

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, April 11, 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
Bob Steets
David Schnaars
Jon Rinker
Michael Brogan

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

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

VISITORS

Carol Gildner Mel Gildner
Ed Ziegler Bruce Kern
Kelley Andrade (Times News)
TV 13 Ron Scheffler
Tina Brogan Jared Kern
Robert Stettner Anthony Gnas
David Altrichter Donald Peck
Nancy Treskot Cindy Miller
Alice Wanamaker
(Plus 5 others who did not sign in)

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, March 14, 2016; Council Special Meeting, April 4, 2016; Committee Meetings – March 21, 2016 and March 28, 2016. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None.

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.

Bruce Kern – 308 First Street – signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Kern spoke on behalf of the Vigilant Fire Company and presented a check to the Borough in the amount of \$250 for Memorial Day Flags.

Ron Scheffler – Oakhurst Drive – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Scheffler spoke on right-to-know requests.

Donald Peck – 324 2nd Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He expressed his displeasure with having to pay a late fee for his water bill only being two days late.

Nancy Treskot – Walnutport – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Treskot spoke on behalf of the Venture Group and requested approval to set up the Blue Mountain Farmers Market with 4 vendors at the Trailhead. The Farmers Market will operate at the pavilion Fridays 10am-6pm & Saturdays 8am-2pm.

Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to authorize the Blue Mountain Farmers Market at the Trailhead Pavilion as requested. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote - 5 Ayes, 2 Nays.

Cindy Miller – Walnutport – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Miller introduced her candidacy for the office of PA State Representative. She has been a Lehigh Township Supervisor for 5 years and desires to represent the 183rd legislative district in Harrisburg.

Mel Gildner – Slatington - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner spoke on water/sewer rates of multi-unit buildings saying the Borough is losing \$240,000 a year in revenue & and an Ordinance Enforcement complaint of property in town.

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 motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

The Mayor spoke about Meals-On-Wheels and the personal rewards of volunteering for this organization.

The Police Chief updated Council on the proposal to create a sitting area & service window inside the entrance to the police station. Two quotes have been received. He is waiting for additional quote. He also reported on a recent coordinated police effort to apprehend armed robbery suspects.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. Resolution R-06-16 - CDBG 2016 – S. Walnut Street – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to adopt Resolution R-06-16 to submit the grant application for improvements to S. Walnut Street, from E. Church to Race Streets, at an estimated cost of \$82,051.68 & authorize the President of Borough Council to sign documents related thereto. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Resolution R-07-16 – CDBG 2016 – E. Church Street – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to adopt Resolution R-07-16 to submit the grant application for improvements to E. Church Street, from S. Walnut to Railroad Streets, at an estimated cost of \$82,051.68 & to authorize the President of Borough Council to sign documents related thereto. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. Resolution R-08-16 – CDBG 2016 – W. Washington Street – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to adopt Resolution R-08-16 to submit the grant application for improvements to W. Washington Street, from 7th St. to Hickory Alley, at an estimated cost of \$79,984.90. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
4. CDBG 2015 – Bid Determination
 - a. W. Church Street – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to award the CDBG W. Church Street improvement project to the low bidder of Graver Industries, Inc. d/b/a Barker & Barker Paving at the cost of \$75,594. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, 6 Ayes, 1 Nay.
 - b. W. Franklin Street – In order to allow the County additional time to review the bid documents, the bid for W. Franklin Street was Tabled.

5. Victory Park Sidewalk Project – Additional TAP Funds – Due to increased project costs, Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to seek an additional \$40,000 in TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) funds for the Victory Park Sidewalk Project. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
6. Borough Garage – Electrical for Pressure Washer – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize PENCOR Electric to install a new electrical line for pressure washer in the Borough Garage at a cost not to exceed \$1,800. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
7. Skin Patching – AMS – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets to authorize up to \$10,000 from the Liquid Fuels account to Skin Patch roadways as determined by the Highway Committee. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
8. Parking Issues – 400 Block S. Walnut Street – Parking lines were painted last year to address complaints in the 400 block of S. Walnut Street. The Highway Committee discussed additional complaints & recommends “blacking” out the painted parking lines and “boxing” out the access to driveways. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to “black” out parking lines and “box” out driveways as recommended by the Highway Committee. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Jon Rinker

1. Fire Station Entry Doors – Advanced Custom Interiors submitted a quote to replace two (2) commercial grade steel entry doors & install a 20” x 40” awning at a cost of \$2,654.45 each at the fire house. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve replacing the door near the flagpole at a cost of \$2,654.45. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Draft Ordinance #675 - Traffic Control Devices – Stop Signs S. Walnut Street – A draft Ordinance was prepared to install stop signs in both directions along S. Walnut Street at the intersection of E. South Street. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize advertisement of this Ordinance. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. Honoring Ted Kistler – Mr. Ted Kistler served a Chief of Police from 1968-1998. He was the longest serving police chief in Lehigh County. The Committee discussed honoring Mr. Kistler by naming the police station after him with a 17” x 23 ½” plaque to be donated and installed on the outside of the police station. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan, to honor Ted Kistler in this way. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Michael Brogan

1. Parks & Recreation Commission – Structure – The Parks & Recreation Commission is made up of a 5-man board; four (4) appointed by Council & one (1) appointed by the School District. The Committee recommends changing the structure to require all members be appointed by Council & allow up to two (2) members from the NL School District area. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to prepare a draft Ordinance changing the structure of the Commission. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Veterans Memorial Proposal – Mr. David Altrichter was introduced. He informed Council that an ad-hoc veterans committee was formed nearly a year ago to work on creating a veterans memorial in town and presented Council with a written outline.

As shown on a diagram submitted, a southeast section of Memorial Park has been selected as ideal for this memorial. Mr. Altrichter asked Council to formally recognize the Veteran's Memorial Committee & allow a memorial to be installed at Memorial Park subject to final design approval from Council. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets, to approve this request. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

3. Main Street Trees – Last fall, an inventory of street trees was done along Main Street. Eleven (11) trees need to be replaced or planted, other need trimming. Josh's Nursery & Landscaping submitted a quote of \$3,850 to do this work. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize this work & purchase fertilizer spikes and decorative stone. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
4. Vigilant Block Party – August 5-7, 2016 – The Vigilant fire company submitted a request to hold a block party complete with bingo, Chinese auction, game stands, food and music. The upper parking lot and a portion of the lower parking lot will be blocked off. Overflow parking would use the Walnut Street playground. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve this request as submitted subject to providing a certificate of insurance to the Borough. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

D. Finance

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Handicap Ramp Project - Vigilant – Hot Shot Cleaning submitted the low quote of \$9,151 to prepare, prime & finish the exposed steel structure and treat all sidewalk expansion & isolation joints of the handicap ramp at the Vigilant building. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve this project. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Lease Agreement - Magistrate – The current lease with Lehigh County for Magisterial office number 31-3-01 will expire October 31, 2016. The new lease agreement would extend the lease for 5-years at \$2,572.83 per month, expiring October 31, 2021. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve the lease agreement and authorize the Chairman of the Finance Committee to execute the agreement. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Bob Steets

1. Aerated Sludge Holding Tank – Last month, Council approved making application to the DEP & DRCB to change the process from anaerobic to aerobic at the WWTP. The WWTP engineer reported to the Committee that a plan must be developed in order to create this change at an estimated cost of \$10,000 plus additional mechanical and electrical engineering services. Councilor Steets requested this item be tabled until the ARRO report is received.
2. Authority Bills – A motion was made by Councilor Steets, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to pay the Slatington Borough Authority bills of \$2,445.34; Steckel & Stopp \$1,973.90 (February); Rettew Assoc. \$206.25 (Feb. 19); Times News \$107.20 (advertising) Joan Cheesbrough \$125 (Feb. 22 Minutes) & Borough of Slatington \$32.99 (copy expense). President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 6 Ayes, and 1 Nay.
3. Chapter 94 Report – Councilor Steets presented a cost evaluation for services related to preparation of the Chapter 94 report for the WWTP. Using the K.L.Fulford

Assoc. contract at a cost of \$900 for the first year and \$500 for subsequent years, the Borough can save \$7,300 over 5 years. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to utilize the services of K.L. Fulford for the Chapter 94 reports. 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.
2. Hydrant Flushing – Councilor Reed announced that hydrant flushing will occur after 9:00 pm evenings Mondays through Thursdays during the month of April.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Electric Generation Costs – Councilor Reed informed Council that the Borough electric contract will expire in 2017. Our current rate is 6.4 cents per Kwh. A one cent reduction in cost represents approximately \$10,000 in savings to the Borough. Companies have been in communication with the Borough to access user information from PP&L to better offer quotes for next year. Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize release of PP&L information to electric service providers to better help them prepare quotes. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Jason Schek – a Boy Scout from Troop 48 was present for the meeting. He is working on a merit badge for citizenship. Council President Jones extended a warm welcome to Master Schek.
3. Resolution R-09-16 – Establishing Procedures for Public Meetings – Attorney Dinkelacker discussed the proposed resolution establishing procedures for public meetings and rules of good conduct. Council was asked to review and submit comments to the Office Manager.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Jones called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:30 pm. At 8:54 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In Executive Session, legal matters were discussed.

At 8:55 pm Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan to adjourn the meeting. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary