to the roadway having a solid base, we can reduce the sub base to three (3") inches and macadam to two (2") inches and save \$7,515.98; reducing the overall cost to \$87,058.91 Councilor Freed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the contract change order. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

B. Public Safety

Councilor Jon Rinker

1. Fire Tour at Water/Sewer Plants – Councilor Rinker informed council of the fire departments desire to tour both the water and sewer plants as part of their emergency response preparedness. He will coordinate dates and times with staff to accomplish.

2. Fundraiser for Halloween Parade Committee – August 15, 2015 – Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve a request for the NL Events Committee to conduct a “Day in the Park” fundraiser at Victory Park to benefit the Halloween Parade; to include bands, food and BYOB from 11am to 11pm with the condition that a certificate of insurance be provided naming the Borough as additionally insured. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Bob Steets Jon Rinker	Galen Freed	Gwyneth Jones
	Joe Wechsler David Schnaars		
	Bryon Reed		

Councilor Jones will supply the office with a written explanation for abstention.

3. Fire Company Roof – Councilor Rinker informed council that volunteers with the fire company, who were familiar with roofing work, repaired the minor leak at no cost to the Borough.

C. Human/Community Services **Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Trout Creek 5K Run & walk – August 15, 2015 – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to approve the Slatington Parks & Recreation Commission request to conduct a 5K at the Trailhead beginning at 9am and use of the pavilion. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

2. NL Halloween Parade – October 31, 2015 – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve a request by the Northern Lehigh Events Committee to conduct the annual Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 31, 2015, (rain date November 1, 2015) as outlined in their July 6, 2015, letter with use of the Main & Centre Street parking lot for vendors. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

3. NL Recreation Authority - Councilor Schnaars informed council that Washington Township is still interested in creating the joint recreation authority with the Borough. With only three (3) representatives on the authority as proposed, the Council was concerned with financial commitments. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to approve preparing and advertising an ordinance with provisions whereby a super majority vote of six (6) of the seven (7) members would be required for major spending and personnel matters. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

4. Christmas Lights on Bridge – The Vigilant Fire Company sent a request to purchase and donate four (4) Christmas lights for the Main Street Bridge. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to purchase four (4) wreath style Christmas lights at a cost of \$1,160.00 with the fire company reimbursing the Borough for the cost. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

D. Finance

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Tax Exemption Request - None
2. Training – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve a request the office manager to purchase class materials from PSAB for the Budgeting Tools & Techniques Class at a cost of \$50. President Jones 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	None
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Jones		
	Bryon Reed Jon Rinker		
	Bob Steets		

3. Office Manager – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to permanently appoint Duane Dellecker as Office Manager with a salary of \$20.00 per hour subject to the same benefits provided to employees under the non-uniform collective bargaining agreement. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

4. The Mayor reported that the Chamber of Commerce will be reimbursing the Borough \$1,750 for paving work completed at the parking area on Railroad Street.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Bob Steets

1. Authority Bills – Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to authorize the affirmation of the Authority’s Transfer request in the amount of \$1,072.08; Steckel & Stopp \$134.43; Rettew Associates \$534.75; Joan Cheesbrough \$125.00 (May minutes); Times News Advertising \$127.90; and, PA 2015 Chapter 302 Operator Certification \$150.00. President Jones 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	None
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Jones		
	Bryon Reed Jon Rinker		
	Bob Steets		

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

The 150th Committee has made over \$7,000 in contributions of leftover funds to other non-profit organizations.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilor Schnaars presented an Employee Performance Appraisal Form for consideration. A resolution for consideration will be presented at the next council meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

At 8:18 Councilor Schnaars made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary