

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Council Workshop Meeting was called to order on 26 April 2010 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington PA 18080

Presiding: Galen Freed President of Council

Recording Secretary: Stephen R. Salvesen

The Meeting was called to order by President Freed at 6:35 P.M. with the following in attendance:

<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>	<u>OTHERS PRESENT</u>	<u>VISITORS</u>
Bryon Reed	Eldon Roberts	Chief Rachman	Bill Ritz
Daniel Stevens	Russell Hallman		Janet Bruner
Galen Freed			Carol Gildner
Kris Burek			Les Glanz
Paul Hoffman			George Moyer
			Ed Ziegler
			Melvin Gildner
			Robert Stettner
			Keith Weaver

PUBLIC SAFETY

Paul Hoffman – Chairman; Members: Russell Hallman, Daniel Stevens

FOUR COUNTY PARADE

Councilman Hoffman reported that there will be a Four (4) County Fireman's Parade on June 26 which will form in Slatington and windup in Walnutport. Judging will be held at the High School where awards will be handed out. The Fire Police will be used for traffic control. The last parade in this area was hosted by Walnutport in 1996. The Parade Committee will work out the proposed route so that detours can be established. The parade is expected to draw 300 people to the event. Prizes and awards are expected to be approximately \$10,000.00. The parade will use the same route as the Halloween Parade. Judging will be at the High School at 8:00 AM. Two additional counties' have been invited, but their participation may be limited due to other parade commitments on the same day. There may be 100 to 300 pieces of equipment and the equipment will start to assemble as early as 7:00 AM. The Chief will have No-Parking signs posted on the Parade route 72 hours in advance.

Councilman Burek asked about the length of time for the parade and was told, approximately four (4) hours. Councilman Hoffman referenced the Parade in his Newsletter article and asked the Borough Manager to place it on the Web Site. There were no further questions from Council members or from the public on the grants or the grant opportunities.

Councilman Hoffman made the following motion, seconded by Councilman Burek: I move that Council authorize the Four Counties Fireman Parade as outlined in Councilman Hoffman's letter of April 26, 2010 presented to Council this evening as follows:

- Waive the rental fee for the Victory Park Pavilion
- Approve the use of parking on and use of the Borough property in the area of Victory Park; for staging prior to the Parade
- Waive any and all required permit fees, if applicable.
- Allow use of the Borough streets to conduct the parade.

- Authorize the use of the Slatington Fire Police and mutual aid Fire Police as deemed necessary to provide traffic and crowd control to assure the safest possible event.
- Authorize and request that the Slatington Public Works Department place barricades in accordance with the parade route to assist traffic diversion from the parade route.
- Authorize the Borough Secretarial staff to assist in submitting and receiving the proper Penn DOT approval as necessary.
- Place an information bulletin in any upcoming Borough newsletters to advertise the event.

President Freed declared the motion passed on a Voice Vote of 4-0, with Councilman Hoffman Abstaining.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Councilman Hoffman had researched grant opportunities from the USDA Rural Development Community Facilities Grant/Loan Program and reported that the vehicles that the Water Department and the EMS group were looking for are Grant eligible but only a very small portion. He will be researching other grant opportunities.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Hoffman reported that the Police Department was having some difficulties with connectivity and that the Borough's IS man Andy Gildner is looking into the problem, but it may be a T1 problem.

There were no additional comments from the other Council members present or from the public.

HIGHWAY

Bryon Reed – Chairman; Members: Eldon Roberts, Kristina Burek

There were no items listed for discussion.

There were no visitors that wished to address the Highway Committee and there were no additional comments from other Council members or the public.

SEWER

Kristina Burek – Chairman; Members: Bryon Reed, Eldon Roberts

There were no residents or visitors wishing to address the committee.

STKIKE

The Sewer Department has requested the purchase of a product called "Strike" which is used for control of Midge in the Trickling Filters. This product was used very successfully last year. Strike prevents the fly larva from maturing into adult flies. As such, it is not harmful to the bacterial population needed to decompose biological matter. Each gallon of Strike costs \$1389.00 and Stefan estimates that five gallons will take us through the season at a cost of \$6,945.00. Any remaining product can be saved for next year.

Councilman Burek made a motion, seconded by Vice-President Reed that Council authorize the expenditure of \$5,955.00 plus the applicable freight charges. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Kris Burek	Bryon Reed	None
	Galen Freed	Paul Hoffman	
	Daniel Stevens		

INFLUENT SAMPLER

The Influent Sampler at the Sewer Plant has ceased to function. The refrigeration section is beyond repair. It is something that is needed to insure DEP Compliance. The head from the old sampler can be saved and used as a spare. We need to authorize the purchase of a new Influent Sampler ASAP. The cost for a new sampler is \$5955.00, plus any applicable freight.

Councilman Burek made a motion, seconded by Councilman Stevens that Council authorize the expenditure of \$5,955.00 plus the applicable freight charges. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Kris Burek	Bryon Reed	None
	Galen Freed	Paul Hoffman	
	Daniel Stevens		

There were no additional comments from other Council members or from the public.

FINANCE/PLANNING/ZONING

Russell Hallman – Chairman; Members: Daniel Stevens, Paul Hoffman

President Freed asked Councilman Stevens to take the Finance/Planning/Zoning Committee Chair in Councilman Hallman’s absence. The Chair was split between Councilman Hoffman and Councilman Stevens.

There were two visitors that signed in to talk to the committee members. Mr. Bill Ritz and Mrs. Janet Bruner. Both had attended the recent Zoning Hearing Board Meeting to express their opposition to adding the cell tower on the existing water tank. Their opposition was unsuccessful and they were present to ask Council to tighten the existing Zoning regulations so that additional providers could not “Piggy-back” on the water tank. Property devaluation and health concerns prompted the request. The Committee made no commitment.

NORTHERN LEHIGH SWIMMING POOL ASSOCIATION REQUEST

The Borough received a request from the pool manager requesting the same level of support and services that they previously received. Last year the chlorine was \$1,564.00 and we made a donation of \$1,000.00 to the pool association. In addition, the Fire Company filled the pool for which I do not have a cost. They have also requested that the Borough crew take down trees that border the west side of 2nd street. Councilman Burek reminded those in attendance that we just raised everyone’s water rates and now we are planning to give water to a private, for profit venture. Other Council members noted that the pool is an asset to the community and is a small price to pay for the enjoyment that it brings to the community. President Freed suggested that this item should be brought before full Council and that with two members absent, no decision should be made this evening.

BOND PAYMENT

It was noted for Council that the Bond payment is due on June 13, 2010 for \$787,456.25 and that Council must authorize payment at the next meeting. The committee directed that this be added to the agenda for Council action.

HOUSE RENTAL, WELSH TOWN ROAD

The present tenant will be vacating the property on May 31, 2010 and several employees have expressed interest in renting the property. The committee needs to decide the lease term, rent, what is included in the rental fee and what the tenant will be responsible for. The committee would like the Borough Manager to tour the house as soon as possible and report back to Council on the necessary repairs to the property. No further action is anticipated until the inspection is complete.

BOROUGH ENGINEER

This item was deferred until full Council can deliberate. There has been a deadlock over the appointment of an engineer. Of the three candidates, no one candidate has obtained the required four (4) votes for appointment.

Councilman Burek brought forward an offer from Keller Consulting Engineers to work on a 2010 Community Block Grant on behalf of the Borough. They are performing similar services for the Boroughs of Bath, Nazareth and Glendon. Councilman Stevens noted that a very similar grant application had been submitted by the Manager not long ago. The item was deferred until full Council could deliberate the matter.

There were no additional comments from other Council members or from the public.

HUMAN/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Daniel Stevens – Chairman; Members: Russell Hallman, Paul Hoffman.

VISITORS – Mr. Les Glanz, 1131 Morris Lane, addressed the committee. He gave the committee a survey that was conducted in 2002 that listed a series of priorities that were important to the survey responders and noted some of the achievements that Future Focus and the Borough had achieved. He urged the Council to continue its efforts.

Councilman Burek noted that Lehigh County offers food coupons to low income families that can be redeemed at the farm market, and asked if it might be something that would work in the Borough to have them use the park once a year, and to have local farmers market their products in October/November time frame. Mr. Glanz noted that anything that creates excitement on Main Street would be of value. Councilman Burek will look into this and report back to Council.

PORT-O-POTTY FOR THE TRAIL HEAD

Councilman Stevens asked for permission to have a Port-O-Potty installed at the Trail Head again this year. Last year, Future Focus paid for the rental, \$80.00 per month, and will be asking the Historical Society to fund the rental. He will bring this to Council for a vote at the next meeting. President Freed declared the motion passed by unanimous Voice Vote 5-0.

KRESS MEMORIAL

Councilman Stevens asked if there was any interest in the Borough making a donation to refurbish the memorial. He will bring it to full Council for action next month.

SLATINGTON MEMORIAL PARK

Councilman Stevens noted that he and his committee members met with Ted Stevenson and Steve Salvesen to review the plan for the Slatington Memorial park. It was asked at the meeting to have the plans updated and priorities were set to get the maximum benefit from the available grant dollars. This update should be available for the next Council meeting along with an update on the grant request to the County.

MANAGERS UPDATE

Web site has been updated and new information is being supplied weekly for the site. The plan is to have the entire Zoning Ordinance on line. There has been no response from Boroughs.org about switching the site to a WordPress configuration.

Manager Salvesen presented a draft of the Newsletter to Council for their review. He asked if Council wanted to wait until the yearly water report was available to cut down on mailing costs, or to send the Newsletter out ASAP. It was the consensus of the Council members present; to send out the Newsletter ASAP since the last Newsletter went out in 2008.

TRAIL RULES

Councilman Stevens will bring the Trail Rules to Council for action at the next meeting. There were no further comments from other Council members or from the Public.

WATER

Eldon Roberts – Chairman; Members: Bryon Reed, Kristina Burek

Vice-President Reed chaired the committee in the absence of Councilman Roberts.

VISITORS – Mr. Mel Gildner, 528 Pine Street, addressed the committee and chided them for not making a decision on changing the method used to calculate water rates. He is in favor of the base fee and use what you pay for plan. Mr. George Moyer also addressed the committee and gave Council a copy of an article that ran in the Morning Call about other municipalities water rates. Mr. Moyer was also in favor of the base rate, pay for what you use plan.

WATER MATRIX-DISCUSSION

Manager Salvesen had prepared a spread sheet using current billing information for users of various quantities of water and compared these against the proposed \$25.00 base fee and \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons used. The spread sheet showed a break point at a little over 9,000 gallons of usage. Councilman Stevens pointed out that this analysis confirms the fact that adopting a pay-as-you-use pricing structure, would amount to an increase in water rates for 73% of the rate payers on top of the existing increase. Councilman Burek saw no reason that low volume users should be penalized. Manager Salvesen was asked to estimate how long it would take to institute such a change. It was estimated that the change could take effect no earlier than the third quarter billing cycle since the second quarter bills would be sent out in early May. There are certain documents that need to be prepared and submitted to Council before new rates could take effect. Councilman Burek asked to have the committee direct the Manager to prepare the necessary documents for action by Council at its next meeting. President Freed wanted full Council input and discussion prior to such preparation.

Councilman Burek made a motion, seconded by Councilman Hoffman that Council authorize the Borough Manager to prepare the necessary documents so that Council can

change the water rates from the present values to a Base rate of \$25.00 and a charge of \$10.00 per each 1,000 gallons of sewer & water used for residents and a \$50.00 base rate for non-residents and a charge of \$10.00 per 1,000 gallons used. President Freed declared that the motion failed on a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL

AYES

Kris Burek
Paul Hoffman

NAYS

Galen Freed
Bryon Reed
Daniel Stevens

There were no other comments from Council or from the Public.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Salvesen had a number of items for Council's consideration. The first was a request from Barry Isett & Associates who are the Engineers of record for the Slatington Elementary School expansion. Their plans call for a new 4" domestic and 6" fire line to serve the school. It is their understanding that metering the fire service is not necessary and they would like Council confirmation. We have not metered fire supply lines in the past. Council suggested that this item be brought before full Council at the next meeting for consideration.

The second item is a new resolution that will update the banner resolution originally passed in 2003. This will bring us into conformance with PennDOT's most recently revised Publication 46. The biggest change is that the Borough will assume full responsibility for erecting, maintaining, and removing the banner. This item will be referred to Council for action.

The last item was the report generated by Mr. Duane Dellecker on Mr. Lucien's water problem and was in the form of an update for Council anticipating that Mr. Lucien would again appear before Council looking for relief. No action was required by Council.

There was no need to open the meeting for Council action.

There being no further business to bring before Council, on a motion by Councilman Hoffman, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M.

Stephen R. Salvesen
Borough Secretary