

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

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

Secretary read correspondence: TCB meeting – Sept 21 at Bentleyville VFD; Interactive Gaming payment = \$13,657.59.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

August: Police – No report; Fire: 7 calls, EMS – 23 calls.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Absent.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – Income = \$53,575.20; Expenses = \$47,690.76. YTD (+) \$94,468.34.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing to report at this time.

Streetlights: No outages reported.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Working on decisions for the Lower Speers Park. She has not received any updates from Mr. Krider regarding the specs or estimates on fencing or mulch. Mrs. Barcelona and Mr. Krider did meet at the park to discuss a few options, just waiting for his responses. Mrs. Barcelona will try to get the estimates herself and pick the equipment to move forward. Then she will reach out to Ashley for the next steps.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd stated that the Transit Authority placed in the Top 5 in the “Best of the Best” contest in the Mon Valley; encouraged everyone to continue voting. At the last meeting, contract talks took place; report available for review.

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

Mayor Herd commented that the Borough finances are looking great, thanks to everyone involved. He also asked if we should hold another parking ordinance meeting to discuss further? Not at this time. A parking committee run by residents was suggested. Resident Jarret Ross spoke on the parking. He was unable to attend the previous meeting. He relayed that residents are not parking in their driveways or garages and are “saving” spots for other family members. Council cannot force people to use their driveways or garages. Mr. Ross is against an ordinance prohibiting parking in yards.

Mayor Herd also reported that the Police Board budget will be ratified probably next month. He reported that it will increase substantially. The Police helped to bail out Charleroi Borough last year, for more Police Officers, to help reduce the cost, so that surplus (\$60,000) is now depleted.

Mayor Herd reported that some of the immigrants are being taught English at the Presbyterian Church. They are a benefit to our area and need help. Clothing donations are being accepted.

Dennis Carson’s Report – Cut grass, weed whack, spray weeds, flush sewer lines on Lewis Street, trim shrubs at borough building, paint curbs, clean catch basins after rainstorms, cut trees on streets after storms, spray bees in stop sign poles, check on sewer problems along RT 88, 9 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections.

Engineer/Code Enforcement – Not present at the meeting. No update report sent in.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – spoke on the parking ordinance. He recommends that Council and/or the committee review the current ordinance entirely. Change or amend the ordinance only once.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$20,543.84.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Lint presented the ordinance and resolution for the Tax Credit (Act 172) for Volunteer Members of Fire Companies and Non-Profit Medical Service Agencies for the Charleroi Volunteer Fire Department. Both were advertised and ready to act on. A motion to adopt the Tax Credit was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. Daylong. A motion to accept the resolution regarding the qualifications and criteria that must be met was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. McCorkle. Both are available for review.

NEW BUSINESS: Halloween: Parade line-up at the church will be October 28th at 4:30. Parade will start at 5:00 down to the Borough building. Trick or Treat will follow from 6:00 pm to 8:00pm. Council will make personal donations for treat bags.

Mayor Herd reported that Charleroi Borough is donating the money from the Water Authority (sewage sale) to the Police Dept and Fire Dept. The Police Dept would like to purchase 2 new police cars. They would need additional funds to cover the difference. Charleroi Borough wants Speers Borough and North Charleroi to cover the difference in the cost (\$7,500). The cars were already ordered without the money available. Charleroi Borough said the money is there from the Water Authority (sewage sale) but we would have to cover the difference. Why can't the Police Board contact the bigger industries in the area to help with the costs? The taxpayers are already paying almost \$19,000 a month for police coverage. Some businesses have donated toward the Police Dept. Charleroi Borough is spending money they do not have, they are spending other borough's money. At this time, Speers Council is not comfortable committing anything to them. It is not right that they (Charleroi Borough) are committing our money without our approval or discussion. They need to explore other avenues first.

A motion to change Short Street to Back Street was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple. Secretary will contact Department of Public Safety (County 911) and also Parcel Viewer with the update. A letter will also be sent to the Vorhes residence stating the new address of 100 Back Street for their property.

Mrs. Spina spoke on the access road behind GE. The emergency access is blocked by a trailer. We will have the Police run the plate and contact the owner for it to be moved.

A motion for the yearly donation to the Charleroi Volunteer Fire Dept in the amount of \$6,000 was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Secretary will contact Animal Control to confirm responsibilities. Reports are available for review.

A motion to pay the bills, except for an invoice (75435) from KLH regarding engineer fees, was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple.