The Borough of Speers Council met on July 1, 2026 at 7:30p.m.

In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Reinhard, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Devine, Dr. Hartley, Ms. Barcelona and Mr. McDonough.

A motion to approve the June meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Dr. Hartley; all in favor.

Correspondence: Little Great Race donation request.

Citizens: Mrs. Garnet Krutz questioned tax and garbage bills. She was instructed to contact the tax collector as she handles both accounts.

Mr. Marshall spoke on the approval of the GE variance and the requirements that have not been met yet. The approval from the ZHB was contingent on certain items being met. Council will look into the status of the requirements. He also questioned the ordinance on nuisance properties and who enforces it. The process was explained (letters sent, follow up with Code Enforcement, contact magistrate). Unfortunately, it can be a long process and not an immediate resolution. Mrs. Reinhard will help with reporting problem properties. Residents are welcome to contact Mrs. Reinhard or the borough office with questions and/or concerns. Residents are asking what can they do to help? It is private property so it is not legal to just go on certain properties. We will continue to work on this issue.

Bill Kinney – 604 Speers - complaining about one trailer attached to a truck parked on the street down from his house. He is complaining that lawn mowers are in their side yard (not a violation).

Mr. Tom Altmiller – 20 Hillcrest – lives across from an unkempt property with overgrown weeds and grass, broken down vehicles. Letters were sent, with no response. Police tagged one vehicle months ago. Mrs. Devine will follow up with police on towing the other truck. Residents are not following the ordinances regarding permits, installing fences, parking on sidewalks and yellow curbs.

The process of handling code violations was reviewed again. Mr. Lint explained the law and the timeline of the process. There are multiple steps involved. Can the resident be fined? Yes, but that doesn't mean they will pay. Council understands the frustration. We still have to follow the law and process. Mr. Rice will speak with the judge to voice the concerns.

A resident asked if he can trim hedges back along the sidewalk? If it is on private property you have to ask the property owner.

A resident reported that the Mapleview sign needs repaired and painted.

Several residents complained that parking violations (parking on sidewalks and yellow curbs, blocking wheelchair ramps) are not being handled. Police patrol several times a day without issuing tickets or warnings for these violations. Why not? Residents do call the police to report issues and they are not being addressed. The borough pays a lot of money for police, why are they not doing their job? Council recommends to attend the Police Board meeting on July 15 at 6:30 p.m. to address concerns.

Reports: calls for June – Police = 213 calls; Fire Dept = 13 calls. No EMS report.

Committee Reports:

Finance: Mr. McCorkle: June - Income = $93,516.22; Expenses: $74,701.58. YTD (+) $12,315.53.

Borough Improvement: Mrs. Reinhard – Dedicated to working on blight properties.

Parks: Ms. Barcelona – No new updates at this time.

Grants: Dr. Hartley – Working with Penn Dot regarding takeover for the Arentzen Bridge repairs and how to use the Multi-modal grants funds. We are hoping to hear a response in September on the 2 LSA grants that were applied for. She is reviewing additional funding options (loans, County LSA, Liquid Fuels) to help with a new dump truck.

MS4: Mrs. Devine – completing the mapping for outfalls/drains with Andrew and Marissa and filing the reports that are due.

Supplies: Mr. McDonough – gave approval to Tim for necessities.

Streetlights: No new reports.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – the last meeting was a re-organization meeting and discussion of route changes (minutes available to review).

Mayor Herd – strongly suggests that the donation requests need to be addressed (Fire Dept - $3,000 and EMS $5,500). While he agrees that all first responders are extremely essential and important, we have to be aware of our finances and limit how much we keep donating. He suggests cutting the request for now and reevaluate the finances at the end of the year. The borough has several unexpected expenses that need addressed first. Mrs. Reinhard applauded the Mayor for speaking up. Just because we get multiple requests, does not mean we have to approve every one even if it is for a good cause. We need to budget for our projects and needs as well. This is taxpayer's money. We cannot raise taxes to cover donation requests. She suggests having a form and deadline for all donation requests to be awarded for the following year. That way they can all be reviewed and budgeted for responsibly. There might be other ways to help such as fundraising. Mr. McCorkle reminded that the volunteer fire dept. runs approximately 750 calls a year. He did relate that the department is fundraising and self-

supporting most of the time but they still need financial help. Can we use the Act 13 funds to cover the donation request? As far as EMS, insurance companies do not pay/reimburse much for ambulance service. The subscriptions for service are very low which is why they are asking for a yearly donation of $5,500. Certain donations are budgeted for but unfortunately other unexpected expenses arose that the borough needs to address first.

Tim Anthony: Street report – clean up after storms, electric lines were down at the park, cleaned downed trees from streets, repaired collapsed storm drain in Lower Speers, cleaned drains and catch basins, replaced fallen stop signs, sprayed weeds, cut grass, weed whacked, worked with gas company to pave curb to curb in Lower Speers, tried to get a date for repaving the intersection of State and Maple – not getting a straight answer from the water company; PennDot is also doing a project on State St., 15 One Calls, stated that GE is planning another project in the future for a parking garage (nothing has been formally submitted for a permit). Mr. McCorkle spoke with Jonna regarding the project for tar and chipping the IDC Park. Jonna will handle bid information and advertising.

Engineer: Mr. Rizzo – Marissa working with Arlene for MS4 requirements. Arentzen Bridge project with Allison Park is paid in full and closed.

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of $71,679.70.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – reviewed and approved the volunteer release wavier. He advertised for the residential rental property ordinance adoption. He provided a draft for an ordinance pertaining to deteriorated properties, public nuisance for adoption at the August meeting.

Old Business: A motion to adopt the rental registration ordinance was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Devine; all in favor. Mr. McCorkle met with Mike with the Water Company regarding dumping at the park by the basketball court. Mike told Tim Anthony that they have other dump sites so there will be no dumping at our park. Mrs. Reinhard stated permits for dumping need to go through the Conservation District. A motion to rescind the prior approval for dumping was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Barcelona; Mr. McCorkle opposed. Residents will not be permitted to dump. No organization outside of Speers workers will be permitted to dump; motion made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard; all in favor.

New Business: EMS and Fire Dept donation discussion. Comments were made that if we do not make donations to help support them, hypothetically when help is needed, hopefully emergency services will show up. A resident questioned that comment stating residents already pay into that when taxes are paid per the budget report. The Borough does pay monthly for police and fire protection. A motion to donate $2,500 to Rostraver/West Newton EMS was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Dr. Hartley; all in favor. Council will review the finances

and possibly be able to pay the remaining balance at a later date. The Fire Dept. is asking for a $3,000 donation for a new siren. It was suggested to use the allotment from Act 13 (as of meeting date, Speers had not received). Charleroi Borough received their allotment of $81,000 but refused the donation request. It's not right that the Fire Dept. has to fundraise for all their money. A motion to table the Fire Dept. donation request until next month to review our finances was made by Dr. Hartley and seconded by Ms. Barcelona; Mr. McCorkle opposed. The waterline at the park is leaking several gallons a day. Desak's plumbing gave an estimate of $2,850 which will include saw cut and jack hammer concrete to dig up outside faucet, install ¾" frost free yard hydrant, backfill with 2B gravel and replace cement. Per Mr. Lint this is considered an emergent situation. A motion to approve the bid and pay for with park funds was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. McDonough; all in favor. A motion to write a letter of support for the Fire Dept for an LSA grant ($120,000) to help cover the cost of aging rescue tools/equipment was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Dr. Hartley. A motion to be a returning block sponsor with a $325 donation for the Little Great Race was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. McDonough; all in favor. A motion to have all future contracts, effective today, reviewed by the Borough Solicitor before signing was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Barcelona; all in favor. Mr. McDonough suggested moving meetings to the back room to accommodate for more space. The back room belongs to the Civic Club.

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

Executive Session: Personnel matter – 9:17 p.m. – 9:37 p.m.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m. was made by Mr. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Barcelona.