

The Borough of Speers Council met on August 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Barcelona, Ms. DeCooman, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Correspondence: 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter LSA payment was \$27,772.69.

July calls for Speers: EMS = 29; Fire = 7; Police = 148.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Finance: Mr. McCorkle: July – Income: \$38,297.77; Expenses: \$57,741.32. YTD (+) \$99,120.70.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong: 100 Grandview Way shrubs need cut, blocking view to RT 88. Mr. Daylong contacted the police and he will follow up with them to see what the response was. Dennis will cut and lien the property. There is one lien already on the property for a property maintenance violation.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona: waiting for grant money to be released for the Lower Speers Park Project.

Grants: Mrs. Spina: Nothing to report at this time.

Streetlights: No outages to report.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – MMVTA needs funding for the possible IDC Park bus turn-around lane and shelter. Newspaper article available for review.

Mayor Herd: Met with Jamie Colecchi and reported the Morgan expansion project is on hold for now. Preliminary Police budget will be approximately \$22,000 a month for Speers. Mayor Herd also stated we need money for the bridge project. We do not have the time to wait to apply for another grant.

Dennis Carson report: Cut grass, weed whack, spray weeds, paint street poles, wash trucks, clean park for rentals, met with JED heating for routine service on AC unit, fixed storm drain on Phillips St, cut tree limbs off power lines at park, pick up fallen branches at park, clean catch basin on Charles St, installed new chains on swings at the park, cut up and cleaned up fallen trees on Charles St, flush sewer drain on Lewis Ave, fix door to Civic Club room, 5 One Calls and 3 downspout inspections.

Dennis will check on cables down near Technip.

Contact Jody or Dennis with any code issues or complaints. They will contact Code Enforcement.

**ENGINEER:** Mr. Creagh attended via phone – presented the bids for the Arentzen Bridge Project:

1. Allison Park Contractors: Base Bid = \$266,875. Alternate #1 = \$101,850.  
Alternate #2 = \$28,190; Total Bid = \$396,915.
2. Mar-Allen Concrete: Base Bid = \$812,576. Alternate #1 = \$402,550.  
Alternate #2 = \$95,290; Total Bid = \$1,310,416.
3. McK Construction Co: Base Bid = \$395,239.75. Alternate #1 = \$131,920.  
Alternate #2 = \$39,780; Base Bid = \$566,939.75.

The project can possibly start early October.

Mrs. Spina suggests meeting with businesses to help with the costs of repairs. We will have to pay for the project and then get reimbursed from the approved grants. What if the costs go above the bid amount? If that happens, that would likely be due to the railroad company and their requirements. Flag requirements from the railroad company are \$1,500 per day, and must be cancelled 24-24 hours in advance otherwise we still pay regardless of changes in weather. We must use their flagging service as well.

Mr. Creagh reviewed all bid packets.

A motion to award the Arentzen Bridge project to Allison Park Contractors (bid total = \$396,615) was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mr. Creagh also spoke on the Lower Speers Park Project: DCNR grant will cover the equipment and partial surface. That will start the week on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The LSA grant will cover the fencing and removal/finishing of the remaining asphalt area (separate bid). The CFA with the DCED will meet on September 17 to discuss when the LSA grant money will be released. Depending on when the funds are released, that could possibly push the remainder of the project to October or next Spring, due to weather.

**SOLICITOR:** Mr. Lint reviewed an ordinance that Mr. Hepple forwarded to him regarding depositing materials in right of ways and possible fines for violations. Mr. Lint will prepare a draft and Council will review at the next meeting. We will have to advertise and possibly adopt at the October meeting.

Mr. Joe Manning, Charleroi Borough Manager, spoke regarding the possible creation of a Fire Board. Would Speers be interested in creating this with other municipalities? One Council member from each municipality would be representing on the Board. They would also like to hire an additional part-time fire fighter which would result in a fee increase as well. Does the Fire Dept get reimbursed from homeowners insurance company for fires? Not usually. Toll road? Yes. Vehicle accidents? Yes. At this time, Mr. Manning is only asking if we would be interested in joining the Board, not asking for money but eventually that will come. Possibly meeting quarterly to be transparent on all aspects of the Dept. Mr. Manning is looking for one Council member to represent. If at some point the Fire Board would ask for money, a fire fighter should not be on the Board. Council will discuss further.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** Deposit of \$28,128.11.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Ms. DeCooman spoke on the MS4 report she is filing. She wants to add another user for the log in; Mr. McCorkle will join. Where is the data coming from to fill out the report? In the past, the engineering firm completed these reports. We do not have all the information. How do we know the data on the form is correct? Who is signing off on it? DEP does the water samples not KLH. Clean up/Pick up day is September 21. Other municipalities are joining as well.

Run off from the IDC Park, DEP and Penn Dot issues will be tabled until the September meeting.

Digital Sign – Mr. McCorkle reported the sign still needs fixed. Mr. Zahand stated the replacement will be approximately \$16,000. Mr. Zahand never contacted the insurance company to file a claim on the damages. Mr. McCorkle will get quotes from other companies to follow the bid requirements.

Liquid Fuels - Mr. McCorkle is meeting with Jonna Knapik to discuss and measure the IDC Park for paving.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Garbage contract - Mr. Lint will prepare a draft with specs for the upcoming refuse contract that expires this year. Council will review at the September meeting, then advertise and hold a pre-bid meeting that will be scheduled before awarding the contract.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Ms. DeCooman and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.