The Borough of Speers Council met on August 5, 2026. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Reinhard, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Devine, Dr. Hartley, Ms. Barcelona and Mr. McDonough.

A motion to approve the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. McDonough; all in favor.

Correspondence: 2nd quarter LSA allotment = $26,842.34; JED agreement.

Reports: Calls for July – Police = 310 calls; Fire = 21 calls; EMS = 26 calls.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Mr. McCorkle - July income: $213,650.40; expenses: $70,356.93. YTD (+) $154,609.00

Borough Improvement: Mrs. Reinhard – relayed that our code enforcement rep has changed, some of the nuisance properties that received letters have complied and moving forward with the others.

Parks: Ms. Barcelona - reported that some dead trees at the park will need to be cut down or trimmed - one tree is leaning on another and could possibly cause more damage if completely falls, underground electric wires should be seriously considered, the small pavilion needs some repairs (boards, concrete – move forward on), mulch needs refilled, discuss yearly tree maintenance to avoid possible issues. A motion to get quotes on removing the leaning tree was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard; all in favor. We will get quotes on installing the underground wires as an electrician is required. Chad offered to dig for a fee. Per Mr. Lint, Chad would have to submit a bid. All bids would need to include the same specs for work.

MS4: Mrs. Devine – meeting with Chad and Tim next week to work on the mapping of sewer outfalls.

Supplies: Mr. McDonough provided a list of needs for the road crew (trucks, diesel, equipment). Council had discussions on trading in trucks on a rotation schedule. They will also start a list for the life cycles of equipment for replacing to stagger for budgeting. If using grant money, there may be a clause stating the estimated useful life guidelines of the equipment. Should we consider leasing vehicles? Council previously voted to approve ordering salt. Diesel fuel is needed immediately. Bobcat repairs need done as soon as possible.

Grants: Dr. Hartley – along with Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd and Ms. Barcelona met with Penn Dot and Senator Bartolotta regarding the Arentzen Bridge. She provided an outline of the meeting explaining the severity of the bridge issues. Penn Dot determined that the bridge is safe but has some poor qualities. To be able to complete all necessary repairs, it would be approximately

$1.4 million. At this time, we only have $600,000 from an approved grant. It was estimated that the cost for a complete bridge replacement is $6-8 million and not be completed until 2032. Even if Penn Dot were to take over ownership of the bridge, they are not permitted to use the Multi-modal grant funds. What is the best way to move forward without wasting those funds? Dr. Hartley is looking into the TIP program as well. Senator Bartolotta will reach out to GE for financial help. Penn Dot recommended to not move forward until the next bridge inspection which should be completed in October. Mr. McCorkle will contact Jonna to see if we can use her services for this project under the grant funds instead of the expense of an engineer?

Streetlights: No outages reported.

Transit Authority – Mayor Herd reported an average on-time performance is 93%; discussion of extending service to the Healthplex in Belle Vernon. Westmoreland County pledged more financial support than Washington County.

Mayor Herd report – He is frustrated with the bridge issues. How bad is it really? We are getting conflicting information. Should we apply for more grants? We have to be responsible with spending money.

Tim Anthony report - cut grass, weed whacked, sprayed weeds, cleaned roads and drains after several storms, had new water line and hydrant installed at the park (Desaks), sharpened blades on mowers, fixed up/painted basketball court, painted gate at the park, cleaned park bathrooms and pavilions for rentals, cleaned up fallen tree on Davidson Dr, 20 One Calls, 1 downspout inspection.

Mayor Herd reported on a preliminary increase for the Police budget for 2027. Speers portion is estimated to be approximately $25,226.86 per month.

Engineer: No report.

Tax Collector's Deposit: $175,408.72.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint advertised an ordinance requiring certain protections and safeguards in order to address deteriorated properties, public nuisances and properties in serious violation of state law and/or municipal codes in the Borough. This ordinance is not to issue fines. It is for denial of any and all permits until all issues are resolved. A motion to approve the ordinance was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Devine; all in favor.

