

The Borough of Speers Council met on February 7, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong, Ms. DeCooman and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. McCorkle (prior notification).

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

Correspondence: Thank you cards and letters from EMS and Little Great Race; Tri-County Borough Meeting is 2/15/2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Sons of Italy in Brownsville.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

January calls – Police: 157, EMS: 15, Fire: 8. Reports available for review.

Streets: Mr. Rice – Nothing to report.

Finance: Income: \$66,360.86; Expenses: \$56,185.79; YTD (+) \$10,175.07.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing to report.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona & Ms. DeCooman – Mrs. Barcelona spoke with Ashley regarding the Lower Speers Park Project; information still needs submitted. Mr. Krider did not file what was required. He is no longer associated with this project. The secretary did receive the required signage for the park. Secretary will obtain a copy of the deed to the park.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – presented an application at the Washington County meeting for an additional LSA grant for the Lower Speers Park. We were awarded the grant, waiting for notification paperwork. She also spoke on the DCNR grants that Jamie Colecchi spoke about at the December 2023 meeting. After spending several hours researching, there is NOT any grants available for the Bridge project. Council is not pursuing grants any further at this time. Every time we apply for a grant, it delays the project by almost a year. Mr. Lint suggested looking into SPC (South Western Pennsylvania Corporation) for funding monies for the Bridge project. Mrs. Spina and Mayor Herd will look into and contact Nancy at the MVTA for additional information.

Streetlights: Secretary reported to WPP 7 lights out around the Borough. Mr. Daylong stated that WPP may possibly remove the old poles that are still beside the new poles.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – re-organization meeting was held in January; COVID money is ending; 9 new buses are in rotation. Meeting minutes are available for review.

Mayor Herd: thanked Dennis and Tim for all their hard work and long hours of plowing to keep the streets safe. He spoke briefly on sewage sale; ABC will discuss and be in touch with information before any talks continue. Mayor Herd commented on the garbage contract that will expire at the end of this year. We cannot negotiate with companies. It will have to be put out for bid. He reported on damage to the digital sign. He suggested putting posts around the

sign. Mr. Zahand was supposed to fix this last year when it was reported to him (July 2023 minutes). Mayor Herd is reaching out to contacts to get financial support for the bridge project.

Dennis Carson report: Plowed and salted the streets, fixed manhole cover at State and Lewis, 3 loads of salt delivered, cleaned catch basins, washed trucks, cleaned off road from a fallen tree, started installing the new leaf machine, 6 One Calls. He questioned the status of available grants for paving the Industrial Park. He obtained 2 bids before. The roads are getting worse. Grants or Liquid Fuels?

ENGINEER REPORT: Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mayor Herd and secretary met with Mr. Creagh and Mr. Gibson from KLH regarding the ongoing issues/problems with invoices, projects and Mr. Krider. After a lengthy conversation it was decided that Mr. Krider will no longer represent Speers Borough as the engineer. Mr. Creagh will take over on the Arentzen Bridge Project and the Lower Speers Park Project. He was not aware of the Lower Speers Park Project. It was discussed to initiate a retainer that will cover certain costs (meetings, calls, reports). We would need in writing what specifically would be covered and the fee. Mr. Creagh said he will only charge a fee to open the bids for the bridge project. No other fees will be submitted. Mr. Creagh stated he could attend all meetings or do a quick zoom meeting prior to the monthly Council meeting to give an update or email a report.

Mr. Creagh was not present at this Council meeting. He did email a report that is available for review. He will re-bid the bridge project in the near future and hold a mandatory pre-bid meeting for contractors. He will encourage larger construction companies to place a bid. He will also contact the railroad company for clarification on their access demands.

Mr. Creagh also reached out to DCNR for an update on what items need submitted for the Lower Speers Park Project as Mr. Krider did not submit the required documents. A motion to pay the previously held invoices totaling \$18,421.70 was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. Daylong. All in favor.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint reviewed the 2024 bidding thresholds. He gathered some information regarding the possible sewage sale that Mr. Rost was inquiring about. Before any sale, PUC would have to approve. He will relay the information to Mr. Rost.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$55,845.13.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINEES: Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Hepple spoke on the digital sign; Can we add a roof or poles for protection? It is not on our property, we would need permission. Mr. Zahand was supposed to obtain permits for the sign. Mr. Hepple also spoke on rental properties and inspections. Council discussed options for securing new code enforcement. We need to start seeing results on violations.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Ms. DeCooman and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.