

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
8/14/17**

The Regular Meeting Minutes of Council was held on **Monday, August 14, 2017** at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: David Schnaars: President of Council

Recording Secretary: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem

The meeting was called to order by President Schnaars at 7:00 P.M., following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

David Schnaars
Joseph Wechsler
Bryon Reed
Mel Gildner
Jon Rinker
Jason Ruff
Judith Danko, Manager

ABSENT

Michael Brogan

OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Dinkelacker
Chief Rachman

VISITORS

Carol Gildner Crystal Hausman
Tina Brogan Susan Chandler
Tom Creighton Jeffrey Hausman
Darin Handwerk Harry Ahner
Jay Eisenhard Lance Sher
Alice Wanamaker Robert Stettner
Daniel Stevens Mike Kukitz
Jason Nicholas Ed Ziegler

President Schnaars 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 Wechsler made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Ruff, to accept the following minutes: **Council Meeting, July 10, 2017; Workshop, July 25, 2017**. President Schnaars 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.

Dan Stevens – 560 Main Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Dan had attended the June council meeting and spoke concerning the employees that have left the borough and that he feels it was due to a hostile environment in the office. He asked the council why his comments had not been put in the minutes. He stated he felt that we violated the Sunshine Act section 706. Councilor Gildner commented that when Dan was on council, not all public comments were documented in the minutes. Manager Danko stated that we are trying to condense the minutes to action items and less of general discussion, which she believed was not a violation of the sunshine act. She said it was not intentional and will place the information in this edition of the minutes.

Tom Creighton – 6917 Whitetail Court, New Tripoli – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He thanked the council for all their service for Slatington. He is currently the Lehigh County Commissioner and they are currently working on the budget. The budget will be presented in September and, hopefully, there will be money from the executive for the recreation department. Also, he wanted to let the fire companies know that

Gary Day, state representative, will be having a training session with PPL on electric wires which will be held on September 7th, 2017, at Neff's fire company.

Mike Kukitz – NLRA – Signed in and was recognized to speak. The NLRA will provide an annual report including progress, accomplishments, challenges and audited financial statements. The plan for the Community Center Capital Campaign is complete, but will not be launched until a complete Feasibility Study and obtain current bid estimates to finish the construction. Mike was pleased to inform the council how well all the summer programs went. Report on NLRA information provided by Mike Kukitz via e-mail dated 7/24/17 in reference to Trail Town Case for support of Visitor Center.

Jason Nicholas – 6435 Mt. View Drive – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Bike night is to be held on September 30th, but there is bridge work being done at Crackersport Bridge and traffic maybe heavy due to detours to Rt 873 at that time. He and Chief Rachman will be working together to organize a plan. The used engine that was purchased from George Clay fire department is currently at Buzzy's for painting to the department colors.

Ed Ziegler – Signed in and was recognized to speak. He reported 2 PPL lights are out - one near Steckel & Stopp's office and the one at N. Second Street. Chief Rachman requested the number on the poles and he would give them to John Bolton to call PPL. He congratulated the people for getting the fireman's statue refurbished. Ed questioned why there isn't more arrest news in the Times News from Slatington. Chief Rachman said he submits his media sheets for arrests, but does not have control over what the Times News prints.

REPORTS

The reports of various committees, officials and officers were provided to Council and are on file in Borough Hall and are available for public inspection.

APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/TRANSFER

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

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	David Schnaars		
	Joseph Wechsler		
	Melvin Gilder		
	Bryon Reed		
	Jon Rinker		
	Jason Ruff		

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF'S REMARKS

Mayor Walter H. Niedermeyer

July 11th at 8:00 AM attended the Main Street Merchant meeting with Manager Danko

July 19th – attended, with Manager Danko, Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce picnic at the Walnutport Canal

July 27th – attended, with Manager Danko, the Northern Lehigh Chamber of Commerce mixer at Domini's Pizza at Rt. 309, Orefield

August 1st at 8:00 AM attended, with Manager Danko, Main Street Merchant meeting

August 1st at 2:00 PM attended the D&L Trail meeting at the Slatington Trailhead with Manager Danko

August 5th at 4:00 PM attended the placing of the fireman's statue on its base

Police Chief David Rachman

Chief Rachman informed the council there has been a rash of bicycle thefts. He emphasized the importance of locking up your valuables.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Danko provided the manager's report to Council. Councilor Gildner asked Manager Danko what is happening with the late tenant registration forms. Manger Danko informed him she has Roxanne working on legal letters at this time.

President Schnaars requested to have Alice Wanamaker from the Merchants group speak at this time. He also requested that we place the Business Merchants group on our agenda on an earlier slot. Alice thanked Manager Danko and the road crew for fixing the lights on the trees. The crew is starting to work on the 500 block with the lights. They will be putting lights up starting at the 100 block all the way up to the 600 block. Manager Danko thanked Eugene Chandler and Bob Herzog for a fine job on the lights and John Bolton as the leader. Alice is working with Mike Kukitz and said they are looking forward to having Slatington as one of the first designated trail towns. The next First Friday will be September 1st and will be A Back To School theme.

STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Highway

Councilor Michael Brogan

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Ringer**, to **approve** invoice from Bruce George paving & Co. dated 7/26/17 in reference to E. Church St. CDBG Improvements project in the amount of \$83,143.00. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

B. Public Safety

Councilor Jon Rinker

1. Review Animal Ordinance information from Roxanne. A **motion** was **Rinker**, duly **seconded by Councilor Gildner**, to authorize Attorney Dinkelacker make the proper changes to Ordinance 60, Code and Zoning or to create new ordinances, to allow people to own potbelly pigs but to possibly have the animal registered. This to be reviewed at a workshop meeting. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 ayes, 1 nay Councilor Reed
2. Letter from EMC Insurance Co. dated 8/2/17 was provided to Council informing the Borough that, "they continue to gather price parts to determine initial repair costs for the 2004 Spartan Fire Truck."

