

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, March 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

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

VISITORS

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

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

Carol Gildner Mel Gildner  
Kris Burek Ed Ziegler  
Kelley Andrade (Times News)  
Crystal Hausman Bruce Kern  
Jeffrey Hausman TV 13  
Robert Herzog, Jr. Michael Meyers  
Russell Hallman Daniel Sell  
Ron Scheffler Tina Brogan  
Robert Stettner Marc Grammes  
Elizabeth Alsagaaf  
Maize Gendruces (?)  
Duane Szczensy Daniel Szczensy  
Elizabeth Frantz

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Brogan, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, February 8, 2016; Council Special Meeting, February 22, 2016; Committee Meetings – February 15, 2016 and February 29, 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.

Carol Gildner – 528 Pine Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Gildner spoke on the new inspection ordinance, the 150<sup>th</sup> committee, finance and agenda items.

Kris Burek – Slatington Borough, signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Burek spoke on questions & comments received on her web site. After five minutes, the President declared her time expired. Ms. Burek continued and was called out of order. Property Owner, Michael Meyers, was also called out of order for speaking without being recognized.

Attorney Dinkelacker spoke on Public Comment and the Sunshine Law. He informed all in attendance that a public comment period is time for public comment; not time for public question & answer, public inquisition or grilling of officials. Questions asked may not necessarily be answered, but may be referred to committee or staff. He offered to answer any questions after the meeting.

Ed Ziegler – N. Walnut Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. He thanked Council for correcting the lighting at the Memorial Park flagpole & gave instruction on flag etiquette.

Mel Gildner – Slatington Borough, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner spoke on Ordinance Enforcement Officer’s report, fees & the condition of a property in town.

Elizabeth Alsagaaf – 627-635 Main Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. She spoke on a water line break of 45,000 gallons of water in her basement and asked if the sewer related billing could be waived. President Jones referred this issue to the water committee.

Michael Meyers – a Lehigh Township resident, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Meyers owns rental units in town. He would like all ordinances posted online and expressed displeasure with not being able to question officials at a public meetings.

Councilor Schnaars informed Council that Mr. Meyers submitted a right-to-know request for all information related to the new inspection ordinance. The information was produced but Mr. Meyers refused to pick up and pay for the documents due to the cost.

Marc Grammes – A resident of Slatedale, signed in and was recognized to speak. He is a candidate for the 183<sup>rd</sup> district. He disagreed with Ms. Burek, saying he believes that Slatington is very much alive. He spoke on his vision for improvements to the community; the 100 steps with gardens, rebuilding the old sawmill and working with the Slatington 150<sup>th</sup> and Beyond Committee. We all need to work together to improve our community.

Ms. Burek complained that Mr. Grammes was not a resident of Slatington and therefore had no right to speak. Attorney Dinkelacker indicated Ms. Burek was correct that Mr. Grammes had no right to speak under the Sunshine Law, however, Council has the right to allow anyone to speak.

**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 Reed 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:

<u>ROLL CALL</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Gwyneth Jones	None	None
	Bob Steets		
	Bryon Reed	Jon Rinker	
	David Schnaars	Joseph Wechsler	
	Michael Brogan		

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS**

The Mayor reported on his attendance at a recent COG meeting. He also reported on the spotted lantern moth: a dangerous pest to be on the lookout for.

The Police Chief discussed a proposal to create a sitting area & service window inside the entrance to the police station for security and protection of sensitive information within the station. President Jones referred this matter to the Public Safety Committee.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. CDBG 2016 – Grant Application Submission – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to hire URDC to prepare and submit the grant application for the 2016 CDBG application round due April 15<sup>th</sup> for three (3) projects at a cost of \$4,500; (1) S. Walnut Street – from E. Church to Race Street – Est. Cost \$80,701.84; (2) E. Church Street –

from S. Walnut to Railroad Street – Ext. Cost \$82,051.68; and (3) W. Washington Street – from 7<sup>th</sup> St. to Hickory Alley – Est. Cost \$79,984.90. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

2. Resolution R-05-16 – TAP Funds - Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve Resolution R-05-16 accepting the TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program) grant in the amount of \$45,430 for the Victory Park Sidewalk Project and authorize the Council Vice-President to accept the agreement on behalf of the Borough as outlined in the resolution. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. 4-Gas Monitor – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to purchase a 4-gas confined space monitor with a concussion proof boot for the road crew at a cost of \$890 from Susquehanna Safety Solutions. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
4. W. Church Street Parking Lot – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Steets to authorize the Engineer and Solicitor to create the necessary documents to advance the creation of “John Freed Way” from W. Church Street to Short Alley at an estimated cost of \$33,143 from Liquid Fuel funds. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Larry Turoscy suggested this project be put to bid at the same time as the W. Church Street CDBG project as it may save money to do both projects at the same time. President Jones referred this to the Highway Committee.

## **B. Public Safety**

### **Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. Animal Control Officer – Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to hire Russell Hallman as Animal Control Officer at the rate of \$200 per month and a Borough cell phone. This position is part-time with no benefits. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 6 in Favor; President Jones abstained.
2. Traffic Control Devices – The Committee reported a safety concern with traffic at the intersection of E. South Street and S. Walnut Street. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to advance the installation of stop signs along S. Walnut Street in both directions. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. Animal Control Car – Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to advertise the animal control car for sale. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

## **C. Human/Community Services**

### **Councilor Michael Brogan**

1. Victory Park Sign - Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to purchase and install a “Patron Only” parking sign at the Main Street Victory Park parking lot as recommended by the Parks & Recreation Committee. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Victory Park Railing at Stairs – Szoke Bros. submitted a quote of \$2,320 to replace the railing at the Main Street stairway accessing Victory Park. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to repair the railing and submit the cost as a claim against the drivers’ insurance. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. Dog Waste Receptacle at Trail – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to purchase and install a commercial grade dog waste receptacle

from Dog Waste Depot at a cost of \$199. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

4. Recycling Containers – TMF submitted a COSTARS quote of \$2,035.15 for 101 32-gallon recycling containers with lids. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve this purchase. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
5. Donation of Land – Victory Park - 523 Second Street is the last parcel of land located along the unimproved section of 2<sup>nd</sup> street leading to Victory Park not in possession of the Borough. The estate of Leah M. Snyder has offered to donate this parcel to the Borough. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to accept this land donation & authorize the solicitor to prepare the necessary paperwork. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
6. American Legion Annual Memorial Day Parade - The American Legion Post submitted a request to hold their annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2016. The parade will form at Main & 2<sup>nd</sup> Streets at 9:30am; proceed south on Main Street to the Union Cemetery where services will be held; then return to 2<sup>nd</sup> & Main Street. The request includes asking the police to lead the parade and Fire Police for traffic control. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve this request. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
7. Halloween Parade – October 22, 2016 - The Northern Lehigh Events Committee submitted a request to conduct the Halloween Parade on Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, rain date October 23<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 5:30pm. The request includes Fire Police assistance, personnel & barricades and Police Dept assistance at Main & Walnut Streets. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve this request as submitted. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
8. Northern Lehigh Events Committee – “Day in the Park” – The NL Events Committee submitted a request to use the Victory Park Grove and pavilion for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Day in the Park” on Saturday, July 30, 2016, to help raise funds for the Halloween Parade. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve this request as submitted. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

#### **D. Finance**

#### **Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Tax Exemption Request – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve a tax exemption request for Michael Swadener for being deceased. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. SEIU 668 – Negotiating Committee – The SEIU 668 has submitted a letter stating their intention and desire to negotiate a successor agreement for employees in the union. The current contract expires on December 31, 2016. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the President to appoint this committee. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bob Steets**

1. Video Line from WWTP to River - The Committee requested to video this line at a cost not to exceed \$1,596. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize this project. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Axiom Pump Quote – A quote has been received from Axiom to change out pump #3 using the new pump in storage at the WWTP and installing a new 30HP electric motor at a cost of \$7,516.51 and \$2,142.85 to test all valves for positive shutoff. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize this work. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. Aerobic Holding Tank/Sludge Thickener – The WWTP Engineer reported at the last committee meeting that a sludge thickener would thicken the sludge being hauled. DEP & DCRB permit modifications will be necessary to change the process from anaerobic to aerobic. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize Karl Schreiter to pursue this modification. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
4. Authority Bills – A motion was made by Councilor Steets, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to pay the Slatington Borough Authority bills of \$8,558.99; Steckel & Stopp \$1,812.40 (December) & \$2,613.60 (January); Rettew Assoc. \$2,062.00 (Nov. 27), \$320.00 (Dec. 25) & General Services \$345.00; PA DEP 2016 Annual Fee NEPDES \$1,250; Joan Cheesbrough \$125.00 (Dec. Minutes); & Borough of Slatington \$30.99 (copy expense). President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
5. Engineering Proposals – Four (4) engineering firms responded to the RFP regarding services at the WWTP. After discussion, Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to table action and refer this matter to committee. President declared this matter tabled to committee 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. South Street Water Line – Councilor Reed made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to replace approximately 475 lineal feet of water line on South Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Street west at an estimated cost of \$37,000. There are 7 services on the line, 1 fire plug and 1 sample port. Extending the line another 70 feet to the playground property with a test port would further help with turbidity in the line. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

Nothing to report.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Jones called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:13 pm. At 8:22 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In Executive Session, matters of personnel were discussed.

At 8:23 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