

The Borough of Speers Council met on July 5, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Spina, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mr. Hepple. Absent was Mr. Todora.

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

Correspondence: Act 13 – PUC allotment is \$29,841.

Committee Reports:

Police – 33 calls, Fire – 5 calls, EMS – 14 calls; June reports available for review.

Streets: Mr. Todora – Absent.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – June: Income = \$71,707.49; Expenses = \$52,667.61. YTD (+) \$27,868.99.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing at this time. Mr. McCorkle reported on the code violation at the new Frick Bank location, was reported to Code Enforcement.

Council reminded that all complaints/concerns should be reported by calling the Borough Office not posted on social media.

Streetlights: Nothing to report.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Reported that she has reached out to Mr. Krider a few weeks ago and she is still waiting for a call back with the information that he was to obtain regarding the Lower Speers Park project. She is also researching ideas for the entrance to the Upper Speers Park.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – Reported the Park n Ride should be re-opened in the next week or so.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – registered with a grant site for information. She will apply for a transportation grant to cover the digital speed limit sign that was previously discussed. She is also looking into a DNCR park rehab grant. Mrs. Spina spoke on obtaining additional funding for the bridge project. She would like to set up a meeting with Bret, Chief Financial Director, at GE regarding matching funds.

Mayor Herd: Expressed gratitude for all the effort and support that was given to the water company. Special thanks to Mrs. Spina. Mrs. Spina stated it was a team effort. Mayor Herd also commented on the decorum at other Council meetings, the lack of respectful attitude and appearance. He is very proud and impressed with the way Speers Council handles themselves. A resident on Elizabeth St. has a flag pole that she would like to donate to the Borough to install at the park. He also reported that there is more of a police presence in the Borough.

Dennis Carson's Report: cut grass, weed whack, sprayed weeds, clean storm drains, cold-patch potholes, clean park for rentals, paint yellow lines, paint blue lines for handicap parking stalls, repaired toilet issues at the park restrooms, 9 downspout inspections and 21 One Calls.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – presented an ordinance and resolution draft regarding the Tax Credit, Act 172. He reviewed several steps that would need addressed; application, review by the Fire Chief, check eligibility, service log of volunteers, tax credit registry. Certain duties would impose on the Borough, Secretary and Fire Chief as well as Mrs. Galiffa as the tax collector. Council will review and discuss at the next meeting.

Citizens: Maria Campieri/Scott Bergman spoke on several topics. She would like to see a post on the digital signs regarding when garbage pick-up is. She is also very concerned with the kids riding around the neighborhood on motorized bikes/scooters. The kids are going very fast down the middle of the roads and not stopping at intersections and/or stop signs. She was instructed to call the police when she witnesses it. Ms. Campieri also stated the house and yard on Elizabeth St. is an eye sore and needs cleaned up. She would like something done about it. She has concerns about the tree in that yard. She would like to see it cut down or trimmed. She is also asking about municipal codes for commercial properties. She is concerned with the business across the street from her house. She commented that kids are sitting on the picnic tables in the parking lot and using profanity and throwing garbage. The business is current on all permits needed to operate a business. The property is zoned for commercial. It was not what she wanted nor her vision live across from a business. Ms. Campieri stated the owner held a fundraiser in the parking lot one day and they were not notified ahead of time. Ms. Campieri and Mr. Bergman are not happy with the parking lot being used as a turn around when the business is closed. They commented that kids are spinning tires and hanging out of the car windows. What can we do? Council stated that it is not because of the business if it is happening after hours when they are closed, contact the police if you see that happening. Mr. Bergman does not see the need for a digital speed limit sign (that was discussed earlier in the meeting) if people cannot stop at an actual stop sign. They would like to see safety reminders posted on the digital signs.

Mr. Daylong would like residents to maintain their property. Can we force them? Mr. Bergman asked if property is bought in the Borough, what type of structure can be placed on the lot so it does not affect the value of other properties?

Al Rost asked what can be placed on lots? A structure has to be there for occupancy? Just a garage? Mr. Lint confirmed that Planning and Zoning would have to approve plans.

Old/Unfinished Business: Mr. Daylong spoke regarding the property at the corner of Grandview Way and RT 88, overgrown shrubs are making it hard to see. A letter was sent regarding the code violation. Also, cars are parking on the sidewalk making it a safety issue. Code Enforcement will be contacted.

Mrs. Barcelona is working on ideas for the Upper Speers Park entrance. She will speak with Dennis/Tim to see what is practical and maintainable.

Mr. Daylong spoke on re-naming Short Street. Council discussed again and the street will not be re-named at this time.

Mr. McCorkle spoke on speed bumps. Per Penn Dot handbook: "If the municipality has them design as "Speed Bumps, 12" speed bumps on the liquid fuels road then the said roads would lose their liquid fuels allocation for that roadway. Those speed bumps are classified you cannot drive 15 mph safely, which is a requirement to stay on liquid fuels.

Morgan Excavating questioned the status of paving at the IDC Park. We asked them for quotes for the paving project and he submitted 2 quotes. Mrs. Spina stated there is not a grant available for that right now. She will look again for funding available. She has the previous quotes to use as specs, but those prices may have increased by now.

Mr. Hepple questioned who is doing maintenance on the digital signs? The poles are rusted. There is a dent as well. Penn Dot tried to have it repaired but Mr. Zahand said no that he would take care of it.

Mrs. Spina will contact Mr. Zahand again and check on the repairs. Mr. Hepple is asking if there is a verbal or written agreement with Morgan Excavating that they can burn? Code Enforcement will check.

Mayor Herd looked into having a Venmo account, per Mr. Hepple's suggestion, to pay for park rentals; not interested at this time.

Dennis discussed increasing the fee for downspout inspections. It is a lengthy process and the cost of dye has increased. We will check ordinances and discuss at the next meeting.

Mr. Rice spoke on code violations and zoning issues. Dennis and Jody will still send out the initial violation letter. If it is not handled, then Code will get involved. Planning and Zoning officer needs to handle more of the zoning issues.

New Business:

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

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of \$51,009.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.