C. Human/Community Services

Councilor Jason Ruff

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Ruff**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, to **approve** draft resolution #2017-12 (*A Resolution of the Borough Council of the Borough of Slatington Designating the Borough Manager as the Public Information Officer and establishing guidelines for the dissemination of public information to the news media*) President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES

David Schnaars
Joseph Wechsler
Jon Rinker
Jason Ruff

NAYS

Bryon Reed
Melvin Gildner

ABSTAIN

2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Ruff**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Rinker**, to **approve** request per Letter dated 8/2/17 from Jonathan DeFrain regarding the Northern Lehigh High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 6, 2017, requesting closing of streets provided in application. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Ruff**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Reed**, to **approve** request per Application dated 8/8/17 from Robert Reph regarding the Fire Co. Bike Night Fund Raiser on Saturday, September 30, 2017, along with requests in letter dated 7/9/17 & letter dated 9/1/17. Chief Rachman and Chief Nicholas are to work together in reference to roads being closed. President Schnaars declared the motion passed contingent upon PennDot approving the road closure -following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

D. Finance

Councilor Joseph Wechsler

1. Authorize Manager Danko to Approve Exemption requests from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc. for Delinquent Per Capita Tax for:

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler** to **exempt** John Bielanski in the amount of \$5.50 from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc for delinquent Per Capita Tax, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** exemption requests. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler** to **exempt** Lucille Shook in the amount of \$5.50 from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc for delinquent Per Capita Tax, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** exemption requests. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler** to **exempt** Karen Buss in the amount of \$5.50 from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc for delinquent Per Capita Tax, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** exemption requests. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler** to **exempt** Constance Hepner in the amount of \$11.00 from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc for delinquent Per Capita Tax, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** exemption requests. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler** to **exempt** Robert Ramsey in the amount of \$21.00 from Statewide Tax Recovery Inc for delinquent Per Capita Tax, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** exemption requests. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** Tax Collector Reta Stein to attend the 2017 OA State Tax Collectors convention and members' dues in the total amount of \$582.98. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **approve** ABC heating and cooling work to be completed and paid for by the Vigilante Fire Co. (no borough funds, no rent reductions). President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
4. A motion was made by **Councilor Reed**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to approve Alan Kunsman to replace rear rubber roof for the Vigilant Fire building at a cost of \$5,400.00. It was mentioned by Councilor Reed there would be an extra cost for replacement of the door after Manager Danko requested a price. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote; 5 ayes, 1 nay Councilor Gildner
5. A motion was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Rinker**, to **award** Pipe Services Corp. for the bid for Storm Sewer Cleaning in the amount of \$8,697.50. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
6. Discuss E-mail dated 8/03/17 from Attorney Dinkelacker in reference to South Street Water line. At this time, they are waiting for the bishop to return to sign the document. A **motion** was by **Councilor Reed**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Wechsler**, to **waive** sewer tapping fees should the church want to connect along with their 3 other requests on the e-mail. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

Councilor Mel Gildner

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Gildner**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Wechsler** to pay the August 1st meeting Slatington Borough Authority bills of: Steckel & Stopp - \$2,733.70; DEP Operator Fee - \$150.00; Joan Cheesbrough minutes - \$187.50; Ink cartridges - \$75.98; Times News - \$56.60; CRY LLP - \$6,000.00; total \$9,203.78. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor
2. 2016 Annual Municipal Waste Load Management Report was accepted by PA DEP and the Borough is in conformance with the Chapter 94 report, letter dated 8/2/17, informational only.

F. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Bryon Reed

1. Water Test Statement - Water was tested and found safe for human consumption.
2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Reed**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff** to **approve** new water meter and labor costs: new meter cost: Whatever the Cost of meter is at the time (approximately \$145.00 currently) plus cost of labor \$100.00 for installation. President Schnaars declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 ayes, 1 nay Councilor Gildner

3. Councilor Gildner asked when new meters would be installed. This will be placed on a future workshop agenda possibly next year.
4. Councilor Reed stated that the filtration plant is averaging 385,000 gallons a day, which is normal.

10. MAIN STREET MERCHANTS GROUP:

1. Alice Wanamaker gave her presentation at the beginning of meeting.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Campbell, Rappold & Yurasits LLP – Communication of significant deficiencies and material weaknesses years 2012 through current- information was provided to Council for review. Manager Danko stated that at this time, we have all the monies due to all the pension except for the lost earnings. In about 2 weeks that should be rectified for non-uniform pension plans. All the accounts are up-to-date to (August) in reference to reconciliations, except the general fund, which is being worked on currently. Once this is completed work will be done on the transfers (due to accounts and due from) Councilor Wechsler commended Manager Danko for her hard work in rectifying all of these issues, other Council members agreed that a good job was being done in the Borough office.

12. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Manager Danko

1. Shannon Callouri's Activity Report-Zoning and Code Enforcement was provided to Council for review, informational only.
2. Letter dated 7/19/17 from County of Lehigh informing the Borough that they were not selected for the 2017 CDBG grant funding in reference to the West Washington Street reconstruction project.

13. COUNCIL PRESIDENTS REPORT:

David R. Schnaars

1. August 2017 calendar was provided to everyone to show the dates of the Council meeting and workshop meeting dates. August Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at 6:30 PM.

14. COURTESY OF THE FLOOR – (Agenda Items Only – You will have two (2) minutes to address Council from the podium on Agenda Items Only.)

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

16. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, Councilor Wechsler made the motion to adjourn the meeting, President Schnaar declared the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Judith A. Danko

Judith A. Danko,
Borough Manager/ Borough Secretary-Treasurer