

The Borough of Speers Council met on January 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Spina, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. Todora. Mr. Sauer submitted a letter of resignation effective immediately.

A motion to approve the previous minutes was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police - calls for the year 2022 = 5,723; Speers = 958 (519 neighborhood checks and lock the park). Fire – for 2022 - 652 total; Speers - 98 calls. Reports available. Mr. McCorkle encouraged Council and residents to attend Charleroi Borough meetings in support of the fire dept. Please advocate to keep the fire dept and the night time program.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Absent.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – December budget complete: Income - \$22,339.87, Expenses - \$44,511.89. YTD: (-) 22,831.77. We went over budget due to HMT for the bridge project. Mr. Lint questioned if we can re-coup/cover the engineer fees out of the grant? Shannon (RDA) stated normally engineers equal 10% of the grant amount, HMT is over that amount. Mr. McCorkle suggested that a few Council members meet with Shannon and Mr. Krider to discuss this project.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong reported a telephone pole leaning and tied to another telephone pole at Arlington Ave and Maple Terrace. He received a call from a resident complaining it is unsafe. West Penn Power is responsible to notify Comcast and Verizon to remove their lines so the pole can be fixed/removed. Nothing has been done.

Streetlights: Secretary reported a light out at Arlington and Linden. Work order was placed.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – will start looking at playground plans for Lower Speers Park. Mrs. Spina received the approval letter for the grant from Ashley Schultz. They will have a meeting to discuss the next steps.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – December meeting was quick, nothing to report.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – wants Council to focus on the wish list projects because the deadline for the grant application is March 23, 2023.

Mayor Herd: contacted T-Rock for an estimate on park pavilion floors. Dennis had already obtained an estimate in 2021 for pavilion floors. HMT met with Dennis and Mrs. Barcelona to upgrade the park back in 2021 and the grant was spent on paving the parking lot instead. Mrs. Spina suggested upgrading the pavilions as well. She will look into available grants to cover. Mayor Herd stated that Mr. Krider said we will probably not get any RDA money this year; which is not true. Mrs. Spina will research. Mr. Krider offered to come to the park to review and make a plan. We already paid HMT to do that and have not received any plans. We are not paying for that again. Mayor Herd stated that he updated the banner on the website. He also spoke about staying on top of the wish list projects. Did Mr. Todora apply for the grant to replace the sewer lines? Did Mr. Todora obtain the information needed for the application? Mayor Herd commented that BIG's Sanitation has pink garbage cans (95 gallons) available for \$130. He also encouraged everyone to attend the water company meetings. It is very important. Mr. Terry Planton spoke on the water company agreement. He reviewed the wordage of the agreement. He has a

copy of the agreement that he is researching. Mr. Planton stressed the importance of not agreeing to the sale of the water company; attend all the meetings if possible. He recommends that Council form a committee to represent Speers. He would like to be on that committee. Mayor Herd gave a brief update regarding the bridge project. Mr. Krider has not completed the bid specs yet. It will be advertised in the Washington Observer when completed. Who will pay for the advertisement? Mayor Herd will ask Shannon. He also asked about the sliding gate for the park. Mr. McCorkle is waiting for more information. Mayor Herd reminded that all borough business must go through the borough office.

Dennis Carson's report: cleaned catch basins, installed a new flag at the building, installed spotlights, fixed bathroom faucet, cold patch potholes, attached the salt spreader, worked on sewer line at the IDC Park, cleaned up the park, removed lock from park gate, because it froze and couldn't get in to plow, springs freezing on Phillips Street and added extra salt; had water company check, added a heat lamp on the bobcat to keep oil from freezing, salted streets, ordered more salt, washed both trucks, 5 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint submitted liens that were filed at the Courthouse, filed millage report and reported on updated bidding requirement thresholds. Mr. Lint spoke on the current hunting ordinance. He suggests amending the wording to include bows and crossbows as deadly weapons and cannot be discharged within borough limits. He will present a draft at February's meeting. Borough ordinance trumps private property.

Engineer: Not Present.

Correspondence: Letter from library requesting donations; hallway bid – will add to February agenda.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$2,518.66.

OLD BUSINESS: Mayor Herd – who will help with the parks now that Mr. Sauer resigned.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Lint informed that Council needs to act on accepting Mr. Sauer's resignation. They have 30 days to appoint new member. They will accept letters of interest for the position. Secretary will advertise for the open Council chair. A motion to accept Mr. Sauer resignation was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Council discussed sending a letter to Mr. Todora requesting his resignation due to his absence of meetings because if he is not going to be attending meetings contributing to his constituents that he was elected by, then he should take into consideration of resigning.

Mayor Herd spoke on adding cement posts around the digital signs. We will look for a grant.

Mrs. Spina received a call proposing re-naming the bridge that crosses over Rt 70 after Mr. Lee. That is a PennDot bridge; that would be their decision. We can look into.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.