

The Borough of Speers Council met on December 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Barcelona, Mayor Herd and Ms. DeCooman attended via phone. Absent: Mr. Daylong and Mrs. Spina.

A motion to approve the November meeting minutes was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Correspondence: Millage report, EMS donation request, Brownsville Library request, KLH re-appointment.

Reports for November: Fire = 9 calls; EMS = 10 calls; No police report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Income = \$44,630.50; Expenses = \$55,178.37. YTD (-) 12,057.73.

Borough Improvement: Absent.

Parks: Balance due (\$38,552.37) for the Lower Speers Park – Phase 1. Pay from LSA account until we get reimbursed from the final grant payment.

Grants: Absent.

Streetlights: No outages reported.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd reported that the Van Beck building is empty and they filed to be tax exempt; they were approved in the amount of \$5,000. Options are being discussed on what to do with the building. The Authority is asking Washington County for money.

Mayor Herd: Commented the bridge project is starting; Lower Speers Park project is almost complete; Road crew contracts are being negotiated, Garbage contracts, Budget for 2025. Thanked everyone for all the work being done this year. Mayor Herd suggests looking into grants for the bridge repairs; another inspection is coming up and we need to stay proactive to cover the costs of the inspection findings. He also stated the donations are getting excessive, we are using taxpayer's money; it is ok to say no sometimes. It is starting to affect the finances. Mayor Herd recommends to seriously look at the bills and ask questions before approving.

Dennis Carson report: pick-up leaves on streets, blow and pick-up leaves at the park, clean steps to RT 88, change batteries in smoke detectors, replace flag at Honor Roll, cut grass, attached salt spreader, flushed sewer line on Lewis Ave, clean Borough building, had trucks inspected, 8 One Calls and 3 downspout inspections.

ENGINEER: Mr. Creagh attended via phone: Reported on the progress on the Lower Speers Park - El Grande will finish paving next week with line painting and fencing to follow. Project should be completed the week of December 16th weather permitting. Mr. Creagh is following up with the RACW regarding the LSA grant. He is also working with the DCNR to expedite reimbursement for the final grant payment. Bridge project – Allison Park sent the contracts back and now waiting for a start date due to upcoming weather restrictions. The project could possibly be pushed until Spring 2025. Mr. Creagh will look into who was working around the bridge this week.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint reviewed the Wheeling & Lake Erie agreement. It is required and needs to be signed. He reviewed the cooperation agreement and pointed out some concerns that Council needs to be aware of before signing. He described the details of performance bonds. Since this is including grant money, the documents are required and must be signed. Mr. Lint confirmed the millage for 2025. He commented on the new garbage contract evaluations. Fayette Waste was the lowest bidder. A motion to award the contract to Fayette Waste was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Citizens: Bill Kinney – 604 Speers Ave – Mr. Kinney complained about basketball hoops on the sidewalks. He previously issued a complaint and wants to know what can be done about it. He admitted he considered faking an injury from tripping over a basketball hoop at 606 Speers Ave and filing a fraud claim and suing them and the Borough. He also issued a complaint against 606 Speers Ave regarding their trailer being parked across the street.

Al Rost – asked if we had paperwork on the legalities of blocking sidewalks; what is the garbage increase for next year; Can we add messages for Civic Club to the website, Facebook and digital signs?

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of \$13,830.61.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: A motion to accept the proposed 2025 budget was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. McCorkle. Mr. Hepple stated that we need to get the spending under control. Mr. McCorkle stated that everyone should get a cost of living increase. Everyone is concerned with the expenses.

NEW BUSINESS: Vince Tresco, Tresco Paving, spoke on the plans for the Mobile Office Trailer and Bituminous Hot Mix Plant that he intends to build in Speers Borough. He reviewed all the land development plans and answered any and all questions (plant operating hours, noise levels, smells, tree border, run-off, river access). The company is compliant with all the required permits through the State and Borough. Mr. Tresco will bond and maintain the road (Walnut Street- Dunlevy) leading into the plant. Plans are available for review. A motion to approve the plans was made by Mr. Hepple and Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mrs. Barcelona spoke on partnering with Mid Mon Valley Planning & Zoning. She will look further into.

Brownsville Library donation – Not at this time.

EMS donation for 2025 – A motion for a one-time donation of \$5,000 was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

A motion to re-appoint K LH Engineers for 2025 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

2025 Millage will increase to 3.6.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.