

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The **Public Safety, Finance/Planning/Zoning, and Human/Community Services Committee Workshop Meetings** were held on **April 25, 2016** in Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

The meeting was called to order by Councilor Wechsler at 6:30PM with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Joseph Wechsler
Michael Brogan

ABSENT

Jon Rinker

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Dinkelacker, Esq.
Duane Dellecker

VISITORS

Jeffrey Hausman
Robert Stettner (did not sign in)
Russell Hallman (did not sign in)
Bruce Kern (did not sign in)
Mel Gildner (did not sign in)
Carol Gildner (did not sign in)
Kris Burek (did not sign in)

PUBLIC COMMENT – Robert Stettner signed in and was recognized to speak. He updated the committee on the parks & recreation clean-up held April 23, 2016. Helping with the clean-up were 18 volunteers. Lunch was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Stopp and provided at the fire company. Several problem areas were noted that the Commission recommended as follows:

1. Washout with garbage & tires east of the maintenance building;
2. Garbage & litter along the north bank under the Morgan Bridge asking for garbage cans to be placed at 2nd & Main and Diamond & Main;
3. Victory Park – asked for leaves from last fall be cleaned up;
4. Purchasing four (4) swings and replace one (1) toddler swing at Victory Park for a cost of \$371.05

FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING

Joseph Wechsler – Chairman; Members: Michael Brogan, Jon Rinker

1. Fire Revenue – 3rd Party Billing - On Tuesday, April 19th, a meeting was held at the Fire company with PA Fire Recovery Service to discuss the possibility of generating revenue for the fire department by billing insurance companies for fire related services. According to the proposal, no resident would be billed ... only insurance companies and possibly non-residents for vehicle accidents. An estimated \$10,000 in revenue is possible based on calls.

Attorney Dinkelacker expressed concerns over the Borough creating an employer/employee relationship and suggested the Borough avoid getting involved. As an independent non-profit organization, this is a fire department issue.

2. Fire Revenue - Inspections – Being familiar with life safety issues, fire company personnel would be ideal for assisting with property inspections. This would help provide manpower for after hour inspections & provide an opportunity for the fire company to generate revenue to assist with their budget by sharing inspection fees.

Again Attorney Dinkelacker expressed concerns over the Borough creating an employer/employee relationship and suggested instead possibly appointing a fire inspector.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Finance Committee Meeting was adjourned.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Jon Rinker-Chairman; Members: Joseph Wechsler, Michael Brogan

1. Police Station Modifications – Three (3) quotes have been received for the proposed modifications to the foyer of the police station. They range from \$10,300 - \$47,440. Due to the range of quotes, the attorney suggested the Police Chief discuss this issue with the engineer to develop specifications to secure more consistent quotes. Upon questions from the committee, the low quote falls under formal bidding requirements and could be acted on. The Committee supported tabling action and asked for this item to be placed on the Borough Council agenda to authorize the engineer to evaluate.
2. Fire Station Fire Protection – Councilor Wechsler discussed the quote from Blue Ridge Digital Home Security for installing fire/CO protection at the Fire Company for a cost of \$2,800 plus monitoring at \$15.41 per month. The Borough would pay for the installation and the Fire Company would cover the monitoring cost. The Committee asked for this item to be placed on the next Borough Council agenda.
3. Police Vest Grant – The current police vests guarantee expires at the end of this year. The cost to replace the vests is \$5,539.50. A grant opportunity is available from the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to cover 50% of the cost. The Committee asked for this item to be placed on the next Borough Council agenda.
4. Fire Dept Incident – On March 10, 2016, an incident occurred whereby two (2) of our firefighters incurred a loss of personal items & a shift of work that the insurance company denied. The Committee discussed reimbursing the firefighters for their loss.

Again the attorney expressed concerns over the Borough creating an employer/employee relationship. He asked if the fire company had a policy on reimbursing personnel and indicated that a donation to the fire company would be preferable.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Public Safety Committee Meeting was adjourned.

HUMAN/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Michael Brogan – Chairman; Members: Joseph Wechsler, Jon Rinker

1. Parks & Recreation Commission – Structure – Draft Ordinance #676, modifying Chapter 40 of the Slatington Borough Code, changes the structure of the Parks & Recreation Commission to authorize Borough Council to appoint all 5 members and to allow up to 2 members to be residents of the NLSD area. After discussion, the Committee tabled action pending legal review.

2. Community Yard Sale – May 14th & 15th – The Committee supported approval for the annual community yard sale to occur May 14th & 15th this year. The Borough traditionally waives yard sale permits and fees for this weekend, places an ad in the Times News and puts out a Swift 911 call to residents & asked for this item to be placed on the next Borough Council Agenda.

There were no questions from the committee members; the Human Community Services Committee Meeting was adjourned.

Being no further business, Councilor Wechsler made a motion to adjourn at 7:45 P.M.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary