

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The **Special Meeting** of Council was held on **Tuesday, November 29, 2016**, at 7:00 PM. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Gwyneth A. Jones, President

The meeting was called to order by President Jones at 7:00 P.M. with the following in attendance:

**ROLL CALL:**

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Gwyneth Jones	Bob Steets	Mayor Neidermeyer	Carol Gildner
Joseph Wechsler		Tom Dinkelacker	Jason Nicholas
Bryon Reed		Roxann Steelman	Mel Gildner
David Schnaars		Duane Dellecker	Bruce Kern (did not sign in)
Jon Rinker			
Mike Brogan			

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**PUBLIC COMMENT** (Agenda and Non-Agenda items)

Mel Gildner – signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Gildner admonished Councilors that they need to understand 100% of the budget or not vote on it until they do.

**BUSINESS**

1. 2017 Preliminary Budget – President Jones asked the Office Manager to review and explain the 2017 budget by line item and funds. After questions from Councilors and adjustments to the respective funds, the 2017 preliminary budget balances as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
General	\$1,665,473	\$1,706,975
Fire	\$ 78,000	\$ 78,000
Water	\$ 923,454	\$ 904,454
Sewer	\$1,510,993	\$1,510,993
Garbage	\$ 257,620	\$ 239,685
Liquid Fuels	\$ 346,225	\$ 281,017
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$4,781,765</b>	<b>\$4,721,124</b>

Fund notes:

**General Fund** – Revenue - Tenant Registration line item to be added \$4,700  
 - Refund of Medical line item change to \$25,000 (add \$7,399)

Other - Direct Treasurer to post Social Security/Medicare costs to respective funds on a quarterly basis.  
 - Options need to be discussed to close a \$41,502 deficit.

**Fire Fund** – Funding requests – The fire department requested funding consideration for a new combination fire truck at a cost of \$713,000 & an addition to the fire company for a gear room at an estimated cost of \$80,000. After discussion, there was no support to raise the fire tax to fund these requests. Other – Direct the Treasurer to review line items for proper posting.

**Water Fund** – Funding Requests – The water department requested funding consideration for an ATV and storage building at a total estimated cost of \$60,000. After discussion, these items were not funded. Councilor Reed gave a history on additions to existing facilities over the years and noted that existing space should be re-arranged in all buildings for storage.

Expenses - Include two water projects: W. South Street and Shadow Oaks.

- The Security expense line item was questioned. The Office Manager reported that no increase occurred since 2012. Councilor Reed noted that the police department patrols both the sewer and water plants on middle and night shift for security purposes and signed in at both locations to justify this expense and didn't think it should be increased.

**Sewer Fund** – **Expenses** – Include the anaerobic to aerobic process change and other improvements to the sewer plant.

**Garbage Fund** – As a result of bids received for a new solid waste/recycling contract, a substantial reduction in expenses is expected. Council supported offering residents one free television per year at the electronics recycling drop-off event & reducing garbage rates from \$66 per quarter to \$40 per quarter.

**Liquid Fuels Fund** – Expenses – Include three road projects: S. Walnut Street patching in front of the Borough Hall & Chestnut Alley and the Post Office Alley repaving. Also, included is the purchase of a small dump truck, skin patching and crack sealing.

**Small Dump Truck Purchase** – As a follow up to the November 14, 2016, Borough Council meeting, the solicitor reported that he had not seen the purchase order for the small dump truck ordered. Councilor Schnaars indicated he would send another email.

**General Notes:** Council directed the Office Manager to:

- A. Re-distribute Procurement Policy to staff to help ensure proper line item posting of revenue and expenditures.
- B. Direct Treasurer to run all insurance numbers to determine proper percentage allocations to each fund.
- C. Direct Treasurer to run 9% non-uniform pension costs to determine proper percentage allocations to each fund.

**Additional discussion on the General Fund** - Options were discussed to close the \$41,502 deficit in the general fund.

Councilor Schnaars advanced modifying the position of Office Manager/Zoning/ Building Code Official to Zoning/Building Code Official and reduce hours to 20 per week with benefits for a cost savings of \$22,329 (\$13,925 savings to general fund).

Councilor Rinker advanced eliminating one code enforcement officer position for a cost savings of \$13,710 to the general fund.

Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to adopt the 2017 Preliminary Budget as presented and authorize advertising thereof. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

2. **Solid Waste/Recycling Services Contract** – The Solicitor reported that County Waste was the lowest responsible bidder for a 5-year contract at a cost of \$872,500 or \$174,500 per year. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Reed, to award a 5-year contract, subject to legal review and approval, to County Waste. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**COURTESY TO THE FLOOR** (Agenda Items Only) - None

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Jones recessed to executive session at 10:26pm to discuss litigation and personnel matters related to Borough Manager. At 10:58pm President Jones reconvened

the meeting. Matters of litigation related to right-to-know and personnel matters related to Borough Manager were discussed in executive session.

The Mayor excused himself from the meeting during the executive session. In absence of the Mayor, President Jones recused herself and sat in as Mayor. Vice-President Wechsler sat in as President to run the remainder of the meeting.

3. Borough Manager – Councilor Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Schnaars, to approve the terms of the November 29, 2016, agreement as modified in Section 3B, Holidays, and hire Judith A. Danko as Slatington Borough Manager effective January 1, 2016, pursuant to the terms of said agreement as modified by the Solicitor and subject to her acceptance.

Councilor Reed expressed concerns that this action was being taken without Councilor Steets in attendance and President Jones being unable to vote as she was acting as Mayor.

Vice-President Wechsler called for a voice vote and declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

ROLL CALL

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Joe Wechsler    Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed	None
David Schnaars    Mike Brogan		

There being no further business to discuss, President Vice-President Wechsler declared the meeting adjourned at 11:07 P.M.

Karen Gill, Assistant Secretary Treasurer