

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, March 9, 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
Bob Steets		Ed Healy	Robert Herzog, Jr. Ed
Ziegler			
Bryon Reed		Larry Turoscy	Kris Burek Mel Gildner
Gwyneth Neff		Dave Rachman	Stephanie Kemmerer (Times News)
David Schnaars		Duane Dellecker	Bruce Kern
Joseph Wechsler			Jason Breidinger
Galen Freed			Judy & Pete Seyler

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None at the present time

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Freed made a motion to accept the minutes, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, for the following minutes: Council Meeting – January 12, 2015, & February 16, 2015; Committee Meetings – January 19, 2015, February 2, 2015, and February 23, 2015; and Special Council Meeting – February 2, 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.

Judy & Pete Seiler signed in and were recognized to speak. They requested that the \$40 posting fee be waived for their recent water posting due to a limited budget. Council indicated they would take the request under advisement.

Kris Burke signed in and was recognized to speak. She pointed out some errors in previous minutes as posted on the Slatington website for October. Councilor Schnaars stated this error was corrected and Office Manager Dellecker will revise/update the web site. Ms. Burke also suggested that council have a public commentary, not only at the start of the meeting, but also at the end.

Mel Gildner signed in and was recognized to speak. He wanted to know if there was a job description for the office manager position. Councilor Schnaars stated that he modified the job description from the borough manager position. Mr. Gildner is also questioning who decides who gets citations from the OEO. He is concerned about why small citations are issued, but the bigger issues are overlooked, i.e. buildings that are rundown.

Ed Ziegler signed in and was recognized to speak. He had concerns about the Borough spending for \$25,000 to Campbell, Rappold & Wurasits; Hobbie Personnel. Mr. Ziegler stated that the parking on Main Street is limited and that there is a lot the Borough purchased with the intention of making it a parking lot – this has not happened as of yet. He wanted to know about Swift Insurance. Mr. Healey stated that the SWIFT insurance issue would be dealt with at this meeting. Mr. Ziegler also discussed having a recycling ordinance again.

Jason Breidinger, Member of the Chamber of Commerce, Venture Group and member of the Board of Directors for the Northern Valley EMS, signed in and was recognized to speak. He stated that the Northwestern Ambulance service has been closed, but the Northern Valley EMS ambulance service is doing well and it has also added Heidelberg Township to their coverage area. He spoke of their comedy night fundraiser held in February. He stated that grant opportunities were available for joint fire/ambulance departments. Councilor Rinker asked if there would be a problem relocating the ambulance stored at the Springside building as the Borough is considering using it as a museum.

**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 The Venture Group will now be running the “Gathering”. On March 20, 2015, Meals-On-Wheels is looking for volunteers for the day.

Chief Rachman – the Cody/Oracle upgrade is in and the server has been installed and ready to go. He thanked council for incorporating this into the police budget. The in-car-camera for 606 has been received, but waiting to be installed.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor Galen Freed**

1. 2015 CDBG – Larry Turoscy updated Council on CDBG projects. The project for this year is E. Washington from 1<sup>st</sup> Street to Fairview Avenue. This involves 6-ADA curve ramps, some sidewalk and resurfacing. It will be advertised March 11<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015. There is a mandatory pre-bid meeting to be held on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Borough Hall. This project has been approved by the County and PENNDOT. Estimated completion date is September 1, 2015.
2. ARLE (Automated Red Light Enforcement) - Larry Turoscy said a motion would be in order to authorize preparing the resolution & signing the agreement. Councilor Freed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to sign the 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		

3. ARLE (Automated Red Light Enforcement) – Larry Turoscy said a motion would be in order to authorize completing the preformatted resolution and signature by the President. Councilor Freed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve resolution R-02-14. 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. CDBG – Police Station Paving - Larry Turoscy has suggested we add this as a separate project to this years’ CDBG list. Council indicated this project should be considered even if the Borough must pay for it. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to include this project on the CDBG list. 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. Snow Removal – Main St. Business District - Councilor Schnaars requested the Highway Committee work on a policy to clear snow from the streets, especially the Main Street business district.

