

The Borough of Speers Council met on December 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd. Absent were Mr. Sauer and Mr. Todora; they did give prior notification that they would be absent. Secretary was also not in attendance.

The minutes of the previous were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Mr. Daylong and Mr. McCorkle.

Mr. Terry Planton spoke regarding a resolution for the water company. Charleroi Borough is possibly selling the water company. He understands that the water company is technically a Charleroi asset; they own the water company, they appoint the board members, they can dissolve the Authority if they see fit. He expressed concerns with the assessments and status of Charleroi Borough's financial situation. He stated that if Charleroi is in technical bankruptcy, then they should act like it and seek help from state. There has been talk that they (Charleroi Borough) are not making an assessment for a sale, but making an assessment to see what the asset is worth and they might be thinking of pledging it as collateral in a loan. How big of a loan? Let the water company loan the money to Charleroi. If Charleroi defaults on their loan, then we have a bank involved. Mr. Planton will fight this and feels the sale of the ABC would be a massive mistake. He stated Speers has an operating agreement with the water authority dated February 1968. He would like a copy of that agreement. Mr. Planton is urging Council to pass a resolution opposing the sale of the water company. He also commented that he writes grants for local communities. Mr. McCorkle provided Mr. Planton a copy of the resolution. Mayor Herd questioned if Charleroi owns the water company? Mr. Planton stated that he heard a new ABC board member will be nominated at the Charleroi meeting tonight (12/7) but he does not know where that was advertised. Mr. Planton, Mr. Rice and Mrs. Spina would have sent letters of interest for that position.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Police:** 97 calls for the month of November; (73 for closing park) report available. Fire: November - 47 calls for the area. EMS: 20 calls for Speers – October.

Mr. Daylong questioned if we have been notified of the increased amount for Speers for the police contract? Mr. McCorkle will report the information.

**Streets & Sewers:** Mr. Todora - absent

**Finance:** Mr. McCorkle – November: Income = \$41,888.90; Expenses = \$47,562.73. YTD: (-) \$659.75. Budget reports available.

**Borough Improvement:** Mr. Daylong: the residents of Grandview Way thanked the borough for dealing with the rooster issue.

**Streetlights:** Mayor Herd would like a spotlight on the flag pole at the borough building. Mr. McCorkle reported a streetlight out 161 State St. Secretary will notify WPP. Mr. Rice would like to install a solar light in front of the building.

**Parks:** Mr. Sauer – Absent. Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing to report

**Transit Authority:** The authority agreed to hire an infectious disease coordinator. They also will be hiring a new secretary. The majority of the meeting was in executive session.

**Grants:** Mrs. Spina reported that she met with Shannon with the Redevelopment Authority regarding the LSA grant for the bridge repairs. Shannon stated that one delay on the project was due to not securing a permit from the railroad company. Mr. Krider was contacting the wrong company. One reason we did not receive any bids was because that was not included in the specs. There has been confusion regarding the process. The bid specs were removed from HMT's website. Everything was at a standstill because HMT stopped working on the process. We will need to re-advertise and start the process again. After meeting with Shannon, we are back on track and now know what we need to do. We are allowed to reach out to contractors personally and make them aware of the project and where to find the bid specs once HMT reposts them on their website. Mr. Krider stated they would be back on the website within minutes of contacting him this morning. As of the start of the meeting, the specs were still not posted. There is no reason for this project to be delayed this long, hopefully we are on the right track now.

Mayor Herd: Agrees that hopefully we are on the right track with the bridge project. He reported we need a new flag installed at the borough building. He would like to see a stop sign added to the corner of Elizabeth and State St.

Dennis Carson's report: finished picking up leaves, cleaned leaves at the park and Lower Speers park, cleaned leaves off the steps going to Lower Speers, replaced a stop sign on Charles St., cleaned Council room, installed a posted sign and purple paint on the pole for "NO HUNTING", ordered more signs for no hunting and speed limits, attached the salt spreader, purchased 4 new tires for the truck, fixed the lock at the park gate, received a revised invoice from the electrician on damage from the electrical lines at the park, received payment from State Farm for damages caused by Mr. Smaracheck, installed new 25 mph speed limits signs on Grandview Way, 12 One Calls and 4 downspout inspections.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lint prepared a resolution for 2023 millage; will stay the same as last year. Once signed and sealed, he will submit to the courthouse.

**Citizens:** No comment.

Tax Collector's report: Deposit of \$8,990.36.

**Old Business:** Mr. McCorkle spoke on the resolution for the water company; recapped and confirmed what Mr. Planton discussed. A motion to adopt the resolution opposing the sale or dissolving of ABC was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. Resolution is available for review.

Mr. McCorkle reported an increase for the Police budget from last year in the amount of \$24,535.60.

**New Business:** Santa will ride around on Saturday evening, treat bags will be passed out, 3 houses will be picked for the decoration contest (gift cards for local restaurants). Can we do a live feed during the parade?

A motion to retain Mr. Makel as the ZHB solicitor for 2023 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

Mayor Herd reported on a hunting incident of a resident finding an arrow on his pool cover. He is concerned with safety issues. Can we make Speers Borough/Park a no hunting area? The area between Davidson Dr. and Charles St. is private property. Mr. Lint will research the law and ordinances.

A motion to pass a resolution for the millage (2.4) for 2023 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mr. Lint reported that his Charleroi office will be closed by the end of next week.

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

**Reminder of a special meeting – December 14, 7:30 p.m. to adopt 2023 budget.**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.