

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, December 14, 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:**

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Jon Rinker	Bob Steets	Mayor Niedermeyer	Carol Gildner Mel Gildner
Gwyneth Jones		Ed Healy	Kris Burek Ed Ziegler
Bryon Reed		Chief Rachman	Kelley Andrade (Times News)
Galen Freed		Larry Turoscy	Crystal Hausman
David Schnaars		Duane Dellecker	Jeffrey Hausman
Joseph Wechsler			Robert Herzog, Jr.
			Cindy Green Lisa Bulger
			Nancy Treskot Jarrod Bulger

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None. President Jones announced an executive session held on November 16, 2015, for personnel purposes.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting – November 9, 2015; Committee Meetings – November 16, 2015 and November 23, 2015. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

**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.

Cindy Green - signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Green is Co-Chair of the “Slatington 150<sup>th</sup> and Beyond Committee”. She presented a prepared statement regarding the work of this committee for fundraising with a focus on building & maintaining an amphitheater at Victory Park and creating a local museum. They will be working under the Venture Group. Subject to coordination with Parks & Recreation, Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to affirm the activities of this new group. 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 Jon Rinker		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

Mel Gildner signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner questioned the accuracy of an article regarding public comment in the borough newsletter. Council disagreed with his premise. He also questioned water bill rates for apartments.

Ed Ziegler signed in and was recognized to speak. He thanked the borough for the new sign at Victory Park and would like to see the sign coming from Walnutport lighted as well. He suggested the lighting

for the Memorial Park flagpole be adjusted. He expressed concerns that full size 53' tractor trailers are having difficulty navigating the corner at the Fireman's statue on Main Street. He was glad to see the NLRA was moving forward.

## 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 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 Jon Rinker		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

## MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

The Mayor reported that he swore in the new Health Inspector, Ms. Lynn Zakos and reported on other activities for the month including the Christmas tree lighting ceremony on December 4<sup>th</sup> at Memorial Park. He thanked Gene Chandler for his work on decorating and preparing the tree.

The Chief apologized to Council for the venue in which he made statements at the meeting last meeting.

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### A. Highway

**Councilor Galen Freed**

1. **Act 89 Multi-Modal Grant Application** – Larry Turoscy discussed details of the Act 89 Multi-Modal Grant proposal to improve the stormwater infrastructure along Shadow Oaks from Center Street to Maple Spring Drive. The estimated cost is \$673,000. The Borough's share would be 20% or \$134,600. If approved, design would take place in 2016 and construction in 2017. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to authorize the grant submission. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

Larry Turoscy informed Council of a meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2015, at 6:30pm to discuss the ARLE project at Church & Main with affected residents.

### B. Public Safety

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. **Liquor License Transfer Request** – A public hearing was held immediately preceding this council meeting. President Jones asked three (3) times for a motion to approve or reject this proposal. No motion having being made, President Jones declared the transfer request as not being approved.
2. **ACO – Humane Society** – Councilor Rinker informed the Council that he spoke with the Humane Society. No contract is required to deliver dogs to their kennel. The charge for each dog would be \$250 and our staff would need to deliver the animal. He spoke about developing a policy that would require written approval from the

Borough to take a dog to the kennel. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to utilize the Humane Society & charged the Public Safety Committee to develop a policy therefore. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

Councilor Rinker also reported the ACO vehicle is out of service. The Committee will work on disposition of this vehicle.

3. Appoint Part-Time Police Officer – Jarrod Bulger - Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to ratify the appointment of Jarrod Bulger to the position of Part-Time Police Officer. 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	Jon Rinker		
David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler		

### C. Human/Community Services

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Resolution R-12-15 - Lands of Theresa Jones – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to adopt resolution R-12-15 accepting the gift of multiple parcels of land located between South Street & Victory Park from former resident Theresa E. Jones, in memory of her late husband John “Jack” D. Jones. 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	Jon Rinker		
David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler		

2. Venture Group Parking Lot Request- Councilor Schnaars introduced Nancy Treskot, representative of the Venture Group. Ms. Treskot spoke on their plan to create additional parking to the north of the Covered Bridge along 7<sup>th</sup> Street on land owned by the Borough & Washington Township. Washington Township agrees with this project and will provide help if the Borough agrees. They plan on applying for a grant through the Chamber of Commerce to help defray the costs with the match of services and equipment from the Borough and Township. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the assistance of manpower and equipment for the parking lot request subject to acquiring an approved Erosion & Sedimentation control plan from the Lehigh County Conservation District if the project size exceeds 5,000 square feet. 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	Jon Rinker		
David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler		

Councilor Schnaars announced that the formation of the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority (NLRA) became effective December 7, 2015. Their first meeting will be held at 7:00pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2015, at the Borough Hall.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Proposed Ordinance #672 – Standing Committee Authority – Councilor Wechsler submitted a proposal that would modify section 13-5 of the Borough Code to add authority over respective department operations to Committee Chairpersons when a vacancy exists in the office of Borough Manager. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve Ordinance #672. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

2. Ordinance #674 – Rental Housing/Transfer Inspections – Councilor Wechsler announced that the legal review is pending.
3. Tax Exemption Requests - Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to approve tax exemption requests to Diane Hunsicker, Michael Swadener & Scott McFarland for being deceased. 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		

4. Donations – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve donations as budgeted as follows: Active Life - \$750; NOVA (Ambulance) - \$10,000; Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool - \$1,000; & Slatington Library - \$5,000. 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		
	David Schnaars Bryon Reed		
	Galen Freed Gwyneth Jones		

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bob Steets**

1. Slatington Borough Authority Bills – A motion was made by Councilor Reed, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to pay the Slatington Borough Authority bills of \$4,719.24 & \$704.60; Steckel & Stopp \$4,563.25 (October), \$144.00 (October) & \$435.60 (November); Joan Cheesbrough \$125.00 (October Minutes) & \$125 (November Minutes); & Borough of Slatington \$30.99 (Copy Expense). 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

Attorney Healy reported that the Slatington Borough Authority met this morning. Laurie Schnauffer’s term expires this year and she is not interested in being re-appointed. Darrell Baus is resigning his seat on the board effective 12/31/15; He served 13 years on the Authority.

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

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

Councilor Reed reported that the media at the water plant is in good shape. Also, there is a problem with dirty water at a property on South Street. The Committee will discuss further.

The Office Manager was asked to look into the timers on the hydrant at the high school that were broken as part of a car accident.

**G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. 2016 Meeting Schedule – Council reviewed the meeting schedules for both the Council and the Authority. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed to approve both meeting schedules for advertisement. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

President Jones called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:10 pm. At 8:45 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In Executive Session, matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

2. Budget Address & Discussion – The Office Manager presented the 2016 budget address. The 2016 budget includes a beautification project to replace street trees along Main Street, making repairs to Borough buildings, replacing worn traffic signs, upgrading technology, replacing the furnace at the water plant and continued improvements to the wastewater treatment plant among other things. Several budget issues were discussed including the Fire Department, future water meter replacement project and a dump truck. All taxes and fees are proposed to remain at 2015 rates.

Councilor Rinker discussed conversations with the Fire Department about doing more fundraising and keeping an eye on equipment & expenditures. Councilor Wechsler discussed using the borough mechanic to do more maintenance on the fire equipment.

Council discussed repairs to the dump trucks. Repairs to the big plow blade and small dump bed will be addressed by the Highway Committee after the mechanic secures cost estimates.

3. Resolution R-13-15 – Adopting 2016 Budget – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to adopt resolution R-13-15 approving the 2016 budget dated December 1, 2015, as presented. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

4. Ordinance #673 – Fixing 2016 Tax Rates – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to approve Ordinance #673, fixing the tax rates for fiscal year 2016. Property taxes for General Purposes are 4.80 mills; Fire Fund Tax is .45 mills; Local Service Tax is \$52; Wage Tax is 1%; Per Capita Tax is \$5.00; and the Realty Transfer Tax is 1%. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

5. Resolution R-14-15 – Establishing Payments into Police Pension Fund for 2016 – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to adopt resolution R-14-15, that each member of the Slatington Police Association have 5% deducted from their pay to be applied to the Police Pension Fund. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

The resolution setting the Police Chief salary for 2016 was tabled.

6. Resolution R-15-15 – Setting 2016 Salaries for non-Union Personnel – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Freed, to adopt resolution R-15-15 establishing 2016 salaries for non-union personnel. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

7. Resolution R-16-15 – Appoint Auditors for FY 2015 – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt resolution R-16-15 appointing the firm of Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits as the Borough auditors for FY 2015. 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
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

At 9:15 pm Councilor Schnaars made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary