

The Borough of Speers Council met on February 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Ms. DeCooman, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Hepple and Mayor Herd.

Council held interviews to fill the vacancy from Mr. Daylong's resignation. Council appointed John Sauer to fill that chair for the remainder of 2025. Roll call – all yes. A motion to accept Lori Spina's resignation effective immediately was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle. Council appointed Morgan Hartley to fill that chair for the remainder of 2025. Roll call – all yes. Judge Porter swore in both candidates.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Ms. DeCooman.

Mr. Dennis Martinak spoke regarding the Mon River Towns Program. The initiative of the program focuses on improving the quality of life in the Monongahela River Valley corridor. Information available upon request. They are not asking for anything financial for the maintenance of this program. In the future if a grant is applied for there may be a financial commitment that will be asked for.

CORRESPONDENCE: Tri-County Borough meeting February 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dunlevy Rec Center. The proposed bus turnaround in the IDC Park shows no archeological concerns.

REPORTS: CALLS FOR JANUARY: Police: 225, Fire: 10, EMS: 13.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Mr. McCorkle: January report: Income: \$97,411.80. Expenses: \$55,998.86. YTD (+) \$41,412.94.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Sauer and Ms. DeCooman will work together.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Mr. Creagh will explain under his report.

Grants: Ms. Hartley and Mrs. Barcelona will work together.

Streetlights: 3 light poles – outages reported.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – confirmed that there are no archeological concerns with the possible bus turnaround in the industrial park. He also stated that Westmoreland County contributes more financially than Washington County.

Mayor Herd report: spoke on the federal freeze; funding and programs are going to be cut and we need to watch our spending. He thanked Mr. Daylong and Mrs. Spina for their time on Council. He also thanked Dennis and Tim for keeping the roads safe during the ice and snow storms. Mayor Herd suggested looking into additional grants to cover the fees for the bridge repairs. Mr. Sauer will be the alternate for the Police Board. Mayor Herd encouraged members to consider running again for the Council chairs in the next election. If anyone sees power lines

down or water leaking, please report to the utility companies to keep the borough safe. He thanked everyone who sent in letters of interest for the open position(s).

Dennis Carson Report: plowed and salted streets, installed new rubber on plow, two loads of salt delivered, stacked two loads of salt from Charleroi, cleaned ice from ramp and sidewalks at borough building, mopped and cleaned building, cleaned salt out of both trucks and washed trucks, washed salt off of bobcat, worked on 12 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections.

ENGINEER: Mr. Creagh via phone – working on getting the reimbursements for the Lower Speers Park project. DCNR is being very difficult to work with. RAWC is moving along quicker.

Allison Park is starting the bridge repair project the week of February 10th. KLH and Penn Dot will work together for inspections.

The 2024 bridge inspection report from SAI will be forwarded to Mr. Creagh and Mr. Wagner.

Mr. Creagh spoke on the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant available. Information available. Ms. DeCooman will look into as well.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint submitted the millage ordinance to the tax assessment office. He also reviewed the requirements for filing vacant Council chairs and the term limits.

CITIZENS: Bill Kinney – 604 Speers Ave, spoke at December's meeting regarding a trailer parked on the road in front of his house. That trailer was removed already. He questioned the status of basketball hoops on sidewalks. Code enforcement sent out letters. He stated another complaint with the same neighbors of letting their kids ride motorized scooters/bikes on the roads. Mr. Kinney was instructed to call the Police. Mr. Lint stated this is a legal matter, not a borough matter. Council is not responsible for this.

Mr. Al Rost – spoke on the CSO – wants clarification of where the money is. Mr. McCorkle contacted the Water Authority for explanation. The storm water and sewage are not separated which caused the need for the pump station. Mr. Rost will contact the Water Authority under the Right To Know request to get a clear and complete explanation. Council was not given the correct information.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$84,351.49.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Should we consider using Liquid Fuels funds to cover the bridge repairs or for paving the industrial park? Where are the actual grant funds that we were awarded? Mrs. Spina was handling this and business donations; Mr. McCorkle will contact her for the information. Mr. Rice and Mrs. Barcelona will contact GE again to follow up on a donation. Businesses may need to step up and help cover costs for the bridge repair and/or paving. Some of their heavy equipment is the cause for the deterioration of the roads and bridge.

A motion to rescind the previous vote to stop applying for grants was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

NEW BUSINESS: Ms. Hartley and Ms. DeCooman will work with Mr. McCorkle on the digital sign messages. Mr. McCorkle is waiting for Mr. Zahand to remove the lock from the sign so it can be reset.

A motion to continue the agreement with United Code Consultants was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.

Secretary will order more letterhead.

Mr. McCorkle will review the EOP (Emergency Operations Plan) and update if needed.

Ms. DeCooman spoke on the PA Small Water grant; it is a 15% match. She will research further and discuss at the next meeting. Council will look into if our storm water and sewage is separated or not, there is conflicting information being provided by the Water Authority.

We will pursue possibly hiring a road crew worker in May or June. We will add to the March agenda for further discussion.

A motion for Speers Borough to join the Mon River Towns Program was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona. Resolution will be signed.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 pm was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer.