

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, December 12, 2016** 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>
Gwyneth Jones		Mayor Niedermeyer	Chris Pasoc     Jeffrey Hausman
Joseph Wechsler		Larry Turoscy	Tina Brogan     Crystal Hausmann
Bryon Reed		Duane Dellecker	Susan Chandler     Jason Nicholas
Jon Rinker		Tom Dinkelacker, Esq.	Justin Frable     Jason Nicholas
David Schnaars		Chief Rachman	Kris Burek     Keith Weaver
Michael Brogan			Shawn Rios     Nancy Tresket
			Robert Reph     Allie Wanamaker
			Jordan Beggan     Jason Ruff
			Robert Hertzog, Jr.     David Reiter
			Ray Higdon     Dwight Miller
			Carol Gildner     Ed Ziegler
			Mel Gildner

President Jones announced that all public sessions of Borough Council are electronically recorded, and such recordings are maintained as part of the meeting record until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Board, at which time the recordings shall be erased.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, November 14, 2016; Special Council Meeting, November 29, 2016; Committee Meetings November 21, 2016 & November 22, 2016. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (Agenda and Non-Agenda items) You will have three minutes to address Council from the podium. The three minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor, and any time you have remaining.

Nancy Treskot - Walnutport - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Treskot is a representative of the Greater Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Treskot explained the purpose of the Chamber of Commerce is to create and generate new business and commerce. She thanked Bryon Reed for the use of his building during the recent Christmas tree lighting event and was pleased to see many people walking the streets and patronizing local businesses. She also asked everyone to contact her with any questions or problems.

Alice Wanamaker - New Tripoli - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Wanamaker read a letter from Liz Wagner the manager from the Blue Mountain Farmer's Market. Ms. Wagner wrote to thank the Chamber of Commerce and the Borough Council for their support of the market.

Jason Ruff – 662 Main Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ruff spoke on behalf of the Main Street Merchants Committee. They are looking to continuing to improve downtown. Since September, this group has hosted successful meetings such a clean up day on Main Street, communicating with the Delaware and Lehigh National Trail Corridor to begin the process of instituting a trail town program along the D&L with Slatington serving as the model trail. He announced the First Friday event that took place on Friday, December 2, 2016, was a huge success. Merchants saw new and returning customers, the Slatington Library hosted over 45 children with books and crafts, Rhythm and soul dance was open for an open house and Popup Blue Mountain Farmer's Market was successful. Mr. Ruff wanted to thank the Mayor and members of the council, Bryon Reed, Joseph Wechsler and David Schnaars. They are pleased to announce that the First Friday events will continue in February and every other month for 2017 to attract visitors to town. They are again asking the Slatington Police for foot patrols and the Borough to enforce prompt ice and snow removal.

David Reiter – 550 W. Franklin Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Reiter had attended the September 26 committee meeting concerning the property at 548 W. Franklin Street. He is concerned about some possible structural, roof, foundation and water damage the this property next door and how it may affect his property. Mr. Reiter was told that the front porch would be repaired by November. As of date, no work has been started. The OEO has filed citations against 548 W. Franklin Street for the condition of the property. Mr. Reiter asked to be kept informed.

Dwight Miller – 256 S. Walnut Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke concerning the possible use of drugs at the Walnut Street playground and underage drinking. The Police Chief asked Mr. Miller to report suspected activity immediately.

Ed Ziegler - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ziegler wanted to thank the Council for lowering the flag to half mast when John Glenn passed away. Mr. Ziegler addressed the Chamber of Commerce stating he believed relocating the State Store to Walnutport years ago adversely affected our business district.

Mel Gildner - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner again questioned action on the Reed properties. The Office Manager reported that citations have been issued.

**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, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Jones declared the payments passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Gwyneth Jones David Schnaars	None	None
Joe Wechsler Jon Rinker		
Bryon Reed Michael Brogan		

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS**

Mayor Walt Niedermeyer received a letter from the president of the National School Choice Week requesting an official proclamation commemorating January 22<sup>nd</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup> as Borough of Slatington School Choice Week. As a result, Walter Neidermeyer, Mayor of the Borough of Slatington officially recognizes the week of January 22<sup>nd</sup> through January 28<sup>th</sup> as the School Choice Week and will issue a proclamation and forward it to the president of the National School Choice Week.

Councilor Schnaars had a question concerning the Walnutport and Gap bridge if PENNDOT will be doing anything. Mayor Neidermeyer declined an answer due to the fact there are too many rumors. Nancy Treskot, who was in attendance and who sits on the Walnutport Borough Council, reported that PENNDOT’s current plans are to re-deck the bridge in spring 2017.

Chief Rachman asked Mr. Ruff for the most beneficial time to conduct foot patrols on the First Friday events. Mr. Ruff requested the police be available from 4 PM to 8 PM for the first Friday of every other month starting in February 3, 2017. Chief Rachman also reported that he has received information concerning a drug detection dog trainer. He is will to provide the Borough with a single use canine drug detection. Chief Rachman understands that this will take some conversation with the Council, but feels it would be a benefit to the community. Councilor Schnaars recommended this issue to be referred to the Public Safety Committee.

Councilor Schnaars reported that a log is being maintained of vehicle repair & maintenance.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Small Dump Truck Purchase – Councilor Reed has obtained another quote for \$61,995 from Whitmoyer Auto Group. The base price is \$49,625 plus options of \$12,370. This would represent a savings of \$18,480 over the Kovatch/SMF quotes. Councilor Schnaars was not certain if the order could be cancelled but would contact vendor. Attorney Dinkelacker informed the Council that if the order could not be withdrawn, action should be taken to ratify the purchase from Kovatch. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan, to rescind the motion to purchase the dump truck IF the vendor agreed to cancel the order; if not, the motion is to ratify and authorize the executed purchase order dated 10/27/16 signed by Councilor Schnaars. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

ROLL CALL

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Joe Wechsler Michael Brogan	Gwyneth Jones	None
David Schnaars Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed	

Councilor Reed encouraged everyone to use the committee process in order to avoid these situations in the future.

Attorney Dinkelacker reported there is a bill working its way through the PA legislature that would require items to be on the meeting agenda to be acted on by the governing body.

2. John Freed Way Agreement – S&G bid was accepted. The one change in the bid is a chain link fence that is to be added to prevent pedestrians walking on a neighbor's property. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to execute the agreement and authorize Lehigh Engineering to issue a notice to proceed to S&G based on the contract. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Larry Turoscy reported that an estimate for the fencing change order should be ready for the Highway committee meeting.

3. 2016 CDBG - Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan, to approve and execute the agreement with Lehigh County for reconstruction of E. Church Street between Walnut and Railroad Streets and Authorize Lehigh Engineering to proceed with all work associated with this project including the project manual, bidding and advertising. 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 Bryon Reed	None	None
Joe Wechsler Michael Brogan		
David Schnaars Jon Rinker		

4. Victory Park Sidewalk Project – Larry Turoscy reported the Victory Park sidewalk and curb safety crossing along Main Street, as part of the TAP grant started several years ago at a estimated cost between \$65,000-\$70,000, is moving forward. The price has increased substantially. Christy Barry, a consultant for PENNDOT, has been instrumental in securing extra monies needed to complete this project. President Jones directed a letter of thanks be prepared for her assistance in securing the additional funding.

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. Tattoo Parlor Ordinance – Councilor Rinker reported that a tattoo parlor would like to come into the community. Chapter 163 of the Slatington Borough Code limits the hours of operation to 9 AM to 6 PM. A request has been received from Freedom Tattoo Company to extend these hours. After discussion, Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the solicitor prepare an ordinance to rescind Chapter 163 of the Slatington Borough Code in its entirety. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Victory Park Perimeter Survey – Councilor Rinker asked Larry Turoscy the status of the perimeter survey at Victory Park. Mr. Turoscy reported GPS rebar pins will be set and this project should be completed in the near future.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Michael Brogan**

1. Request for Memorial - Councilor Brogan reported receiving a letter from the President of the Springside Sportsman Club, Inc. They are requesting approval to install a memorial bench at the fish hatchery, 1117 Main Street, Slatington, in memory of Robert Herzog, Sr. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve the request. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. 2016 Donations – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker to approve donations as budgeted for Active Life - \$750; NOVA (Ambulance) - \$9,300; Northern Lehigh Swimming Pool - \$1,000; and Slatington Library - \$5,000. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

1. Authority Bills - Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the authority bills of \$1,859.86; H2O Grant \$850.00 (CRY Audit Exp.); Steckel & Stopp \$162.50 (Sept.) & \$504.17 (Oct.); Joan Cheesbrough \$250.00 (Aug. & Dec. Minutes); Slatington Borough \$35.99 (copy exp.); Times News \$57.20 (Advertising Exp.). President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found to be safe for human consumption.
2. Encroachment Agreement – Water Plant Property Lines. The property owners have signed the agreement for the well encroached for property at 3021 Welshtown Road (across from Water Plant). Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor David Schnaars, to approve the well encroachment agreement and authorize the Office

