

The Borough of Speers Council met on February 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Todora, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd.

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

Three letters of interest were received for the open Council seat. Council held interviews with Mr. Terry Planton, Mr. Jeremy Hepple and Ms. Denise DeCooman. A motion to nominate Mr. Hepple was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. A motion to nominate Mr. Planton was made by Mrs. Barcelona, no second. Mr. Rice asked for any other nominations. Mr. Hepple will fill the Council seat for the remainder of the 2023 term. Mr. Hepple will schedule an appointment with Judge Porter to be sworn in.

Mr. Steve Morgan, 15 Arentzen Blvd, spoke to Council regarding preparing a bid for paving at the Industrial Park to submit with a grant application. He is speaking on behalf of himself and Michelle Ivall, representing the Vista Building. FMC Tech bought property at 12 Arentzen Blvd along with the rest of the road and cul-de-sac; which eliminated a turn-around area for tractor trailer trucks. Trucks are still trying to turn around in smaller lots causing property damage, ruining asphalt, hitting streetlights and stop signs. What can be done to prevent this? This is an Industrial Park with dead-end roads. There has to be somewhere for trucks to turn around. Mr. Rice will contact Jamie at Mon Valley Alliance to find a solution. Mr. Morgan also questioned about purchasing a vacant parcel of land by the bridge. Mr. Rice will ask Jamie about that as well.

Correspondence: Tri-County Borough meeting will be held on February 16, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at Newell Santa Barbara Club.

POLICE: January report not available for meeting.

EMS: December: 18 calls for Speers; January: 14 calls for Speers. Reports available.

FIRE: January: 7 calls for Speers; 49 total for the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

STREETS & SEWERS: Mr. Todora – Reported that he cannot submit the grant application for sewer lines until October; he will work on obtaining bids that are required for the application.

FINANCE: Mr. McCorkle – January budget is complete: Income: \$44,440.32; Expenses: \$62,115.83. Reminded residents that the garbage bills are due. Speers refuse contract is separate from Charleroi.

BOROUGH IMPROVEMENT: Mr. Daylong – nothing to report at this time.

STREETLIGHTS: Secretary reported 3 streetlights out to WPP.

PARKS: Mrs. Barcelona- met with Play World regarding the playground for the Lower Speers Park. He gave recommendations on flooring and equipment. The total cost will probably exceed the grant amount. Fencing will also be an additional cost.

GRANTS: Mrs. Spina – along with Mr. Rice met with the LSA Board to submit grant applications for digital speed limit signs and bridge repairs. We are waiting to hear if we are approved.

TRANSIT AUTHORITY: Mayor Herd – ridership is down right now. The new stop in Upper Speers had 18 riders for December.

Mayor Herd: thanked Mrs. Spina for presenting the grant applications. He spoke on the resignation of Mr. Sauer and appreciates his time on Council, calling him an asset to the community. Mr. Herd received a couple of quotes on pavilion floors for the Upper Speers Park. Council needs to decide if we are paying for the floors or applying for a grant. We will need specs to advertise for the project. In addition to the new floors, do we include gutters, French drains and roof? If we pay for the floors ourself, where is the money coming from? Mr. Daylong commented that the majority of the residents do not use the park, is it fair to use taxpayer's money to pay for it? And if we start using Borough money, will we have to raise taxes? Mr. Todora asked if this can be a community effort with volunteers? From a legal standpoint, it becomes a liability insurance issue if others are involved and get hurt. A motion to advertise for sealed bids for replacing the (3) pavilion floors was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Todora; all in favor. Mr. Hepple commented that the project might be completed by rental season but will the grounds be restored by then? The heavy equipment being used will possibly damage the property. There is potential for ruts and a muddy mess that renters will have to deal with. Is that fair? Also, Civic Club hosts Easter Egg Hunts in the park as well, that will affect that. Mr. Rost stated to understand what the problems were with the floors so it doesn't happen again with the new floors.

Dennis Carson's Report: plow and salt streets, cold-patch potholes, fixed sink hole on Anne Ave, reported streetlights out, attended 811 meetings, cleaned catch basins, got 2 abandoned vehicles removed, 2 loads of salt delivered, 4 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections. He suggested having the Police report streetlights out since WPP is not responding quickly when the secretary reports them.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint reviewed the ABC sale requirements. He also spoke regarding an amendment to the current hunting ordinance. Do we want to amend it or follow state laws already in effect? Council will keep the ordinance as is and follow state law. Copy available.

Mr. Todora questioned where can the contractors dump the old concrete from the park? It can be dumped at the park because it is considered clean fill.

CITIZENS: Chris Obitko spoke on hunting in the Borough. Mr. Flament gave his permission for Mr. Obitko to post his property prohibiting hunting. Mr. Obitko would like a letter sent to Mr. Marks banning him from hunting. Can we ban certain hunters? Mr. Lint – No. The Borough

has no authority to ban anyone from someone else's property. The property owner can ban someone and contact the Police. The land owner can post their own property and use purple paint to signify no hunting.

Terry Planton – regarding DCNR grants, how often is money allocated? Has Council considered obtaining a loan in addition to grants? Mr. Planton asked how we replenish funds in certain bank accounts?

Mr. Obitko questioned the timeframe to use the grant funding? Depends on the type of grant.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$32,871.92.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. McCorkle spoke on an electric sliding park gate; estimate is \$9,000 for the hardware, keypads and installation; the actual gate will be an additional \$2,000 - \$5,000. We will look into a grant to cover the cost. We will also contact All Around Fencing for pricing.

Mr. McCorkle – paving at the IDC Park; Morgan Excavating will submit specs when completed; will add to next agenda. Also, the paving the Upper Speers Park road; waiting for quotes/specs from Morgan Excavating.

Mrs. Spina – spoke to Vo-tech, they are willing to build structures around the digital sign, we would just need to pay for the materials. Cement pillars, metal, wood? We need to come up with a few design ideas. Mr. Lint stated that we would need to get permission from Bassi's since it is their property. Penline is supposed to restore the grounds.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rice presented a bid from Mr. Younkin for the hallway remodel, to include lights, ceiling, walls, flooring and doors; he quoted \$6,951. A motion to accept the bid was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Dennis spoke on the JED agreement. We need to request better service for the 2 visits per year being completed in a timely manner. Dennis also presented a quote for a new furnace; \$4,317 or \$3,840. Dennis will also look into a heat pump. We will revisit at the next meeting. We will add CO detectors as well.

Mr. McCorkle commented on getting new picnic tables at the Upper Speers Park; discussed adding concrete corn hole boards (\$1,200). We can reach out to Vo-tech to build.

Mr. McCorkle spoke on the meeting with HMT/KLH regarding the issues with the bridge project and billing. We reviewed the expectations and what needs to change such as communication and transparency. Sealed bids for the bridge repairs will be opened on Friday. Mr. Krider will keep us informed of the results. Flaggers are included in the bid specs.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 p.m. was made Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.