

The Borough of Speers Council met on April 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Sauer, Mr. Todora and Mr. Daylong; absent were Mrs. Spina and Mr. McCorkle.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

Secretary read correspondence: golf outing and Tri-County Borough meeting.

Engineer/Code Enforcement: Mr. Krider dropped off park bid specs for the RA project. Specs will be available on HMT website. Bid opening is May 2nd. Mr. Krider stated that it cannot be advertised in our local paper because it is federal money. Mr. Todora questioned how the bidding works through Co-stars? Mr. Rice explained that most of the time bidding through Co-stars is a better deal.

Mr. Krider tried to explain the curative amendment regarding the square footage of the signs exceeding the requirements. Mr. Krider did not attend the Zoning Hearing Board meeting. Mr. Gump handled everything pertaining to the variance application and hearing. Minutes from that hearing are available upon request. One ZHB member did not want to approve the variance. One option would be for Council do a curative amendment which basically modifies the initial ordinance for that area. Council will discuss with Mr. Lint. Mr. Daylong questioned the numbers of signs allowed? It is the maximum coverage in a cumulative total not necessarily the number of signs. Mr. Krider left the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

POLICE: 41 calls for Speers; report available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Confirmed that companies do not need to be members of Co-stars to bid on projects.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – absent.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – reported on water leaking onto the road from an underground spring. It is located on the hillside of Mr. Bruno's property. Mr. Daylong is asking if we can dig under the sidewalk and install a pipe to drain the water. It is private property, not borough property. The property owner is responsible and liable for water running on the sidewalk. Mr. Todora asked about leeching from under the sidewalk? It still needs somewhere to go. A catch basin is

not close; it is across the street. It is the property owner's responsibility to correct, not the Borough's. Mr. Todora will speak with the property owner.

Streetlights: Nothing at this time.

Parks: Mr. Sauer has information for the park grant application. Mrs. Spina submitted the application; report available. The Borough did receive donations for the matching funds from Back Porch, Speer Street Grill, National Polymers and Fourth Street Barbecue. We received support letters from the Washington County Commissioners and Bud Cook, State Rep. Council will start obtaining quotes for park equipment. Mrs. Barcelona presented a quote from Thomas Wood for the electrical work at the Upper Speers Park; 12 new 25 ft poles, remove 2 trees, re-wiring and new boxes - \$14,900.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – reported that during the routes 75,745 miles are driven in one month. MMVTA is eligible for over \$3.7 million in state operating assistance for 2022-2023. They will be required to raise \$93,798 in Local Matching funds to receive this assistance.

Mayor Herd: Thanked everyone involved for obtaining the information and Mrs. Spina for submitting the application for the park grant. Mayor Herd also reported on the bridge repair project; it is inconvenient but be patient. There is a link from Penn Dot on our website giving information on the bridge project.

Dennis Carson's report: cold-patch, cleaned catch basins, ordered new street signs for State St., obtained sewer line estimates, repaired roof damage and filed claim, re-attach plow, plow and salt, worked on salt shed, wash salt spreader, ordered 2 loads of salt, took pictures and notified police of damage done to the fence at the basketball courts, report filed, attended meeting at Exxon regarding bridge project. Mr. Daylong asked if we can just put plastic fencing up for now at the basketball courts? Mrs. Barcelona – is it covered under our insurance for vandalism? Our policy has a high deductible for that, not worth it for the portion that was damaged. Dennis and Tim have done a lot of work in the building for the remodel as well.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint spoke regarding the list of free and clear tax sales on properties; Speers has one property listed. If Council has any objections, it has to be filed with the court before June 20th. He reviewed possible reasons of why to object.

Dennis – who gets the money from the sale? Not sure, Mr. Lint will look into. Mr. Lint spoke with Mr. Dennis Paluso, Attorney for ABC, regarding the property maintenance agreement for the property located across from Exxon. Mr. Lint forwarded him a copy of the previous agreement with Bassi's. Mr. Paluso sent back an amended agreement. After reviewing the agreement Mr. Lint has no objections with it. The new wording pertains to if any damages should occur because of the digital sign, ABC will not be responsible. Can we install posts around the signs to protect them? A copy of the agreement is available for review. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mr. Lint spoke regarding the variance hearing. He recommends that the process go through the proper variance procedures. He recommends that Council NOT change or amend the ordinance. The hearing ended in a continuance for 90 days. Maple Creek Beer 4 Less is requesting a curative amendment. They are on the agenda for May's meeting.

Citizens: Residents on Valley Circle are complaining of water running onto the street and freezing. They want a storm drain installed to keep the water off the road. The residents have their downspouts running out onto the road which is where the water is coming from. There is also a spring running from the property as well. They are confused on storm drains and sewer lines. They want the Borough to install pipes to drain the water. This is the same issue that was brought up earlier in the meeting. It is private property, not Borough property. The property owners are responsible for the water running out onto the road. Dennis and Mr. Todora will contact an engineer and look into.

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of \$7,255.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Rice – The resolution needs signed for the park grant application. Mr. Todora would like to revisit the messages on the digital sign. He is willing to wait until next month when all Council members are present. Mrs. Barcelona reported the remodel on the offices are almost complete. Next project will be to work on the concrete pads for the park pavilions.

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Herd also suggested installing concrete posts around the digital signs. Mr. Lint states we need to get permission from the property owners first. He will speak with Mr. Paluso, ABC, regarding the property across from

Exxon. The digital sign along RT 88 is railroad property. Mr. Rice would like to install signs on the ramps stating "No Tractor Trailers" or business signs with arrows pointing in the correct direction. Which company would need signs? Dennis will work on and revisit at the May meeting. Mr. Daylong presented a handicap parking application for 278 Grandview Way. Council reviewed the application. A motion to approve the application was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mr. Todora. The sign will be placed in front of that house. Mr. Todora acknowledged Shirley Jones for her birthday. Civic Club is accepting donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Sauer confirmed that our ordinances are listed on our website. He stated that Mr. DeSantis spoke of a park that was in Maplevue in the past and it would be nice to have another park up there again. Mr. DeSantis also questioned Mr. Sauer if we can charge for parking spaces along RT 88. It is not Borough property, that would be up to the railroad company. What can we do about the abandoned boat that is parked there?

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 p.m. was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.