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

- 1. Bicycle Safety Days – Councilor Rinker said the bicycle safety days will be held May 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the morning at three different locations: The Trailhead, West end Playground and Bulldog Stadium. Linda Nails will be there and the officer on duty will be helping out. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to purchase 100 license stickers from Scribbles and Drips at a cost of .75 each. 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. Farmers Market – Councilor Rinker would like to hold a farmers market at Victory Park. The market will be held Saturday mornings from 7AM till Noon for fruits, vegetables, produce, flowers, honey and the like. No food services allowed. Permits to sell these products would be waived. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to hold a farmers market near Victory Park on Saturdays, from April till November 21<sup>st</sup>. 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		

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

- 1. Slatington Public Library – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to re-appoint Wanda Owens to another 3-year term on the Library Board of directors. 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	David Schnaars	None
	Gwyneth Neff	Galen Freed	
	Bryon Reed	Jon Rinker	
	Bob Steets		

- 2. Peer to Peer Update – Councilor Schnaars stated there is nothing at this time
- 3. Electronics Recycling – Councilor Schnaars and Duane Dellecker have been in contact with two electronics recycling companies to obtain onsite recycling for our residences. GER Solutions would charge \$750.00 to conduct a 4-hour event with all electronics free except TV’s, CRT’s and air conditioners. RRS would charge \$195.00 for 3 hours. Councilor Schnaars suggested setting up two (2) collection dates one week apart. Tabled pending more information.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

- 1. Assumption Catholic Church - Councilor Wechsler stated the 2011 storm water project has been completed. The Foreman, John Bolton, reported to the Office Manager that the work was satisfactorily completed. The Lexon Surety Group is requesting the Borough release the bond for this project. Councilor Wechsler made a motion to release the bond, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars. 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		

- 2. EHD Insurance - Councilor Wechsler introduced Jim O’Malia from EHD (Engle-Hambright & Davies, Inc.) Insurance Broker for a presentation on their services and distributed packets to the Council. Council referred the matter to committee.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bob Steets**

- 1. Cleaning of Anaerobic Digesters - Councilor Steets has received three proposals to clean out the digesters. Our engineer, in a review letter dated 2/24/15, recommends McGovern Environmental as they gave the committee the best breakdown for the job by unit price. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to appoint McGovern Environmental to clean out the Digesters. 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	Jon Rinker	None	
	Bob Steets	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed		
	Gwyneth Neff			

- 2. Trickling Filter – Councilor Steets stated that the efficiency of the Trickling filter drops substantially in the extreme cold weather. As a result, the Trickling filter is not turning properly and leaks exist within the system. This may become an emergency since it can't be stopped. The cost to repair maybe \$30,000 to \$40,000. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, have the committee obtain 3 quotes with a cap of \$50,000. 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	Jon Rinker	None	
	Bob Steets	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed		
	Gwyneth Neff			

- 3. Walnutport Pump Station - Larry Turoscy expressed concerns that the Walnutport Pump Station it is not running properly. Should the pump station fail, the water will go into the Lehigh River. Should this happen and, they are unable to deliver sewage to Slatington, they will be in violation of DEP regulations. Larry suggested we reach out to Walnutport, obtain a detailed report on the condition of the pump station and inform Walnutport of the concerns.

**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**

Councilor Schnaars said all the sesquicentennial books are sold. They are waiting to hear from the printer as to the minimum books needed to reprint. Reservations for 50 more books have already been received.

- H. 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 \$4,362.20; Steckel & Stopp \$1,084.70, Rettew Associates \$2,652.50, Commonwealth of PA \$500.00 and Joan Cheesbrough \$125.00 (January minutes). 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	Jon Rinker	None	
	Bob Steets	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed		
	Gwyneth Neff			

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilor Schnaars updated Council on the seminar held on Gatekeeper Training. He was pleased so many employees and Councilors attended.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Neff called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 9:30 pm. At 10:47 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive Session, matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

Step 1 Grievances - Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to make the Office Manager as the Borough representative for all step 1 grievances under the non-uniform Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). 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	Jon Rinker	None
	Bob Steets	Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed	
	Gwyneth Neff		

Disciplinarian - Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to appoint Councilor Joe Wechsler as disciplinarian and authorize him to impose discipline on non-uniform and/or non-union employees for violating Borough policies, laws or regulations. 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	Jon Rinker	None
	Bob Steets	Bryon Reed	
	David Schnaars	Galen Freed	
	Gwyneth Neff		

At 10:49 Councilor Schnaars made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary