

The Borough of Speers Council met on April 2, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Ms. Hartley, Mr. Sauer and Mayor Herd. Absent with prior notice was Ms. DeCooman.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

**Correspondence:** Tri-County Borough Association meeting will be held on April 17<sup>th</sup> at the Belle Vernon Volunteer Fire Dept Social Hall.

A motion to accept a resignation letter from Jeremy Hepple, effective immediately, was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona. A motion to advertise for the open Council chair was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer. Letters of interest will be due on May 7<sup>th</sup> by 1:00 p.m.

**Reports for March:** Police – 192 calls (includes 122 patrol checks); Fire – 11 calls.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Finance: Mr. McCorkle: Report for March – Income = \$20,151.88; Expenses = \$58,886.29.  
YTD (-) \$13,675.07.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Sauer – researching a few topics and will update next month.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona: will defer to Mr. Creagh. She will send a picture of the gravel at the Lower Speers Park to see who is responsible to clean up.

Grants: Ms. Hartley – researching on available grants; attended a class on grant applications. A motion to have Ms. Hartley look into and apply for a grant for security cameras was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Streetlights: outages reported and still waiting for WPP to respond.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – study on the Van Beck building is complete; discussing what the space can be used for. Bus turnaround environmental study is also complete; ridership is expected to increase.

Mayor Herd report: thanked Ms. Hartley for her research on grants. He recommends looking for alternate avenues for funding for the bridge repairs. Grants? Donations? We need to plan for long-term improvements in the Borough. Plan ahead for future bridge repairs including the deck repairs. Mr. Wagner with KLH is working on estimates for the entire bridge improvements project. Mayor Herd reiterates the importance of reviewing the invoices and to ask questions. Donations need to be curbed as well.

Dennis Carson report: filled potholes in streets and alleys, replaced 2 stop signs, salt spreader and plows removed from one truck, removed animal carcass from ramp, cleaned streets, sharpened and greased blades on Kubota, installed new poles for electric lines at the park, cut dead trees at park, called electrician to repair downed lines, cleaned trash along RT 88, dealt with fallen tree on power lines on Scott St. He is asking what can be done in that situation when it is not safe and the Police and Fire Dept will not help? The Borough is not liable as long as it is reported. The line stayed down for several days and it is a very dangerous situation. Tractor trailers are still coming into the Borough even though it is posted. The trucks are pulling wires down and causing damage. The Police need to start ticketing the drivers. Completed 2 downspout inspections and responded to 3 One Calls. Code enforcement sent a violation letter to the Newman residence. Letters pertaining to basketball hoops on sidewalks were also sent out with court notices.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:** Mr. Creagh via phone call: Bridge project – APC started work on the high priority areas (piers and beams), decking will need to be addressed. Documents were submitted to DCNR regarding the Lower Speers Park project, still waiting for re-imbusement.

**SOLICITOR:** Guttman has issues with the garbage contract. Mr. Rice will contact them to explain the ordinance and contract requirements.

**CITIZENS:** Mr. Kinney is asking what the requirements are for registering dogs in the Borough? It is not a Borough requirement to handle. It is through the County.

Mr. Rost spoke on the public meetings on the landfill issues pertaining to leachate being dumped in the Mon River. It is not safe for people or wildlife. This is a serious issue. Council did not attend these meetings. It will be dumped in Donora, not in Speers. Speers Council cannot change this on their own. People need to get involved.

No Tax Collector's Report at this time.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mayor Herd presented a quote for replacing the security cameras. Security Systems estimate was \$14,394.62 for parts and labor. The cameras need to be compatible with surrounding areas to the Police station. We need to obtain 3 written quotes. Ms. Hartley will look for available state grants. Who will maintain the cameras? Mr. McCorkle stated the "ear-marked" funds are only available for \$1,000,000 + projects. This could include the complete bridge project, paving the entire IDC Park and adding an additional road. We are waiting for Penn Dot's evaluation on the Arentzen Bridge. The Mon Valley Independent is asking for an update on the details of the bridge project. Council is waiting for more specific answers on the repairs. The information is also available in the meeting minutes that are available to the public on our website. Dennis Carson's insurance coverage will be eligible under the Cobra prices for 18 months from the retirement date.

**NEW BUSINESS:** JED agreement is \$398 for 2 preventative maintenance visits for 2025. A motion to accept was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor. The digital sign across from Exxon needs to be removed from the state right-of-way immediately per Penn Dot. Mr. Zahand was responsible for getting permission and permits for installation per our contract with him. He neglected to do that. Mr. Zahand installed the sign in the wrong location. Council will contact Mr. Zahand to cover the costs to relocate the sign. A motion to obtain quotes on the cost of moving the sign was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. was made by Ms. Hartley and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.