

The Borough of Speers Council met on December 6th, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd.

Absent was Mr. Todora.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.

Jamie Colecchi with MVA spoke on the bridge project. The current grant funding is not enough to cover the repairs. MVA will help if they can. He recommended applying for additional grants (DCED – 70/30 match or Dept of Transportation). He stated that our already approved LSA grant can be used as matching funds towards other grants. Mr. Colecchi stated he reviewed the bridge inspection reports and he doesn't feel it's that bad. It is poor and he doesn't think it can get any worse. The railroad is what is causing the driving costs and keeping bidders away. Mr. Krider emailed the railroad (Jeff) Monday and has no other information. He emailed them the bid and scope of work. Mr. Krider stated they are horrible to deal with. Speers Borough has a total of \$320,000 in grant funding for the bridge repairs. If we keep waiting and applying for additional grants, the first approved grant will expire. Mr. Colecchi stated this is a Borough issue, it is a Borough bridge. He cannot provide an agreement stating that this is our bridge. Mr. Colecchi stated we need to figure this out. The DCED grant will be considered its own and not merge into our LSA grants. He thinks the DCED grant is more of a reimbursement. We spend the money first and then get reimbursed. If we get approved for the DCED grant, per Mr. Krider, it will need to be sent out again for bid. Mr. Krider stated nothing will go back out for re-design. If we apply for the DCED grant, Mrs. Spina will do the application. Mr. Krider stated that there were stipulations supposedly in the bridge agreement but he cannot provide a copy of the agreement showing the bridge belongs to the Borough. Mr. Lint reviewed guideline classifications related to Borough owned/maintained bridges.

Mr. Hepple asked for information regarding tax credits to businesses. Mrs. Spina has that information and will relay to him.

Mayor Herd – Is there any recourse if an agreement cannot be produced for review?

Mayor Herd asked for an update on the sign for the Lower Speers Park? Mr. Krider stated the bid package for the project is ready but doesn't know anything regarding the sign. Mrs. Barcelona emailed Ashley for information. ** UPDATE ** – Mr. Krider is to submit a mock up of the sign before it can be ordered. Mr. Krider is requesting a meeting at the park to pick equipment colors. A meeting is not necessary, we can just email the decisions. He just found a place today for the rubber mulch (4 inches thick). The total amount for the project is \$102,000. This will include parking, guide rails, signage, mulch, fencing, trash bins, 5 pieces of equipment and engineering fees. Once the colors are picked and the mock up for the sign completed, it will then be submitted for approval before it can be sent out for bid.

Mayor Herd asked Mr. Krider if he can give an estimation on how long the bridge project will take. Mr. Krider does not know. He cannot provide any information.

Dennis questioned what to use on the new bridge during snow removal. Salt is damaging the bridge. Sand? Resin overlay?

Mrs. Spina spoke on the KLH invoices and reminded Mr. Krider that the invoices will not be paid until we get itemized and detailed explanations. Mr. Krider stated at the last meeting that he would have Kevin Creagh call to discuss. Mr. Creagh just called yesterday. The secretary emailed the issues and has not heard back as of yet. Council has spoken to and met with 5 different people over the years with this request and are still not getting this resolved. Mr. Krider left the meeting at 8:13.

Bob: EMS, spoke on Speers committing to a yearly donation of \$5,435. He also spoke on the need for an increase on memberships. We will post on the digital sign, website, and Facebook page. They want to replace the fleet so that it is never more than 2 years old.

CORRESPONDENCE: Mrs. Spina reported on an upcoming grant seminar on January 18th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: November – Police = 102 calls, EMS = 29 calls, Fire Dept = 10 calls.

Mayor Herd reminded Council to ask questions, don't be afraid to speak up, review the bills, respect the new residents, to help on committees. He also welcomed back Mr. Daylong and Denise to the Council chairs from the elections.

STREETS: Mr. Todora – Absent.

FINANCE: Mr. McCorkle – Income = \$37,733.60, Expenses = \$45,143.66. YTD (+) \$25,729.09.

BOROUGH IMPROVEMENT: Mr. Daylong spoke with a supervisor with WPP to get the streetlights repaired in a timely manner. The supervisor said to call him personally in an emergency only. Any streetlight that is out is an emergency, not just handicap spots.

STREETLIGHTS: No new outages to report.

PARKS: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing to report.

TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Mayor Herd – New buses are in.

GRANTS: Mrs. Spina – Nothing to report.

Dennis Carson's Report – Pick up leaves, clean leaves at park, clean catch basins, cut grass, weed whack, clean steps to RT 88, flush sewer lines on Lewis Ave, ordered new motor for leaf machine, new hose, winter tires for truck, removed cabinet for Civic Club for trash, truck inspected, 5 One Calls and 1 downspout inspection. Consider turning over sewer lines to water company? Look into next year. We maintain all the lines and get nothing for it.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint spoke on the proposed 2024 budget and the millage. He will need to draft an ordinance and advertisement if the millage will be raised. The ordinance will be adopted at the January 2024 meeting.

CITIZENS: Denise DeCooman -Civic Club is in need of a Santa for the Pizza with Santa function on Saturday.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$8,446.18.

Speers Borough is in a good position with money but to prepare for the future expenses (garbage, contracts, projects) an increase in millage was discussed. A motion to increase the 2024 millage from 2.4 to 2.9 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple. Mr. Rice, Mrs. Spina, Mrs. Barcelona in favor; Mr. Daylong against.

A motion to accept the 2024 proposed budget was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.

A motion to approve the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

The meeting ended in a continuance until December 19th at 7:00 p.m. at which time the budget will be adopted.