

**BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON  
MINUTES**

The Regular Meeting Minutes of Council was held on **Monday, February 13, 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	Carol Gildner      Dwight Miller
Joseph Wechsler		Larry Turoscy	Ron Scheffler      Susan Chandler
Bryon Reed		Tom Dinkelacker, Esq.	Tina Brogan      Jeffrey Hausman
Jon Rinker		Chief Rachman	Jeremy Merkel      Dwayne Henritz
David Schnaars		Elizabeth Miller	Michael Meyers      Rhonda Russell
Michael Brogan			Robert Herzog, Jr.      Charles Barlight
Mel Gildner			Dean Heffelfinger, Jr.      Jason Nicholas
Judith Danko, Manager			Robert Stettner      Alice Wanamaker

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 at the beginning of the meeting...

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – **Councilor Brogan** made a **motion**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Schnaars**, to accept the following minutes: Council Meeting, January 9, 2017; Special Council Meeting, January 16, 2017; Committee Meetings January 16, 2017 and January 24, 2017. 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.

Ed Ziegler - Signed in and was recognized to speak. He informed the Council that there are street lights outs near Key Bank. 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 and gave the bill to Chief Rachman.

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. Last week the Group hosted a strategic planning meeting. He thanked the Borough for their continued support use of their work room. On Friday, February 3, 2017, along with the NLRA, held a First Friday event. He thanked the Slatington Police for their foot patrol. The first Friday event will continue in April and every other month for 2017.

Mike Meyers – Lehigh Township – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Mr. Meyers wanted to make a public apology to Councilor Rinker.

Rhonda Russell – 220 William Street – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Ms. Russell lives near Rentschler. She said the car carrier parks on Rte 873 and makes it difficult for her to see clearly. She is asking the Council to see if a “No Parking” sign could be installed. Chief Rachman will talk with Mr. Rentschler to request the car carrier park on the eastside.

Dwight Miller – 256 S. Walnut – Signed in and was recognized to speak. Dwight Miller commented on the storm drains being poorly maintained. he also informed the Council that trees are resting on some power lines. Mayor Niedermeyer informed Dwight that PPL is the proper entity to contact to take care of them.

**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	None	None
David Schnaars		
Joe Wechsler		
Jon Rinker		
Bryon Reed		
Michael Brogan		
Mel Gildner		

**MAYORS/POLICE CHIEF’S REMARKS**

Mayor Niedermeyer and Manager Danko had attended the Slatington Library Paranormal event and said that it had a great turn out. Chief Rachman said that the speed signs are up and they are making a big difference. He requested, with the approval of Council, to move them monthly to different areas.

**STANDING COMMITTEES**

**A. Highway**

**Councilor David Schnaars**

1. Approve Ryland Construction Co. Victory Park sidewalk lowest responsible bid in the amount of \$111,000.00 to be paid from the Tap Project. **Councilor Schnaars** made a **motion**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, Mgr. Danko to award the bid on the ECMS to Ryland. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. Victory Park Sidewalk TAP Pre-Construction meeting on 2/23/17 per e-mail dated 2/03/17 provided to Council, informational only.

Larry Turoscy requesting a meeting with Borough Manager Judith Danko and Attorney Dinkelacker over Arle grant – main Street & Church Street stop light. Borough Manager Danko to coordinate meeting.

3. Approve John Freedway Change order in the amount of \$11,518.25. This is the installation of the retaining wall and a 4 ft high chain link fence. Councilor Wechsler would like to have this tabled till next month in order to go over the cost and review the project and another fence from a neighbor as to who would be maintaining it. This will be tabled for the next Committee meeting on February 28, 2017.

**B. Public Safety**

**Councilor Jon Rinker**

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Rinker**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler** to **adopt** Ordinance #684-*An ordinance providing for the amendment of Chapter 22 of the Borough of Slatington’s Fire Department Ordinances by deleting reference to “Assistant Fire Chief” and “Captain” and substituting “Deputy Fire Chief” and the residency provisions for the appointment of the Borough of Slatington’s Fire Chief from a restriction of a one mile radius of the Borough to the Northern Lehigh School District.* 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	None
David Schnaars	Michael Brogan	
Bryon Reed	Gwyneth Jones	
Mel Gildner		

A **motion** was made by **Council Rinker**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler** to appoint Jason Nicholas as the new fire chief. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**C. Human/Community Services**

**Councilor Michael Brogan**

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Brogan**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, to **approve** the Northern Lehigh Events Committee request for 110<sup>th</sup> Halloween Parade 10/28/17. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Brogan**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, to **approve** the Northern Lehigh Events Committee request for, “This Years Day in the Park” 6/24/17. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
3. The request from the Veterans Memorial Committee to hold a coin toss on Lower Main Street near Slatington Trail Head on May 6, 2017 to be tabled. Need to obtain insurance information.
4. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Brogan**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, to allow the Northern Lehigh NL Education Foundation to use Borough Streets and hang banner on 4/8/17. The banner may not be placed on Main Street. This is subject to completed insurance and application. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

**D. Finance**

**Councilor Joseph Wechsler**

1. Committee recommendations for approval of Chief Rachman’s budgetary requests for
  - A. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Rinker**, to **approve** one up-fitted cruiser-\$33,353.30 Kovatch. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
  - B. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Rinker**, to **approve** outfitting of (3) three cruisers with the TRACS system-\$2,001.00 Baycom. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

- C. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Rinker**, to **approve** (2) new TASERS with holsters-\$2,141.05 Taser. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- D. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Reed**, to **approve** (6) six new bullet resistant vests-MP Outfitters \$2,790.68 vest price is offset by a matching DOJ grant in the amount of \$2,770. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- 2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars** to **rescind** the previous Collective Bargaining Agreement between Slatington Borough and the Service employees and to approve the revised Collective Bargaining Agreement between Slatington Borough and the Service employees. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- 3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars**, to **approve** the (per capita) Duplicate tax exemption request Acct#14SL1613 in the amount of \$5.50. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.
- 4. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Rinker**, to **adopt** Ordinance #681-*an ordinance repealing chapter 163 of the code of the borough of Slatington titled 'tattoo and piercing establishments'*. 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		None
David Schnaars	Michael Brogan		
Bryon Reed	Gwyneth Jones		
Mel Gildner			

- 5. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Brogan**, to **adopt** 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 a borough ordinance.* 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		None
David Schnaars	Michael Brogan		
Bryon Reed	Gwyneth Jones		
Mel Gildner			

- 6. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars**, to **obtain** price quotations from zoning and code enforcement companies to service Slatington Borough. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor. Borough Manager Danko is authorized to advertize a Special Meeting for Tuesday, February 21, 2017, at 6:30 PM.
- 7. Rentschler - 216 center Street Public Improvements Inspection Release of Securities-Letter from Lehigh Engineering dated 1/11/17. This is to be tabled for a future Meeting. Larry Turoscy and solicitor to work towards working out the amount of funds. This information to be addressed at a future Meeting.

8. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded by Councilor Schnaars**, to **advertize** the draft Junkyard Ordinance- *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 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 Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
Joe Wechsler	Jon Rinker	Bryon Reed
David Schnaars	Michael Brogan	
Mel Gildner	Gwyneth Jones	

**E. Sewer/Solid Waste**

**Councilor Mel Gildner**

1. Authority Bills - No bills; no action
2. Councilor Gildner stated he would like to relook at Ordinance #455 and the process currently being used for billing of water and the meters, along with the thought of this also allowing for revenues for emergencies and to make the billing a fairer process. He has asked Council to reinstate Ordinance #455 adopted 4/13/1981. This item to be tabled to the committee meeting and placed at the head of the agenda.
3. Draft I&I Report/Cleaning and televising plan - This will be discussed at Committee meeting. Meeting with ARRO prior to 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. Sensus Radio Read system equipment – informational only – LB will be picking up the unit Thursday or Friday and sent to Sensus to see if it can be repaired and obtain a loaner.

**G. Special Committee Reports**

1. Councilor Reeds report in reference to Electric Negotiation and contract. Councilor Reed reported that he has secured an electric contract in August 2017 with AP&G at the rate of 5.3¢ (rounded off), for 4 years. The rate will also apply to the covered bridge and Trailhead, but they are responsible for their bills.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS –**

1. Confidential memorandum-Borough of Slatington garbage fund and parking ticket enforcement. Councilor Wechsler would like to make sure we are charging the customers the correct amount. This information will be supplied from the accountants. The Borough will continue to utilize the police department to ticket vehicles in

reference to parking. Chief Rachman agreed to taking care of this process and procedure.

**NEW BUSINESS –**

A motion was made by **Councilor Gildner**, duly **seconded by Councilor Wechsler**, to elect Councilor Schnaars as a new council president. President Jones declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

AYES  
Joe Wechsler  
David Schnaars  
Mel Gildner  
Jon Rinker

NAYS  
Gwyneth Jones  
Bryon Reed  
Michael Brogan

ABSTAIN

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – President Jones recessed to executive session at 9:00 pm for personnel purposes dealing with the resignations of Mr. Dellecker and Mr. Ritter. At 10:12 pm, President Jones reconvened the meeting. Matters of personnel were discussed in executive session.

A **motion** was made by **Councilor Schnaars**, duly **seconded by Councilor Brogan** to **accept resignations** of Duane Dellecker and Clark Ritter, effective February 12, 2017 and February 21, 2017 respectively and to authorize the Borough Manager and solicitor to meet with Duane Dellecker and Clark Ritter to obtain Borough property and to review claims for sums owed. President Jones declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All in Favor.

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

Mike Myers – Mr. Myers has requested a copy of the water statement. He said there is some brown water and would like to have it tested. Councilor Reed assured him that the water is tested by us. However, he can have his water tested by an outside source.

Ed Zeigler – Ed would like to see a planning commission started in the Borough of Slatington.

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

Judith A. Danko, Borough Secretary-Treasurer