Manager to execute on behalf of the Borough. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- A. Resolution R-16-16 – 2017 Budget – Councilor Reed stated we previously budgeted \$16,000 for security at the water/sewer plants. This budget increases that to \$22,500. Councilor Reed has suggested to place surveillance cameras on at the filtration plant for approximately \$12,500 and allocate \$5,000 for police. Having this in place, it could possibly reduce the water rates from \$93.00 to \$90.00. Councilor Schnaars stated he and the Office Manager spent considerable time working on the budget and that it balances after minor adjustments to revenue and the elimination of the Office Manager and one Code Enforcement Officer position. President Jones had staff prepare general fund budget with current numbers. Budget shows a deficit of over \$100,000. Councilor Rinker questioned why there were so many mistakes on things not going into the right department and that this is precisely why a Borough Manager is needed. After considerable discussion, Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker to close the debate. 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    Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed	None
Joe Wechsler    Michael Brogan		
David Schnaars		

Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve Resolution R-16-16 and adopt the 2017 budget. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

ROLL CALL

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Joe Wechsler    Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed	None
David Schnaars    Michael Brogan	Gwyneth Jones	

- B. Resolution R-17-16 – Establishing payments into Police Pension Fund. This resolution establishes a 5% contribution from members of the police union into the police pension fund. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to adopt resolution R-17-16. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

- C. Resolution R-18-16 – Setting 2017 Salaries for Non-Union Personnel. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to table this issue. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Councilor Wechsler pointed out to the Council that under Resolution R-18-16 that Sewer Operator/Director must be included. This needs to be discussed in an Executive meeting.

- D. Resolution R-19-16 – Appointment of auditors for FY 2016. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve Resolution R-18-16 to appoint Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits (CR&Y) as auditors for fiscal year 2016. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor. (Editors note: R-18-16)
- E. Resolution R-20-16 – 2017 Police Chief Salary. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve Resolution R-20-16 establishing the Police Chief's salary for 2017. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor. (Editors Note: R-19-16)
- F. Ordinance No. 680 - Fixing Tax Rates for 2017 - Real Property taxes for general purposes are 4.80 mils; Fire Fund Tax is .45 mils; Local Service Tax is \$52; Wage Tax is 1%; Per Capita Tax of \$5.00 and the Realty Transfer Tax is 1% estate tax rates for 2017. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to advertise. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- G. Special Meeting – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, dully seconded by Councilor Brogan, to hold a Special Meeting at a date to be determined by the Council to adopt Ordinance No. 680. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

- A. 2017 Meeting Schedule – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve and advertise the 2017 meeting schedule. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

- B. Veterans Memorial Committee – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to dissolve the Veterans Memorial Committee. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- C. Robert Steets – Resignation - A motion was made by Councilor Schnaars, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to accept the resignation of Robert Steets with appreciation for his service. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- D. Health Officer/Food Inspector - Lynn Zakos - A motion was made by Councilor Brogan, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to accept the resignation of Lynn Zakos as health officer/food inspector. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- E. NLRA Appointment - Councilor Schnaars term on the NLRA board expires on 12/31/16. He offered to serve again in the Borough Council seat on the NLRA Board for a 5 year term. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to appoint Councilor Schnaars to a 5-year seat on the NLRA Board. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR** (for agenda items only)

Doreen Curtin – was recognized to speak. She is a landlord in Slatington and spoke on the Borough Manager position. She thought the salary was too high for a small town and expressed concerns on the ability and history of the new Borough Manager in another community.

Robert Repp – was recognized to speak. He spoke on the former fire chief and asked if any consideration was being given to re-instating him.

Jason Ruff – was recognized to speak. He wanted to thank Councilor Rinker and Council for supporting the tattoo ordinance elimination. He also stated he would be interested in Bob Steets seat and will submit a letter of interest to the Borough. He also suggested a local chain link fence company for the fencing work proposed for John Freed Way.

Mel Gildner – was recognized to speak. He stated that he resented complaints from non-residents being aired.

Ed Zeigler – was recognized to speak. He would like Chief Rachman to put a "No Left Turn" sign up at Diamond & Main Streets. Larry Turoscy will need to verify PennDOT sign specs.

Being no further business, President Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary