

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

The **Special Meeting Minutes** of Council was held on **Thursday, December 21, 2017**, at 6:30 PM. in Council Chambers, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Presiding: David Schnaars, President

The meeting was called to order by President Schnaars at 6:30 P.M. with the following in attendance:

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

David Schnaars
Joseph Wechsler
Bryon Reed
Melvin Gildner
Jon Rinker
Michael Brogan
Jason Ruff
Judith Danko, Manager

ABSENT

OTHERS

Thomas Anewalt
Mayor Niedermeyer

VISITORS

Jason Nicholas
Russ Hallman
Dan Stevens
Jeffrey Hausman
Carol Gildner

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

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.

Jason Nicholas - Slatington Fire Chief - signed in and was recognized to speak. Jason wanted to thank the council for the small increase in the fire tax. He feels that this increase is needed for certain items on just the building alone, such as the furnace.

A. FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING

Joseph Wechsler– Chairman; Members: Jon Rinker, Jason Ruff
Committee Member discussion on listed topics:

1. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Brogan**, to **adopt** Resolution # R-13-17 *A Resolution adopting and establishing the budget for 2018 for the Borough of Slatington, Lehigh County, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.*
President Schnaars declared the motion passed, following a Roll Call, Voting as Follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES
David Schnaars Joe Wechsler
Bryon Reed Jon Rinker
Melvin Gildner Jason Ruff
Michael Brogan

NAYS
None

ABSTAIN
None

2. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Ruff**, to **adopt** proposed Ordinance 691 *An ordinance levying taxes for the fiscal year 2018 for the Borough of Slatington, including the rates for real estate tax at 4.80 mills, the*

local service tax at \$52.00, the wage tax at 1%, the per capita tax at \$5.00 and realty transfer tax at 1%.

Councilor Rinker questioned if the tax amounts were the same as last year and Councilor Schnaars replied yes.

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 Joe Wechsler	None	None
Bryon Reed Jon Rinker		
Melvin Gildner Jason Ruff		
Michael Brogan		

3. A **motion** was made by **Councilor Wechsler**, duly **seconded** by **Councilor Brogan**, to **adopt** proposed Ordinance 692 *An ordinance levying the fire fund tax at .50 mills for the fiscal year 2018 for the Borough of Slatington.* Councilor Rinker asked how much this tax is going up. President Schnaars stated .05 mills. Councilor Rinker stated that 1200 feet of hose was given to Parryville fire company, due to a grant that the Fire Co. acquired for new hose. Councilor Rinker also stated that 1600 feet of hose fell off of the truck damaging the hose. The truck was down at Scribbles & Drips due to a driver that was negligent which caused the truck to have to be re-lettered. Jason said the truck repairs are being paid for by the association, not the borough. Councilor Rinker said asking for an increase in taxes while giving away hose is not acceptable. Jason asked what does Councilor Rinker feel the hose was worth. He also stated that the hoses were never tested. Councilor Rinker also questioned Jason as to why one fire fighter who drives the truck and had multiple accidents, why he is still driving the trucks. Councilor Wechsler wanted to know why when the equipment was damaged, no notification is sent to anyone on council or Manager Danko. Jason stated he did not notify Manager Danko because it was being taken care of by the association. A debate took place over who should be notified - the council chairperson of this committee, the manager. President Schnaars stated everyone should report to Manager Danko. Councilor Rinker wanted this information recorded in the minutes in case anything was to happen. 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	Joe Wechsler	
Bryon Reed	Jon Rinker	
Melvin Gildner		
Jason Ruff		
Michael Brogan		

OTHER BUSINESS - None

COURTESY OF THE FLOOR (for agenda items only) - None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – President Schnaars recessed to executive session at 6:45 PM to discuss legal and personnel matters. At 7:10 PM, President Schnaars reconvened the meeting.

1. Letter from Dimmich, Dinkelacker & Anewalt, dated 12/18/17.

Manager Danko was directed by Council to not come to work on 1/02/17 due to her contract expiring, the new Council will make the decision to enter into a new contract or not or pay the severance due.

Councilor Gildner stated the Managers office should stay locked until after re-organization.

President Schnaars thanked all of council for their support the past year. He also thanked Manager Danko for all that she has accomplished this past year. President Schnaars commended Shannon Callouri from CodeMaster for her work on zoning and violation issues. He wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

At 7:13 PM, Councilor Rinker made a motion, duly seconded by Councilor Gildner, to adjourn the meeting. President Schnaars declared the meeting adjourned.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colleen Bresnak', written in a cursive style.

Colleen Bresnak
Assistant Borough Secretary