

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, February 8, 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

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

ABSENT

OTHERS PRESENT

Mayor Niedermeyer
Larry Turoscy
Duane Dellecker

VISITORS

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 Jason Ruff
Ron Scheffler Diane Berl
Joan Kolenar Ted Konek
Jared Kern Tina Brogan
C.R. Mimplitsch Jeff Johnson
Danny Amorim Mark Amorim
Carlos Amorim Connie Ganz
Robert Stettner Frank Solt
Gary Grube Ashley Orтели
Linda Jenny Melisa Freer
Ann Vlot James Wright
John Ortiz

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to accept the following minutes: Council Re-Organizational Meeting – January 4, 2016; Council Meeting, January 11, 2016; Council Special Meeting, January 25, 2016; Committee Meetings – January 18, 2016 and January 25, 2016. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES

NAYS

ABSTAIN

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

None

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None. President Jones announced executive sessions held on January 11th & 18th, 2016, for personnel purposes.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION – Proposals for legal services were received and reviewed. Three respondents were invited to introduce their firms to Council. President Jones separately introduced Attorney Thomas Dinkelacker from the firm of Dimmich, Dinkelacker & Anewalt; Attorney John Ashley from the firm of Davison & McCarthy; & Attorney Michael Gaul from the firm of KingSpry. They addressed Council on the experience of their respective firms. After questions from Council, President Jones thanked each for their attendance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Jones called for an Executive Session and recessed the Regular Meeting at 7:40 pm. At 7:53 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In Executive Session, matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

LEGAL REPRESENTATION (Cont.) – Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to appoint the firm of Dimmich, Dinkelacker & Anewalt, P.C. as legal council for the Borough. 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
	Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars		
	Michael Brogan		
	Bob Steets		
	Jon Rinker		
	Joseph Wechsler		

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.

Frank Solt – 419 S. Walnut Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Solt expressed concerns over parking at his driveway. Chief Rachman addressed his concerns.

Jason Ruff – 662 Main Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ruff thanked Council for their public service. He commented, both positive and negative, on proposed Ordinance #674.

Ron Scheffler – Oakhurst Drive, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Scheffler complained about ordinance enforcement and wants the ability to file complaints about any property in town.

Ed Ziegler – N. Walnut Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. He was pleased PENNDOT completed repairs to the guide rails at the Main Street Bridge and again complained that the lighting for the Memorial Park flagpole is not properly adjusted.

Michael Meyers – a Lehigh Township resident, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Meyers owns rental units in town and spoke against proposed Ordinance #674 and water metering fairness. He questioned officials on a variety of issues, demanding only yes or no answers. He told Council they have not heard the last from him.

Gary Grube – from Bath, signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Grube owns rental units in town and expressed concerns with the costs and requirements of inspections under Ordinance #674.

Ashley Ortelli – 326 Kern Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Ortelli owns property in town and spoke in favor of Ordinance #674. She explained how the code office has assisted her in dealing with absentee landlord issues next door.

Linda Jenny – Kittnersville, PA, signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Jenny owns rental units in town and expressed concerns on required inspections for tenant turnover and questioned if consideration may be given for limiting the number of inspections in a given time period.

Kris Burek – signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Burek questioned several Councilors on legal matters, meeting attendance, blighted properties and hypocrisy. When a Councilor tried to respond, she stated that this was her time and didn't want to hear it.

Mel Gildner - signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner complained about siding and windows missing from a building in town, questioned legal costs regarding speaking at committee meetings and getting answers under right-to-know laws.

Melisa Freer – 328 Kern Street, signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Freer spoke in favor of Ordinance #674. She stated that you have good and bad renters and landlords and that this ordinance will help improve the safety of building for everyone involved.

Ann Vlot – Washington Township, signed in and was recognized to speak. She owns rental unit in multiple communities and stated that inspections similar to those in Ordinance #674 are very common and important for the quality of life in the community. She questioned having both a license fee and an inspection fee and suggested a more regular inspection schedule.

John Ortiz – signed in and was recognized to speak. He stated that his questions have already been answered.

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:

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

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

In light of the recent snow storm, Chief Rachman reminded residents to work together and be good neighbors & not to throw snow in the street or put chairs in parking spaces.

President Jones commended the road crew on a job well done in dealing with the recent snow storm.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor David Schnaars

1. 2016 CDBG – Priority List Discussion - Larry Turoscy reviewed the streets suggested at the last Highway Committee meeting for the 2016 CDBG grant submission. Three (3) appear to be worthy projects: a. S. Walnut, from E. Church to Race St.; b. E. Church St., from S. Walnut to Railroad St.; & c. W. Washington St., from 7th to Hickory Alley. (Larry indicated that two other projects, 4th Street, from W. Franklin to W. Church Streets & E. Church Street, from 1st to S. Walnut Streets would be good candidates for the new road maintenance techniques.) Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to approve the three (3) 2016 CDBG projects as listed. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

Larry Turoscy informed Council that all but one street was added to the Liquid Fuels list; increasing estimated liquid fuel allotment by \$5,000 - \$6,000 per year.

2. Snow Blower Attachment – A quote was received from Plasterer Equipment Company for a snow blower attachment for the skid steer at a cost of \$6,884. Councilor Reed found a company named Quick Attachments that offered an identical piece of equipment for a cost of \$5,895. Following discussion, Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to authorize

the Highway Committee to research this equipment further, make a selection and purchase a snow blower attachment at a cost not to exceed \$6,884. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

3. Mosquitoes & Weeds Seminar – Penn State Extension Lehigh County is conducting an all-day mosquito & weeds seminar on March 10, 2016, at the Schnecksville Grange at a cost of \$25 per person. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to authorize John Bolton, Steve Martinez & Mike Evans to attend this seminar. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

4. Fuel Tank – Dump Truck – The 50 gallon fuel tank on the 2001 big dump truck is leaking. Two (2) quotes were reviewed. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the low quote from Erschens’ Garage at a cost of \$1,676.80 to include installation and authorize this repair. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

5. Resolution R-02-16 – Act 89 Multi-Modal Grant Updated Application – The Multi-Modal Grant application requires 30% matching funds from the Borough. The adjusted grant application totals \$699,900; 70% Multi-Modal funds sought is \$538,400; matching Borough funds are \$161,500. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve resolution R-02-16. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

B. Public Safety

Councilor Jon Rinker

1. Bike Night – The Slatington Fire Department submitted a request to conduct its annual Bike Night/Car Show on Saturday, September 24, 2016, from 12-8 pm on Main Street between South & 2nd Street. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve the request as submitted. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

2. Police Door Lock – Chief Rachman informed Council that the door at the police station needs to be repaired. He secured a quote from Invision Security to upgrade the security door at a cost of \$2,353.85 and is waiting for another quote. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the Public Safety Committee to review the quotes and approve a vendor for this project at a cost not to exceed \$3,500. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Michael Brogan

1. NL Future Focus – Sign Lighting Request – The NL Future Focus submitted a request to install a vintage light fixture to illuminate the sign at the Trailhead pavilion. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve the request.

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

2. Electronics Recycling – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to conduct an electronics recycling event at the Borough Garage on Saturday, June 18, 2016, from 9am to 12noon utilizing the services of RRS (Responsible Recycling Solutions) at a cost of \$550. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

3. Parks & Recreation Commission – Resignation – David Schnaars submitted his resignation from the Parks & Recreation commission. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to accept the resignation. 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	Joseph Wechsler	None
	David Schnaars	Bryon Reed	Bob Steets
	Jon Rinker	Michael Brogan	

- Parks & Recreation Commission - Appointment – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to appoint Ms. Cynthia M. Hazzard to the Parks & Recreation Commission, to fill the term expiring January 1, 2019. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

4. Resolution R-03-16 – NL Recreation Authority Funding – Resolution R-03-16 confirms the 5-year commitment of \$3.00 per capita totaling \$12,696 for each year 2016-2020 associated with Ordinance #670 funding the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority. Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to approve resolution R-03-16. President Jones declared the motion passes following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

D. Finance

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Ordinance #674 – Housing Rental/Transfer Inspections – This ordinance modifies Chapter 141 of the Slatington Borough Code. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to adopt Ordinance #674. 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 Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed	None
	Joseph Wechsler Bob Steets		
	Gwyneth Jones Michael Brogan		

2. Resolution R-04-16 – Fees Associated with Ordinance #674 – Resolution R-04-16 sets the rental housing annual license at \$10 per unit and transfer inspection fee for change of ownership or tenant at \$45. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to approve resolution R-04-16. 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	Bryon Reed	None
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Jones	Bob Steets	
		Michael Brogan	

3. Facebook Page – The Committee recommends creating a Facebook page to offer yet another way to communicate with residents. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker, to authorize the Office to set up a Facebook page subject to security concerns. 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	Bryon Reed	None
	David Schnaars Gwyneth Jones	Bob Steets	
	Jon Rinker Michael Brogan		

4. Generator – Borough Hall 3-Phase Switch – Arc Electric submitted a quote to install a 200 amp 3-phase switch for the generator at Borough Hall at a cost of \$3,815. The switch would supply generator power to the Borough Offices in case of a power outage. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Rinker to approve the installation. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

5. Training – Building Code Official Update Class – The Carbon Builders Association is hosting a Building Code Official training class in Bowmanstown on February 23, 2016, at a cost of \$50. Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to authorize the Building Code Official to attend this class. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

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

E. Sewer/Solid Waste **Councilor Bob Steets**

1. WWTP – Laborer/Assistant Sewer Operator – Council decided to hold this item for discussion in executive session.
2. Sampler Head Repair – The sampler head at the WWTP failed. Hach Company submitted a quote to repair the old sampler head at a cost of \$1,015.99. Councilor Steets made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars to authorize this repair. 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 Bob Steets	None	None
	Jon Rinker Bryon Reed		
	David Schnaars Joseph Wechsler		
	Michael Brogan		

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee **Councilor Bryon Reed**

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption.
2. Water Plant Furnace – Councilor Reed announced the furnace at the water treatment plant has been replaced and is functioning well.

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 9:50 pm. At 10:13 pm she reconvened the Regular Meeting. In Executive Session, matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

At 10:13 pm Councilor Reed made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary