

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Regular Meeting of Council was held on Monday, October 13, 2014 at 7:00 P.M. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: Bryon Reed, President Pro Tem (PPT)

Recording Secretary: Councilor Schnaars

The meeting was called to order by President Pro Tem Reed 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>	
Galen Freed	Gwyneth Neff	Mayor Niedermeyer	Linda Steets	Daniel Stevens
Bob Steets	Jon Rinker	Ed Healy	Nathan Stubbs	Carol Gildner
Bryon Reed		Dave Lear	Melvin Gildner	George Moyer
Joseph Wechsler		Alan Ringer	Deborah Strohl	Kris Burek
David Schnaars			Ed Ziegler	Kirk Cramer
			Donna Berger	Amy Angelo

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None at the present time

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS –Councilor Freed made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to approve the following sets of minutes as amended: Council Meeting September 8, 2014, Workshop Meeting, September 15, 2014 and Special Meeting September 29, 2014. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 Ayes, No Nays

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.

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (Agenda and Non-Agenda items)

George Moyer, 231 Main St- addressed Council regarding the remaining funds from the H20 Grant.

Deborah Strohl, 252 Cherry St- addressed council on a letter she received, regarding feeding feral cats. She said that she has spayed or neutered the cats as well as getting them their rabies shots. She said it doesn't bother any of her neighbors and would like to continue feeding them to prevent them from ripping up the garbage. Councilor Freed thanked Ms. Strohl for taking care of the cats; however we have an Animal Control Officer who will take them. He added that we don't want residents feeding the feral cats.

Kris Burek, 1235 Fourth Street- spoke to council regarding the water, & sewer rates in town. She also questioned the financial report from July and August.

Ed Ziegler, 142 N. Walnut Street- questioned Council about several items on September's financial report.

Kirk Cramer, 104 E. Washington St- asked council about the construction that is being done on E. Washington Street. He asked if anyone inspects the quality of the work, once the job is completed; Councilor Reed said Lehigh Engineering is in charge of the project. Mr. Cramer added that a lot of debris is being left behind and it is a safety issue. He also asked when the completion date of the project is. Alan Ringer stated that weather permitting the job should be completed by Friday, October 24. Mr. Cramer also noted that there was some damage done to his sidewalk.

Donna Berger, 234 Cherry Street- stated that she lives on the same block as Ms. Strohl, and there are no feces in her yard. She continued to thank Ms. Strohl for taking care of the cats.

Amy Angelo, United Way of the Greater Northern Lehigh Valley- gave a presentation on identifying at risk seniors.

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 Freed made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to approve payment of the bills and transfers as presented by the Treasurer. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Gwyneth Neff Galen Freed	None
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	
	Joseph Wechsler	

MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS

Mayor Niedermeyer noted that on September 24, he attended the COG Meeting; he said they discussed act 111. He said on October 10, he attended the Homecoming Parade.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Freed to adopt Resolution R-14-14 appointing Joseph Wechsler to Slatington Borough Council. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
	Galen Freed	None	Joseph Wechsler
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars		

A. Highway

1. Zero turn mower- Councilor Freed noted that the cost we received was \$700.00 per pump for a total cost of \$1,400.00. Councilor Freed asked to table this until the Committee Meeting.
2. Snow Blower- a brief discussion took place on the snow blower and Council agreed to table this until the Committee Meeting.
3. Award or rejection of bids for the 2014 sanitary sewer manhole rehabilitation project- Alan Rinker noted that after several discussions with DEP and EPA, he asked if we could award the bid to the lowest bidder at tonight’s meeting. DEP recommended that we wait for the official letter from them. Attorney Healy suggested that Council make a motion authorizing the sewer committee to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. He added that incase the letter doesn’t make it here in time for the Sewer Committee Meeting, then authorize the Finance Committee to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder. Alan Ringer said that the goal is to have all of the work completed by the end of November. Councilor Freed made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to allow the sewer committee and/or the finance committee to award the bid to the lowest responsible bidder for the 2014 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	-
	Galen Freed Joseph Wechsler	None	
	Bryon Reed Bob Steets		
	David Schnaars		

4. Center Alley Paving Quote- Councilor Freed stated that he hasn't heard back from anyone. Alan Ringer stated that he asked for a quote from the company that is doing the E. Washington Project, he said that they aren't interested because they are booked for the rest of the year. Council agreed that all of the quotes that we have are from several months ago and are no longer good. They agreed we need to discuss this further at the Committee Meeting.

B. Public Safety

1. Municipal Police Cooperative Agreement- Councilor Schnaars noted that this is an extension of an agreement that we had in the past. Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Councilor Steets to sign and enter into the Municipal Police Cooperative Agreement. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 Ayes, No Nays

C. Human/Community Services

1. Peer to Peer Study Update- Councilor Schnaars noted that before we can advertize we need to have the articles of incorporation ready, so that the public can read and comment on them. Councilor Schnaars said that Attorney Healy has been working the other two Attorneys on this project. Attorney Healy updated Council on the progress of the articles.
2. Alert- Oppose House Bill 1671- Executive Sessions being recorded- Councilor Schnaars briefly explained that there are things that need to be changed with the right to know, but this is not one of them.
3. Identifying at risk Seniors- Councilor Reed stated that we should move forward with this, there is a need in this town for the program. Councilor Schnaars said he will set up a date and a venue for the training.
4. Appoint Nathan A. Stubbs- Councilor Schnaars made a motion seconded by Bob Steets to appoint Nathan A. Stubbs to Parks and Recreation for a 3 year term to begin immediately. PPT Reed Declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, 5 Ayes, No Nays

D. Finance-

1. Berks Intermediate Unit- Councilor Reed noted that Berks Intermediate Unit prints the tax bills for the Borough. Councilor Wechsler made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to renew our service contract with Berks Intermediate Unit for 2 years. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Galen Freed	None
	Bryon Reed David Schnaars	
	Bob Steets	
	Joseph Wechsler	

2. Approve 4 Tax Exemptions- Councilor Wechsler made a motion second by Councilor Schnaars to approve the Per Capita Tax Exoneration List as presented. PPT declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Joseph Wechsler	None
	Bryon Reed David Schnaars	

E. Sewer/Solid Waste

1. Authority Bills- Councilor Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Freed to authorize the affirmation of the Authority’s Transfer request in the amount of \$330.57; request as listed: Steckel & Stopp – (August) \$107.10, Rettew- \$57.50, Joan Cheesbrough- (August Minutes) \$125.00 and Borough of Slatington (toner)- \$40.97. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Galen Freed Bryon Reed	
	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	
	Joseph Wechsler	

2. Discussion of a Waster Water Engineer- Council briefly discussed the letters they received from Waste Water Engineers. Councilor Schnaars asked if there were any that Council was interested in interviewing. Councilor Schnaars asked Dave Lear if any of the engineers were familiar with the Penn Vest process; Mr. Lear stated that all of them were. Council agreed that the Committee should interview them and recommend one to Council.

E. Water/Special Sewer Committee

Councilor Reed noted that at Well #7, Steve drained reservoir 5 and washed it out, and found the inside to be in good order, so now he is going to re-fill it. Councilor Freed asked how big it was; Councilor Reed stated that it is 250,000 gallons.

1. Water was tested and found safe for human consumption

G. Slatington Sesquicentennial Committee

Councilor Schnaars said he is waiting for a final report from them, that all of the bills have been paid.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – PPT Reed recessed the Regular Meeting at 8:20 and called for an Executive Session. At 9:35 P.M. he reconvened the Regular Meeting. In executive session matters of personnel and legal issues were discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

Councilor Steets made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to appoint Councilor Freed as the new Open Records Officer. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Bryon Reed	
	Bob Steets	
	David Schnaars	
	Galen Freed	

Councilor Freed made a motion seconded by Councilor Schnaars to accept the letter of resignation from Kevin Deppe with regrets. PPT Reed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>
	Joseph Wechsler Bryon Reed	

Bob Steets
David Schnaars
Galen Freed

At 9:37 p.m. Councilor Freed made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Karen Gill
Assistant Borough Secretary