

## BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

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

#### PRESENT

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

#### ABSENT

Michael Brogan

#### OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Niedermeyer  
Larry Turoscy  
Duane Dellecker  
Tom Dinkelacker, Esq.  
Chief Rachman

#### VISITORS

Susan Chandler  
Amanda Heyer  
Kelley Andrade (Times News)  
Randy Metzger  
Carol Gildner  
Ray Higdon  
Harry Ahner  
Megan Pascoe  
Justin Frable  
Michael Kukitz  
Mel Gildner  
Jason Ruff  
Ed Ziegler  
Jason Nicholas  
Debbie Fenner  
Amanda Weaver  
Donna Heyer  
Robert Herzog, Jr.  
Roy Higdon  
Shawn Rios  
Chris Pascoe  
Robert Reph  
Joseph Chilico  
Jeffrey Hausman  
Dwight Miller  
Kris Burek  
Keith Weaver  
Dave Behr

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 Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, October 10, 2016; Special Council Meeting, October 25, 2016; Committee Meetings October 17, 2016 & October 25, 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.

Mel Gildner – Slatington - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner spoke on property maintenance enforcement issues.

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 into Trail Town designation and have met with Lehigh County and the D&L Trail. He announced a First Friday event taking place on Friday, December 2, 2016, from 4-7 PM starting at the diner and ending at Memorial Park. He also asked for police foot patrols on Main Street to make the town safer and welcoming. Saturday, November 26, 2016, is small business day. He reminded residents to support small local businesses.

Dwight Miller – 256 S. Walnut Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke in support of the former fire chief.

Jason Nicholas – Acting Fire Chief – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He asked Council to reconsider last month’s decision to relieve the fire chief of his duties.

Kris Burek – Slatington – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Burek complained about a variety of issues including Council attacking volunteers, illegal appointment to Council, stealing employees and an employee with many complaints against them. She was verbally abusive to those targeted in these complaints.

Ed Ziegler – Resident – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ziegler was happy to see the American flag on the pole and lit in Memorial Park. He thanked Chief Rachman for dealing with a signage issue in town. He requested Council consider forming a Planning Commission in town to help speed development. He also commended the Women’s Club on the nice seasonal display at Springside.

Mike Dempsey – 345 First Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke in support of the former fire chief.

Ray Higdon – 609 W. Church Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke in support of the former fire chief and his capabilities to lead a top rated fire service in the Borough.

Keith Weaver – 535 W. Washington Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke on his 35 years in fire services, countless hours of training, calls during holidays and all hours of day and night, ISO ratings & NIMS Certifications. He expressed concerns that in the last four years the fire department has not received a thank you letter from the Public Safety Committee Chairman as had been done in the past. He was unsure why the fire equipment request was denied, felt the action taken against him was harsh and asked to be reinstated as fire chief.

Dave Behr – Fire Chief, Fountain Hill – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He informed Council that he is the fire chief where the funeral was held that caused the action to be taken against the former fire chief. He explained that two aerial trucks are needed to create the arch to fly a very large flag. He asked Council to reconsider the termination of Keith Weaver as fire chief.

**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 Steets 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 payments passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

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

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS**

The Mayor reported on the success & dedication of the new Veterans’ memorial. He presented Council with a key to the memorial and turned it over to the Borough.

Chief Rachman reported that the Veterans’ memorial dedication was beautiful with a huge turnout. He was very impressed.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Draft Ordinance #677 - Loading Zone 267 Main Street – Last month, Borough Council approved creating a 30 minute loading zone at 267 Main Street at the on-street parking space nearest the Main & Walnut Street traffic signal in front of their business. Ordinance #677 has been prepared and advertised listing all loading zones in the Borough. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed to approve Ordinance #677. 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 Joe Wechsler	None	None
David Schnaars Jon Rinker		
Bryon Reed Bob Steets		

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. Candy Cane Hunt – Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the NLRA to hold a candy cane hunt at Victory Park in Saturday, December 10, 2016, from 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Michael Brogan**

1. Draft Ordinance #678 – Parks & Recreation Membership – The Parks & Recreation Commission has asked for a modification to Chapter 40 of the Slatington Borough Code dealing with membership of the Commission to allow for up to two (2) members of the five (5) member Commission to be residents of the Northern Lehigh School District area. The draft Ordinance #678 was prepared and advertised. Attorney Dinkelacker supported the Ordinance as the Parks & Recreation Commission is a recommending body only. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve Ordinance #678. 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 Joe Wechsler	None	None
David Schnaars Jon Rinker		
Bryon Reed Bob Steets		

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Draft Ordinance #679 – Tax Collector Fees - The tax collector has requested a \$10 fee for duplicate tax bills. Ordinances 521 & 622 have been adopted dealing with fees charged by the tax collector. Currently there is no fee for a duplicate tax bill. A draft Ordinance has been prepared and advertised to authorize the tax collector to collect a \$10 fee for duplicate tax bills. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve Ordinance #679. 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 Joe Wechsler	None	None
David Schnaars Jon Rinker		
Bryon Reed Bob Steets		

2. 2017 Preliminary Budget – A preliminary budget for 2017 has been prepared. Councilor Wechsler stated that this draft is not ready for action and made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2016, at 7:00pm to review and finalize 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>
Gwyneth Jones Joe Wechsler	None	None

David Schnaars Jon Rinker  
Bryon Reed Bob Steets

3. Code Report – Solicitor – The Solicitor prepared a report on the deficiencies in Slatington Borough Ordinances. The Committee supports having legal prepare a draft ordinance correcting these deficiencies. The Solicitor explained inconsistencies in procedures, fines collecting legal fees, etc., and encouraged standardizing the ordinances in compliance with PA Borough Code in order to support an effective code enforcement program. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the solicitor prepare this draft ordinance. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bob Steets**

1. Solid Waste/Recycling Services Contract – The bids are under review by the Solicitor. A recommendation will be ready for the Special Meeting scheduled for November 29, 2016.
2. Pump Station – Pump Maintenance Agreement – Axiom submitted a 3-year maintenance agreement quote of \$2,500 per year for maintenance for the pumps at the pump station. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve this 3-year pump maintenance agreement. 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 safe for human consumption.

Councilor Reed announced that Steve Martinez, Water Plant Operator, received a 25-year service award from the state organization.

2. Chapter 13-5 Borough Code – Councilor Reed expressed concerns about following procedures by taking things through the proper committee prior to Council action. He used the authorization to purchase a new dump truck at the October meeting as an example of this. He reminded Council that COSTARS pricing is not necessarily the best pricing; COSTARS purchases do not need to be bid. However, contacting multiple COSTAR vendors could provide more competitive pricing. Councilor Schnaars expressed concerns that decisions are not made in a timely fashion and, as a result, put the purchase before full Borough Council. A discussion ensued regarding the truck engine and rescinding the motion to purchase the new truck. The Solicitor will research the issue for the Special Meeting scheduled for November 29, 2016.

Councilor Reed reported that AMS (Asphalt Maintenance Solutions) will be in town on Tuesday or Wednesday to work on the crack sealing.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- A. Borough Hall – Roof Repair – A quote of \$7,000 was received from Joel R. Alpha Home Improvements to re-shingle and install two stationary vents on the south side main roof of the Municipal Building. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by councilor Steets to authorize this work at a cost not to exceed \$7,000. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Jones recessed to executive session at 8:30pm for personnel purposes dealing with the Borough Manager position. At 9:39pm, President Jones reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel were discussed in executive session. No action will be taken at that time.

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

Mel Gildner – Commented on the Draft Budget and hoped all of Borough Council is involved.

Dwight Miller – Commented on his support of re-instating the Fire Chief.

Being no further business, President Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary