

BOROUGH OF SLATINGTON

The Council Workshop Meeting was called to order on 25 January 2010 at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Room, 125 South Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080

Presiding: Bryon Reed, Vice-President

Recording Secretary: Stephen R. Salvesen

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

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT

Bryon Reed
Daniel Stevens
Eldon Roberts
Kris Burek
Russell Hallman
Walter Niedermeyer

ABSENT

Paul Hoffman
Galen Freed

OTHERS PRESENT

Ted Stevenson Mike Evans
Chief Rachman George Moyer
John Bolton Robert Herzog Jr.
Ed Ziegler Melvin Gildner
David Alercia Tim Wagner
Ryan Murray

Public Safety

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

Paul Hoffman was not able to be present due to illness and Russell Hallman chaired the committee.

1. The first item on the agenda was the issue of parking on Franklin Street. A memo submitted to Council by Manager Salvesen was used as the basis for discussion. Residents are starting to park their cars on the South side of Franklin Street as well as the North side. This is creating a very dangerous situation in this area as emergency vehicles cannot pass the cars and this in fact becomes a choke point. I would request authorization to have the solicitor prepare the necessary documents that would prohibit parking on the South side of Franklin Street from 1st Street to Park Avenue.
John Bolton was asked about parking and he concurred that there is a problem as did Chief Rachman.
Discussion was opened to other Council members and the public for comments. None were received, and it was recommended that this item should be brought before Council for action.
2. The Vigilant Fire Company request was next on the agenda. The memo from Manager Salvesen was used as the basis for discussion as follows:
Attached is a request from the Vigilant Fire Company No. 2 requesting repairs to the handicapped ramp located near the rear of the building.
This is a repair that the Borough needs to remedy ASAP due to the potential liability issues associated with the ramp.
Councilman Hallman wanted to inspect the property. The topic will be discussed at the next Workshop Meeting.
There were no comments from Council or from the public on this topic. Chief Rachman noted that the handicapped ramp at the entrance to Borough Hall was in need of repair and that Officer Murray had received a call from a resident stating that her son and some friends had crawled under the ramp and made their way into the Police section of the building. Officers Alercia and Murray along with the Road Foreman John Bolton, Manager Salvesen and Bob Herzog inspected the area and could not find any spot that might have been breached by the kids. Notwithstanding this fact, SSM had submitted a report last year, detailing the condition on the ramp and alternatives to fix or repair.

Manager Salvesen was directed to contact the various State, County and Federal representatives to see if grant money was available for this project.

3. Councilman Hoffman had submitted two (2) names for the vacant positions of EMC. They are Mr. Ronald Hausman for Coordinator and Mr. Gary Phillips as Deputy Coordinator. The committee agreed to send these names to Council for appointment. There were no further comments from other Council members or from the public on these appointments.

There were no further topics or issues to bring before this committee.

President Freed arrived at 6:50 P.M. and assumed the Chair.

Finance/Planning/Zoning

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

1. The first item on the agenda was appointment of an engineer. Chairman Hallman asked Manager Salvesen to recommend three (3) or four (4) engineering firms to Council for interviews. Ted Stevenson asked if SSM could be included and was told that they would be included. Councilman Burek stated that she had requested clarification on certain bills at least a year ago, sent follow up requests and is still awaiting an answer. There was no further comment from other Council persons present or from the public.
2. The next item on the agenda was the Police Grievance on pension deductions and a request that Attorney Ellis Katz handle the matter for the Borough. The committee agreed and recommended that this item be brought before Council for action.
3. The next item on the agenda was the grievance filed by the Non-Uniformed Union members over the Health Plan changes. Police representatives were present to state that they would file a grievance should the Borough implement the Health Care changes as outlined to the employees by BENECON. Representatives of the Non-Uniformed SEIU 668 Union were also present to express their disappointment over the plan changes that in their opinion violated the contract. President Freed stated that this matter would be discussed in Executive Session at the conclusion of the committee's reports. Mr. Ed Ziegler offered public comment that Council should not change the plan and violate the contract. Chief Rachman also believed that this would not be beneficial to the Borough should Council proceed. The plan changes are scheduled to be effective on February 1, 2010.
4. The next item on the agenda was a request from the Slatington Borough Authority to transfer \$3,117.90 to pay two (2) bills approved by the Authority at their meeting on Monday January 25, 2010. The two items that totaled \$3,117.90 were for an invoice from Steckel and Stopp for \$1,982.30 and from SSM for \$1,135.50. The committee recommended that this item be sent to Council for action. There were no further comments from Council members present or from the public.
5. The next item on the agenda was a request from Mr. Robert Reimer Jr. for exoneration of the 2001 Per Capita Tax bill which was paid in another municipality. This item was recommended to be given to Council for action.

There was no further comment from other Council members or from the public.

President Freed adjourned the Workshop Meeting to go into Executive Session. Upon returning from the Executive Session, President Freed announced that matters of potential litigation and personnel matters were discussed and called the Workshop Meeting back into session.

Human/Community Services

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

Mr. Les Glanz and Mr. Robert Stettner signed in to speak to the committee members. Mr. Glanz gave a short presentation to the committee on revitalization efforts on Main Street. There are a number of vacant store fronts and most of them are fit for use with the “right tenant”. He asked Council to consider measures that might aide and assist in gaining businesses for these vacant properties, such as a possible reduction in sewer and/or water rates for a short period of time and asked that code enforcement efforts be maintained on Main Street to insure the properties’ viability continues.

Mr. Stettner discussed the Diamond Street Playground and the possibility of moving the basketball court to where the volleyball courts are now and moving the volleyball courts to an area nearer the pool. Both propositions were discussed by committee members. In addition, Mr. Stettner presented to the committee a rendering of a proposed banner that would be placed on the bridge. There are grant funds remaining for this purpose. The banner, in the form of a blackboard states in white letters, “Slatington Established 1864 Blackboard Capital of America”. It was suggested that the balance of the grant money be expended for this purpose even though we would have more banners than available poles, but replacements are always valuable should any banner be damaged by the elements. This matter will be brought to Council for possible action.

1. The first item on the agenda was the position of Animal Control Officer. Manager Salvesen gave an update on the facilities that he contacted as possible repositories for stray animals. Forgotten Fidos and Felines did not have the capacity to accept animals at this time. Peaceable Kingdom would accept animals at a cost to the Borough of \$100.00 per dog and \$35.00 per cat. The understanding with the cats is that they would be neutered by Peaceable Kingdom and then returned to the Borough for release. Dogs would go on their website in an effort to return them to their owners and if not claimed, placed for adoption. Animals in Distress will take this request to their board but presently have little room available to house these animals. LCHS has established a new policy and price structure due to decreased availability of funds from the County and will charge \$1.00 to \$2.00 per resident for the service. They will pick up the animal when called and since it is not a non kill shelter; the animal may be put down. The cost to the Borough based on the 2000 census would range from \$4,434.00 to \$8,864.00 per year as negotiated. Manager Salvesen’s update to Council dated January 13, 2010 was used for the balance of the discussion. It reads as follows:
With Lori Hill no longer employed by the Borough, it might be to our advantage to have one of the road crew appointed as the ACO. We were paying Lori \$200.00 per month as ACO when she turned in reports. We allocated \$2400.00 for this position. If a Borough employee were appointed, based on 2080 hours per year, it would amount to \$1.15 per hour. Given the amount of domestic pets and other wild creatures that we get calls on, we surely would be creating a useful service to the community.

The Non-Uniformed Union employees will be getting \$00.25 per hour raise and an extra \$1.15 per hour might be attractive. I have asked John Bolton to survey the road crew to see if there was any interest without divulging the amount. If Council thinks that this path may have some merit, I will put it on the Workshop Meeting agenda for discussion.

This item was recommended to Council for possible action. There were no additional comments by other Council members present or by the public.

2. The next item is a request from the Census Bureau for space to be donated from March 10 through April 19, 2010. The memo sent to Council by Manager Salvesen was used for discussion as follows:

The U. S. Census Bureau is in the process of identifying potential locations and organizations to provide temporary space to be used as question assistance centers. These centers would provide space for a table and a couple of chairs where census employees could assist persons needing help in completing their 2010 questionnaire. The space would be needed from March 10 through April 19 2010 time frame for a few hours on days convenient to us. We have an unused conference room in the lower level that could be made available. The space would be free of charge, and the government carries no form of insurance. If Council would like to make this space available, we would need a motion to make the space available and authority for the Manager to fill out the agreement. No other comments were received from Council members or the public on this item and the committee recommended that this item be sent to Council for possible action.

3. A short presentation was given by Mr. Scott Everett on the progress of the trailhead and the plans for enlarging the facility with buildings, landscaping, and appropriate signage. Mr. Everett would like to place bids for the work in February and requested Council's authorization to proceed. The committee agreed and recommended that this item be sent to Council for possible action.

There was no other business to be brought before the committee and no further comments from other Council members present or from the public.

Highway

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

Mr. Les Glanz addressed the committee about trailhead signs that might be placed within the Borough directing potential users to the trailhead. These might be similar in nature and size to existing directional signs within the Borough. The committee would take the suggestion under advisement.

1. The first item on the agenda was a memo from Manager Salvesen which is as follows:

On New Years' Eve, we had another snow event. The Borough crew was out at 11:00 P.M. to salt and cinder hills, intersections and any other spots that do not get the "normal" Borough procedure and that salt and cinders were ordered in sufficient quantity to cover these events throughout the winter season. We do not salt or cinder flat areas.

We received several complaints from citizens that their streets were not plowed. No streets were plowed in the Borough. If Council has a different interpretation of what is to be done, I need to know so that I can get additional supplies ordered.

Manager Salvesen asked if Council wished to continue this practice of salt/cindering with snow events of less than three (3) inches. To change this

policy would require the Borough to order additional salt quantities. After some discussion, it was concluded that the Borough should stay with the existing policy.

2. The next item was a discussion on replacing the body of the small dump Truck with a stainless steel body.
The Borough's small dump truck body is seriously corroded and needs to be replaced. We have obtained a quote from SMF (Structural Metal Fabricators, Inc.) to replace the existing body. I understand that we have a very tight budget, but this vehicle is bordering on being unsafe for the tasks assigned to it. The attached quote is self explanatory in terms of the options available, steel, aluminum, stainless. The staff can cut the existing body off saving the \$400.00, and possibly obtaining some dollars for the scrap value of the metal. Since the small dump is used heavily in spreading salt and cinders, the logical choice for the body replacement is stainless steel. After some discussion, the committee directed the manager to get quotes on repairing the dump body and the tail gate which does not close, the pins are bent.
3. The next item was a discussion on the purchase of a slurry tank for brine spraying on road surfaces. Spraying of brine prior to a snow or ice event will keep the need for salting and or cindering road surfaces down to a minimum. The brine solution, used by PENN DOT seems to be an effective alternative to salt spreading after the event happens on low amounts of snow or freezing rain. The Manager was directed to get quotes on the system so that Council could discuss this issue further with real numbers in front of them.
4. The next item was salt purchase for 2010. It is currently at 200 tons and if Council continues the policy discussed in item one (1) this will be sufficient for our present needs.

Vice-President Reed asked if there were any extra parking signs that could be used for the newly paved lot off Center Street. Mr. Bolton said that we do not have extras in stock. These could be ordered and in place in the Spring of this year to coincide with striping of the lot.

There was no other business to be brought before the committee and no further comments from other Council members present or from the public.

Sewer

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

There were no visitors signed in to address this committee

Chairman Burek gave the committee a brief overview of plant operator interviews, salary and timing of the COA. The deadline was extended for the hiring of the second plant operator to February 19, 2010 and has a recommendation for Council discussion. If Council acts this evening, we can have the new hire on board February 15, 2010 which will satisfy part of the COA.

In addition, Councilman Burek discussed the reed bed bids that were reviewed at the Authority Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2010. The bid made by Todd Green Excavating, Inc. was rejected as it was non-conforming and the Authority voted to award the bid to WeCare Organics, LLC for both the base bid and the alternate for a total amount of \$117,300.00.

1. The first item on the agenda was the smoke testing results from early 2009. Chairman Burek briefly outlined the types of results from the smoke testing; broken or missing sewer caps, cracked or damaged laterals, drain spouts tied into the sewer system, sump pumps tied into the sewer system and storm drains

tied into the sewer system. These need to be addressed now and asked that this item be sent to Council for possible action. Further, there are grants available, to homeowners to help defray these costs, but the homeowner must apply, the Borough cannot.

2. Treatment Plant issues and fixes were reviewed and are waiting Authority action. Supervisor Myers is working closely with the Authority to obtain quotations on the necessary items. There will be further updates for the committee as these are received and the Authority takes action.
3. The solicitor has sent a letter to Exeter Supply expressing our dissatisfaction with the performance of the sewer lateral camera and the lack of understanding and customer service that has risen from this incident. The camera cost the Borough a little over \$7700.00 for the initial purchase and an additional \$2345.00 for the replacement head. It does not appear that Exeter will take care of the problem, and maximizing our legal recourse would cost the Borough multiples of what the camera and the new head did.

Ted Stevenson from SSM requested Council's action on a grant application that we are trying to re-allocate funds so that street re-pavement could occur with the existing grant funds. He needs Council's approval to guarantee completion of this project this year. After some discussion, the committee recommended that this item be brought to Council for possible action tonight.

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

Water

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

There were no items listed on the agenda for discussion, and no one from the public had signed in to talk to the committee. The floor was opened to other Council members.

There were no comments or questions.

Miscellaneous – There were no items listed

President Freed closed the Committee Workshop Meeting and opened the Council Business Meeting. There were various items listed for Council action.

1. On a motion by Councilman Hallman, seconded by Councilman Roberts Council adopted Ordinance No. 646, fixing the Tax Rates for the Borough for 2010. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

2. On a motion by Vice-President Reed, seconded by Councilman Burek Council adopted the 2010 Budget as advertised. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

3. On a motion by Councilman Hallman, seconded by Councilman Burek Council formally adopted the Health Plan changes discussed at the budget meeting, which changes the deductible of the existing plan but does not require a contribution from the employees. The plan's effective date will be February 1, 2010. President Freed declared that the motion failed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	
	Russell Hallman	Eldon Roberts	Galen Freed
		Daniel Stevens	Bryon Reed
		Kristina Burek	

4. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Vice-President Reed Council retained the existing Health Plan and direct the Manager to notify BENECON of the Council's action and to advise Council of the timing necessary to re-implement the existing plan. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	Russell Hallman
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Kristina Burek		

5. On a motion by Councilman Hallman, seconded by Councilman Stevens the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 11 January 2010 were approved. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Voice Vote, All Ayes Nays None.

6. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Vice-President Reed Council authorized the transfer of \$3,117.90 to pay the Steckel and Stopp revised bill and SSM for services rendered as requested by the Slatington Borough Authority. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

7. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Vice-President Reed Council exonerated the per capita tax for 2001 for Mr. Robert Reimer, Jr. The tax was paid to another jurisdiction. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

8. On a motion by Councilman Hallman, seconded by Councilman Burek Council appointed Mr. Ronald Hausman as the Emergency Management Coordinator for Slatington Borough and Mr. Gary Phillips as the Deputy Coordinator for 2010/2011 and to notify Mr. Hausman and Mr. Phillips of

their appointments. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

9. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Councilman Stevens Council authorized the Manager to prepare a resolution prohibiting parking on the South side of Franklin Street from 1st Street to Park Avenue. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

10. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Councilman Stevens Council offered the new hire a salary of \$23.05 per hour consistent with the Union Contract for a licensed sewer plant operator. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	Bryon Reed
	Galen Freed	Kristina Burek	
	Russell Hallman		

11. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Councilman Stevens Council authorized the Manager to offer the position of Assistant Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator which is a First Line Supervisory position to Mr. Duane T. Szczesny subject to review by the solicitor. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

12. On a motion by Councilman Hallman, seconded by Councilman Stevens Council appointed Attorney Ellis Katz as a Special Solicitor to the Borough to handle matters of litigation between the Police Union and the Borough of Slatington. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

13. On a motion by Councilman Stevens, seconded by Councilman Burek Council accepted the corridor proposal to landscape the trailhead property and authorize Mr. Scott Everett to proceed with the bid process. President Freed

declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

14. On a motion by Councilman Burek, seconded by Vice-President Reed Borough should send a letter to the County Executive, Mr. Don Cunningham affirming the Borough's commitment to expend the FFY 2008 CDBG and 2009 CDBG-R funds no later than December 31, 2010. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	None
	Galen Freed	Bryon Reed	
	Russell Hallman	Kristina Burek	

15. On a motion by Councilman Stevens, seconded by Councilman Burek the Manager be authorized to offer the position of Animal Control Officer to the Non-Uniformed bargaining unit people at a salary of \$200.00 per month, paid as a bonus, on a monthly basis. President Freed declared the motion passed following a Roll Call, voting as follows:

ROLL CALL:	<u>AYES</u>		<u>NAYS</u>
	Eldon Roberts	Daniel Stevens	Russell Hallman
	Bryon Reed	Kristina Burek	Galen Freed

Open Items

1. Awarding bid for reed bed sludge removal contract
2. Banners for the bridge

There were no other items to bring before Council and on a motion by Councilman Burek the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 P.M.

Next Council Meeting will be held on Monday February 8, 2010 at 7:00 P.M.

Stephen Salvesen
Borough Secretary

