

**CORRECTED MINUTES 2/13/17  
BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON**

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on **Monday, January 9, 2017** 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:**

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Gwyneth Jones		Mayor Niedermeyer	Chris Pasoc      Jeffrey Hausman
Joseph Wechsler		Larry Turoscy	Tina Brogan      Crystal Hausmann
Bryon Reed		Tom Dinkelacker, Esq.	Mel Gildner      Mary Niedermeyer
Jon Rinker			Dwight Miller      Jason Nicholas
David Schnaars			Rhonda Russell      Jason Ruff
Michael Brogan			Charles Barlight      Ed Ziegler
Judith Danko			Michael Meyer      Allie Wanamaker
			Robert Hertzog, Jr.      Carol Gildner
			Matt Szuchyt

President Jones announced that all public sessions of Borough Council are electronically recorded, and such recordings are maintained as part of the meeting record until the minutes are transcribed and approved by the Board, at which time the recordings shall be erased.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – Councilor Brogan made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, December 12, 2016; Special Council Meeting, December 27, 2016; Committee Meetings December 19, 2016 & December 27, 2016. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** (Agenda and Non-Agenda items) You will have three minutes to address Council from the podium. The three minutes applies to your time at the podium. If you exit the podium, you have yielded the floor, and any time you have remaining.

Dwight Miller - 256 So. Walnut Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Miller had a complaint concerning the garbage and recycling pickup. His recycling had not been pickup this week. Also, he stated how careless the garbage company is with the garbage cans by throwing them to the side. Mayor Niedermeyer informed Dwight that the Borough has a new garbage company starting January 17th.

Michael Meyers - Lehigh Township - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Meyers owns property in Slatington Borough. Mr. Meyers had received the Tenant Registration letter concerning Ord. 627 and thought it had to do with moving permits. He learned that the \$10.00 fee was for the paperwork for Ord. 627. He would like to have the Borough put on the Borough website information concerning what the residents' responsibilities are. Mr. Meyers also felt that the 3 minute limitation to speak is not fair.

Jason Ruff- 662 Main Street - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ruff is speaking on behalf of the Main Street Merchants Group. The main purpose of the group is to improve and create a warm welcome to Main Street Slatington business district and continue to work on improving the downtown. A letter had been sent to all business requesting more participation and if any council member, resident or business employee wishes to join to contact the Merchants Group. The Group will be holding a Shop Local campaign in order to demonstrate the importance of shopping local. The Group will host a strategic planning session to set clear goals for the immediate future as well as the development of the 3-5 year plan. He thanked the Borough for the use of the council work room on February 7, 2017, for the meeting and looks forward to working with the Borough Manager Danko. Slatington's First Friday events will continue starting in February and every other month in 2017.

Ed Ziegler - Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Ziegler pointed out that the new trash schedule did not indicate that trash and recycling would be picked up every week starting on January 17, 2017. Mr. Ziegler had a confrontation with the Slatington Police which, he felt, was unnecessary. He is refusing to pay the medical bill that he had incurred.

Matt Szuchyt from Senator Pat Browne's office. Signed in and was recognized to speak. He spoke on behalf of the Senator stating that they would like to have an open and participating relationship with all municipalities. There were various questions from the audience to Matt, i.e. lower school taxes, funding for the community center, small water grant. Matt stated that the Senator is aware of all of these issues.

**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 Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. President Jones declared the payments passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

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

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS**

Mayor Niedermeyer had suggested to the Council to have one Committee meeting once a month, This way, all members would be up-to-date with their information prior to a council meeting. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to move all Committee meetings to the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 PM starting February, 2017 and advertised to the public. Mgr Danko will place legal advertisement. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Mayor Niedermeyer informed the Council that Chief Rachman's father had passed away on Monday, 1/9/17.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Vigilant Request - Flags - Councilor Schnaars received a request from the Vigilant Fire Department to fly flags on the Morgan Bridge from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to have flags fly on the Morgan Bridge from Memorial Day to Veterans Day. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Bridge Construction in Slatington-Engineer Turoscy - Larry Turoscy informed the Council that the bridge over the Lehigh River between Slatington and Walnutport will be having pothole and deck surface improved in the spring and possibly into the summer. PennDOT plans to do a major reconstruction of the bridge deck in 2018. There was concern that the Walnut Street Bridge construction would over lap with the bridge, but work would be completed before the Walnut Street Bridge construction starts. Lehigh County has scheduled Walnut Street construction for 2020. There will not be any concern that all the bridges will be out at the same time.

The bridge from Walnutport into Slatington is a very congested area. Larry would like to contact the County to find out if there could possibly be some demolition work done to some houses to provide a light and screening out the alignment for a 3rd lane.

3. Dump Truck - Councilor Reed asked for an up date to Councilor Schnaars concerning the dump truck. Attorney Dinkelacker informed the Council that the equipment and chassis order was cancelled, but the body (cab) order was not. Duane Dellecker was to look into whether these items could be purchased cheaper. Councilor Reed restated the errors that have been done in trying to purchase the truck. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to table this issue. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. Solar Speed Signs - Councilor Rinker informed the Council that the solar speed signs are at the Borough garage. Councilor Rinker has asked Mgr. Danko for a work order and where they will be placed.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Michael Brogan**

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Brogan**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars**, adopting **Resolution R-02-2017**, *A resolution of Slatington Borough Council approving an amendment to the articles of incorporation of the Northern Lehigh Recreation Authority Authorizing 501(c)(3) designation for the purposes of the internal revenue code.* President Jones declared the **motion passed** following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Brogan**, adopting **Resolution R-01-17**, *A resolution appointing the firm of Dimmich, Dinkelacker & Anewalt to serve as the delinquent tax collector for the Borough of Slatington real estate taxes and re-affirming the fees to be paid for those services.* President Jones declared the **motion passed** following a Voice Vote, 5 ayes, 1 nay - Reed
2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Council Rinker** to **advertise Draft Ordinance #681**, *An ordinance repealing Chapter 163 of the Code of the Borough of Slatington entitled "Tattoo and Piercing Establishments".* President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor. To be placed on the 2/13/17 Council meeting agenda for adoption.
3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars**, to **table Draft Ordinance #682**, *An ordinance amending Chapter 195, the Borough of Slatington Zoning Ordinance, by amending Article II, Section 195-8, definitions, to revise the definition of "junk or salvage" and "junkyards (salvage yards); providing for new subsection 195-39.A. amortization of the nonconforming storage of junk on residential properties; and providing for new paragraph R. Junkyards to Article VII, special exception use conditions, Section 195-62 additional specific standards for certain special exception uses.* President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor to table motion.
4. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Rinker** to **advertise Draft Ordinance #683**, *An ordinance providing for the assessment of court costs and reasonable attorney fees incurred by the Borough in enforcement proceedings against persons found to have violated or to be in violation of Borough ordinance.* President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

1. Authority Bills - No bills; no action
2. Draft I&I Report/Cleaning and televising plan - This will be discussed at Committee meeting.
3. Garbage schedule change - Councilor Reed would like 911 calls to the community notifying them of the changes in the garbage pick up. This will be done.

The Borough had received a letter from the EPA. Councilor Reed spoke with Duane Szczesny, and Duane felt there were discrepancies in their report. This report will be discussed at a Committee meeting.

**F. Water/Special Sewer Committee**

**Councilor Bryon Reed**

1. Water Test Statement- Water was tested and found to be safe for human consumption.
2. Water Rates - A resolution will be drafted.
3. Electric Providers - Councilor Reed has been doing research on electric providers. He has received competitive quotes from Liberty Power, which the Borough has had for years. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to authorize Councilor Reed to use his judgment to lock into an electric agreement anything under \$.064 for a 3-6 year term. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**G. Special Committee Reports**

Slatington, Main Street Merchants Minutes were provided to Council for review.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

- A. Borough Council Vacancy - Robert Steets resigned from the Council on December 17, 2016. The seat must be filled within 30 days, which expires on January 11, 2017. Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to appoint Mel Gildner to the Council. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

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

Attorney Dinkelacker will complete a resolution that confirms the action of Council for the vacancy.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

- A. A. 2017 Board and Commission Appointments - Board of Health - one vacancy - term expires January 1st , 2022; Civil Service Commission - one vacancy - term expires January 1st, 2022; Police Pension Committee - no appointee; Slatington Borough Authority 5-year term; Joe Wechsler - term expires January 1st, 2022. There are 2 vacancies. UCC Board of Appeals - 5-year term; Larry Turoscy - term expires January 1st, 2022; Slatington Public Board - 3-year term; John Bechtel - term expires January 1st, 2020; Zoning Board Hearing - 3-year term; Lee Andres - term expires January 1st, 2020; Parks & Recreation Commission - 3-year term; Robert Stettner, Jon Rinker - terms expire January 1st, 2020, 2-year term; Cindy Hazard - term expires January 1st, 2019. Councilor Schnaars made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Wechsler, to accept appointments. Committee. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

Reta Stein, Tax Collector, has requested a 1% commission increase. This must be done by an ordinance by February 15, 2017. A Special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, January 16, 2017, at 6:15 PM to address this issue.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – None**

**COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (for agenda items only)**

Ed Ziegler - Mr. Ziegler feels that the Borough should create their own planning commission. He also stated that Walnutport is considering joining the NLRA. There is some debate on this issue.

Mel Gildner - Mr. Gildner wanted to thank the Council for voting him on the Council. Mel spoke about losing \$80,000 per year, minimum, for not charging all apartments a base rate for water and sewer because over 50% of the single homeowners are seniors.

Being no further business, President Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.

Karen Gill  
Assistant Borough Secretary