Old/Unfinished Business: Mr. McCorkle presented the donation request again for a siren for the Fire Dept. It was voted no at the July meeting. The request was added back onto the agenda for consideration at the Charleroi Borough meeting. Dunlevy made a donation. A motion to donate $853 to the Fire Dept to go towards reimbursement for the siren was made by Dr. Hartley and

seconded by Mrs. Devine. Mrs. Reinhard is against. Mr. McCorkle will let us know if Twilight Borough makes their portion of the donation.

Mr. McCorkle presented the request for the remainder of the EMS donation. Council approved last month to pay $2,500 and possibly revisit the remaining balance ($3,000) at the end of the year after we evaluate our own finances. We need to replace and update some of our equipment before we keep giving money away, regardless if it is for a good cause. Yes, we did receive the Act 13 allotment but we need to look at our own needs and anticipate possible concerns as well before approving all donation requests. We need to be judicious with our finances. We can shift focus from bridge repairs to other needs when applying for a grant but applying for a grant does not mean we will be approved. We need to consider a more formal process for donation requests including a deadline; fill out a request form, have them present it for consideration for the following year to be considered in our budget meetings so that it is fair to everyone. Mrs. Reinhard will work on the process and application. We need to be fair and equitable to everyone, including ourselves, regardless if it is a donation request, contract or agreement. Everyone agrees of the importance of helping the first responders but we cannot be responsible for always providing substantial financial help for everything they want/need when we have wants and needs as well. It is taxpayer's money, we have to be judicial with spending. It then goes from a donation request to the demand of money. Some things are budgeted for but that does not mean those funds are exact figures. Chief Whiten stated if we want protection, we need to pay for it. He thinks we are wrong if we don't give more. It's not about not wanting to help. It's about always financially helping every time we are asked when we have major expenses ourselves such as roads, bridge repairs, and equipment. Since it was voted to wait until the end of the year to reevaluate our finances, the request will not move forward at this time.

The tar and chipping project at the IDC park will wait until Spring. There was miscommunication with advertising.

<u>New Business</u>: A motion to approve the JED maintenance agreement for 2 visits a year for $423 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. Barcelona; all in favor.

Council had a discussion on painting parking stall lines on Schaffer Ave – not at this time.

Dr. Hartley stated that a community member (Casey – Perked Up/Off The Wall Arts) would like to repair and paint the Mapleview Sign. This would be at no cost to the borough. A motion to move forward with this request was made by Dr. Hartley and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Mrs. Reinhard spoke on clarifying the parking ordinances. Residents are parking on the yellow line and sidewalk by the bend along Grandview Way. Do we need to paint the curbs yellow in

certain areas now that this is becoming an ongoing problem? It was decided to paint the curb yellow going up Grandview Way by the bend to prevent cars from parking on the sidewalk. Call the Police if it continues to be a problem. We will purchase and install more parking signs.

Citizen Comment: Mr. DeSantis spoke on the parking issues and questioned why is this happening now? A few residents complained that Police are not doing their job, now they are complaining when they do their job. You can't have it both ways. Residents were encouraged to attend the Police Board meetings to voice concerns. Should we change streets to one-way? A traffic study would have to be done first.

Cindy Snyder spoke on Halloween activities. Parade will be held on October 31st - lineup at the church at 5 p.m. with Trick or Treat to follow 6-8 p.m.

Richard Daylong reported on issues with 262 Grandview Way; this property was already addressed with code enforcement. He complained on the parking tickets and suggested changing police coverage.

Tom & Sherry Cramer – voiced concerns with the parking direction issues. They also inquired about a handicap parking application.

Pam & Jocie Farrell spoke on the flooding that happens after heavy rains. Their basement keeps flooding due to the lack of storm drains along Davidson Dr. and State St. Mr. McCorkle will contact the engineer on options. Residents also need to follow the ordinances of removing gutters from the sewer systems. Residents need to make sure they have a backflow flap installed to prevent flooding.

Al Rost asked, regarding streets with parking on one side, if contractors are allowed to park on the no parking side of the street while they are doing work on properties – No.

A motion to pay the monthly bills was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Devine; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. McDonough.