

The Borough of Speers Council met on February 2, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong, Mr. Sauer and 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; all in favor. Mr. Todora questioned why Mr. Rice is included on the Streets and Sewers chair. Mr. Todora does not think it is necessary since Mr. Rice is the President of Council. Mr. Todora questioned why he was not told about a storm drain issue first since he was assigned to that chair. Mr. Rice will be a co-chair/back-up with Mr. Todora. Everyone will be kept aware of what is going on.

No correspondence at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Grants: Mrs. Spina – attended a grant seminar on January 20th. She will present 2 projects today. She stated that we need to have the project in line and ready before applying for a grant. “Your project should drive your grant, not your grant drive your project”. Mrs. Spina stated we are eligible to obtain a grant (\$110,000) to upgrade the Lower Speers Park/playground. We can apply for and receive \$70,000 and would need to obtain \$40,000 in matching funds for the difference. MUST HAVE MATCH SECURED BEFORE APPLYING. She discussed options on how to obtain that money. She also gave options on what else the playground can be turned into. A printout is available for review. All Council members will work on obtaining the information that is required before applying for the grant. Mr. McCorkle will create a survey for resident’s opinion/input. Mr. Sauer will speak to local teachers. Mayor Herd will work on obtaining funds from local businesses. Mr. Todora suggested installing a suggestion box. We will need to obtain bids for fencing/guard rails. HMT will have to develop a site plan. All the information and application needs to be submitted by April 22. Two public meetings will also need to be held by that date. Council will gather all the information and discuss further at the next meeting (3/2/2022). A motion to have HMT develop a site plan for the park was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

Mrs. Spina presented another grant option through the DCED; due by March 15; \$25,000 – 1 million, no match. We could use this for the bridge repairs, just need the inspection report. Mr. Krider stated LSA money has already been allocated for the bridge repair project. Can we use this grant to cover the cost differential? Per Mr. Krider “they (LSA) will cover the difference”, but we do not have that in writing. The total from LSA should be \$150,000. Mrs. Spina reviewed the guidelines for the grant for another project. Mr. Krider spoke on the Redevelopment Authority money that was allocated for Speers Park; the project was put out to bid to be combined with Bentleyville and Houston as one project. The RA is determining if the lowest bidder (Stash) is qualified. The money has been allocated but there is no timeline of when the project will start. The RA money will be used for paving the parking lot and trails (sidewalks) to become ADA accessible. Mr. McCorkle - can we apply for the grant to cover other projects at the park? The other grant can be used for concrete work on the pavilion floors, electrical, and/or new tables. Mayor Herd questioned if we can put a park in Mapleview in the buffer zone? Would there be access to it? Mayor Herd will speak with Ben Brown with MVA for more information. Dennis – can we use grant

funds for re-lining sewer lines? Yes – he will get estimates. Mr. Todora will write up a summary description on the lines. Mr. Todora presented an option for an ordinance pertaining to paving. The state, DEP, already has requirements for paving that we have to follow. Mayor Herd spoke on the possibility of adding a storm drain/catch basin at State and Hosner. Mr. Lint stated that an ordinance is not necessary as it is already addressed in the bid specs for paving projects.

Mr. Todora left the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

Mr. Rice relayed a thank you letter from the Police Dept. for the donation to the Blitz fundraiser. The Dept. raised \$2,129.

Police: Mr. Rice reported 418 calls for the month of January – Speers: 28 calls. Fire Dept: 56 calls.

Mr. Rice and Mr. McCorkle thanked Dennis and Tim for keeping the roads cleared during the snowstorms. Mr. Rice reported that Speers lent salt to Charleroi Borough since they ran out; they did replace it.

FINANCE: Mr. McCorkle – January: income: \$53,365.14; expenses: \$52,587.78; (+) \$777.36.

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

Streetlights: Mr. Rice reminded all Council members are to cover this and report light outages.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing at this time. Mr. Sauer has a list to discuss with Mrs. Barcelona and Mrs. Spina.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – last meeting was cancelled; they were previously discussing adding electronic signs to the buses, cost of approximately \$238,000.

Mr. Rice questioned the status of the digital sign being hooked up; Mrs. Spina - still waiting for WPP to respond. Mr. Zahand is working on.

Executive Session – personnel matter: 8:11 p.m. – 8:31 p.m.

Mayor Herd: presented the framed letter for Mayor Lee; thanked Dennis and Tim for all their hard work. He also reiterated to comment on old business and refresh what is going on.

Dennis Carson's report: removed the leaf box, cleaned streets, attached plows to trucks, plow and salt streets, ordered loads of salt, changed bulbs at the building, repaired street signs on Grandview Way and Phillips St, replaced batteries in smoke alarms, checked sewer line on 101 Grandview Way – line clear, 627 Speers – checked sewer line – dye test – line clear, serviced the bobcat - oil and filter change, 3 downspout inspections, 8 One Calls (4 emergency). Dennis submitted a bid for garage doors and motor for the salt shed.

Engineer – Mr. Krider: submitted the bridge repairs report from Stahl Sheaffer Engineering. Mr. Krider will speak with Ben Brown to see if they will cover the entire cost of the bridge repairs with the LSA grant or if we can use the grant Mrs. Spina is looking into to cover the difference. The initial LSA grant

was for \$120,000, the bridge repairs come in at \$150,000. As for the Engineering costs to do the plans and specs, the Borough was supposed to pay for that additional charge separately. Mrs. Spina questioned the cost of re-lining the sewer lines; to use the grant money for that, ballpark would be well over \$60,000. Mr. Krider stated the park rehab with the RA will definitely be done this year, just not sure when. Mayor Herd asked Mr. Krider when should the repair work begin on the bridge? Another inspection should be due this year. Mr. Krider - as soon as we get the final specs and plans done, this was just a draft, we can get the project out for bid. Mr. Krider stated the project should be posted for bid in April and awarded in May. Mr. Krider stated the LSA money was already allocated last year, we just need to put the spec together. Mayor Herd is just nervous because nothing is in writing of how much LSA grant money we will actually receive. Mr. Krider stated we will not get it in writing. Dennis asked when the park project will get started because we (Borough) rent the park pavilions out all summer and that will interfere with that. Mr. Krider – that is up to the RA. The engineering is done for the park and has been advertised for bids.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint sent letters for 2 properties regarding liens (35 Carson St, 165 Arlington); still waiting for a response. He is still waiting for a response from the ABoC solicitor regarding the agreement to use the property across from Exxon.

CITIZENS: Mr. Locketti: 133 State Street – having issues with their yard flooding after heavy rains; he is asking for another drain to be added at Hosner St. and State St. He stated the neighbors are having issues as well. Council will look into options during the next paving project. Dennis asked if the flooding is from a water line break or when it rains? Mr. Locketti stated both.

John Lunt – not a resident of Speers, but has a complaint regarding a Speers resident (Chris Obitko – 141 State St) using his residential property to run a business; submitted pictures. Mr. Obitko does have a store in town but receives deliveries for his business at his residence. Mr. Lunt stated that Mr. Obitko has customers come to his home to pick up orders. He feels Mr. Obitko is not paying the proper taxes on his residence since it is not zoned for a business. Mr. Lunt states that the delivery trucks are damaging the Borough roads. Mr. Lunt stated that Mr. Obitko owns several properties around the area that he can use to operate a business and should not be allowed to use his residence for any business related matters. Mr. Rice stated that he does have a store in town. Mr. Lunt stated that Mr. Obitko does not use his properties as they are zoned and paying proper taxes. Mr. Lunt thinks we should subpoena records and cite Mr. Obitko when we see a delivery truck at his residence. Mr. Lunt stated that he has ongoing problems with Mr. Obitko for many years now in many different towns/cities; police are involved. Mr. Daylong questioned if there is a Borough ordinance pertaining to running a business out of the home. Code Enforcement will look into. Mr. Lunt also stated he would donate money to our park rehab project regardless of the Obitko situation.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: \$45,306.06

OLD BUSINESS: Mrs. Barcelona – She will still work on getting the money from RA for the park rehab (paving, pavilions, electricity). Mrs. Spina – working on the digital sign. Mr. McCorkle – spoke on a list of roads (all sections of Rebecca St) and alleyways to be paved in the Borough. Mr. Rice suggested looking

at the roads at the IDC Park as well. Mr. Krider stated RA money for next year's allotment could be used for paving. He also suggested using Liquid Fuels. Penn Dot will release advance allotments for up to 10 years in one payment for big paving projects if the Borough should decide on a project that size. Mr. Rice presented a bid for the office remodel; total of \$10,251. Mr. Lint stated we need to get 3 phone bids. After review, **Since we are under the bidding threshold that is not necessary**.

NEW BUSINESS: Dennis submitted a bid for garage doors for the salt shed; Trinity Doors - \$4,450, no windows, Motor - \$1,500. Under the bidding threshold – 3 bids are not necessary. Mr. Sauer asked if the Borough does recycling? No. Why? Not feasible or cost effective. Mr. Sauer also commented on the water line break on Grandview Way; stated the water company blocked off so much of the street during repairs and does not understand why. Mr. Rice stated for safety measures. The Borough has nothing to do with that; that is up to the water company. Mrs. Barcelona presented information on a convention hosted by PSAB. Mrs. Barcelona would like to attend. Training fees are covered in the budget. A motion to cover the fees for Mrs. Barcelona to attend was made by Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mr. Daylong. Mrs. Spina commented on the process of selling rental houses that she personally owns and was approached by 2 staffing companies to buy the rentals to house multiple people. What does our ordinance say regarding that for Speers? Council will review the ordinance and contact the zoning officer. Bob Whiten contacted Mrs. Spina regarding posting an advertisement on the digital sign pertaining to a pizza sell hosted by the fire dept. Can we do non-profit ads? Yes. Mrs. Spina is also requesting a list of commercial properties in the Borough; can ask Jackie if she can provide that. Mrs. Spina is asking for a list of emails for Council members. Mr. Daylong commented that council needs to further discuss code enforcement. Mrs. Spina asked if it is our responsibility to enforce residents to display their addresses on their homes? It is the responsibility of the County to enforce, not the Borough. Mr. Rice wants to clarify the relationship with Mr. Hepple regarding code enforcement only. Mr. McCorkle recommends speaking with Mr. Hepple to review the expectations of the agreement and confirm if he is accepting of the terms. Mr. Hepple will be contacted for code enforcement on an as needed basis only. Mr. Hepple is not to do anything without being contacted first. Mr. Rice will speak with Mr. Hepple to clarify the boundaries.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. Mr. McCorkle questioned Mr. Krider as to why HMT & Associates submits invoices dated several months behind. Mr. Krider will look into.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:19 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.