

The Borough of Speers Council met on July 7, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mr. McCorkle, Ms. DeCooman, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mr. Hepple.

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.

Secretary read the correspondence: Act 13 payment - \$14,766.00.

POLICE: Calls for the month of June - 33 call; Fire – 7 calls; EMS – 16 calls.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets: will discuss under Dennis Carson's report.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – budget for June is complete; income = \$73,120.10; expenditures = \$48,726.27; YTD +\$25,324.63

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – all previously reported ordinance issues are resolved.

Streetlights: – Mr. Hepple and Dennis met with WPP; Dennis submitted paperwork with the company at IDC park for permission to put new poles on their property; waiting for approval. WPP will start the contract; voted on at the previous meeting.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – The memorial bench and plaque for Mayor Lee is done; decide where to put it at the park; decide on when to have a dedication/ribbon cutting ceremony pending when Mrs. Lee is available. Secretary will contact Mrs. Lee. Mrs. Barcelona is questioning Mr. Krider on the grant/redevelopment money; still waiting for HUD to identify it as a project; then we can bid out. We cannot award the contract until the money is received. Mrs. Spina will look into the DCNR grant. Council will wait to prepare specs for electrical work. Per Mr. Krider – you can't do the work and then apply for the grant.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Thanked Jody for helping with the grant application.

Transit Authority: Mr. Hepple – Nothing to report at this time.

Mayor Herd: Thanked Mr. Hepple and Dennis for their work regarding the streetlights at the IDC Park; thanked Mrs. Spina and Jody for working on the grant application; thanked Mrs. Barcelona for procuring the bench for Mayor Lee; thanked Council for their hard work. Mayor Herd commented on the kids riding around without helmets. Is there a law or age requirement? The website (www.speersborough.org) is up and running. We can still add information and pictures. He would like to utilize the park more (movie night, community picnic); Mayor Herd would like to invite younger citizens to attend Council meetings.

Dennis Carson's Report – cut grass, weed whack, met with Morgan Excavating regarding paving at Rebecca St and Lewis Ave, painted swings and slides at park in Lower Speers, raked and spread mulch, removed 2 light poles at IDC park, worked with Police on 2 insurance claims from semi-trucks damaging Borough property, trim trees, checked sewer lines for 124 State St, received estimates for work at the IDC park, 7 downspout inspections and 10 One Calls. Dennis reported that Insight Pipe will be starting work soon at the IDC Park. Dennis submitted an estimate from Morgan Excavating for paving at Rebecca St. We did not have to put it out for bid since it was through Co-stars.

ENGINEER/CODE ENFORCEMENT: Kerry Krider attended; confirmed that Council reviewed the bridge inspection report. As of now, the cost is \$120,790. Mr. Krider is in contact with SAI to see if they will give a price to prepare the plans for the bid. The bridge is inspected every 2 years. He stated there should be no permits needs and no right of way easements. There will be a construction inspection. Mr. Krider provided the Sunshine Act agenda updates.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint revised the agreement with the Bassi's; waiting for signatures. Mr. Lint spoke regarding the bidding process on emergency provisions. You cannot eliminate competitive bidding, you still have to bid a project. Rick Skovensky with Penn Dot stated to call and get bids if it is an emergency and there is no time to wait for advertising. If we are in that situation, contact Mr. Lint first. Mr. Lint stated that we cannot split the work for a lesser bid amount to avoid the advertising for the bidding threshold.

CITIZENS: Karen Simala was given copies of previous meeting minutes. She feels like she is the only resident being picked on for the condition of her property. She is upset nothing was said to her at the last meeting about her going to the magistrate and questioned why it was not in the minutes. It was not discussed in the meeting, therefore it is not included in the minutes. Ms. Simala cannot maintain her property any longer. She needs to continue working on her property or go back to court.

Kenny reported Guttman sold the gas station.

Melissa Dean asked about the status on composting. Mr. Krider – we have not received a definite answer yet from the DEP. We need to define the area; the run off poses another problem. Ms. Dean offered to help with grant writing. Mr. Kauffman was looking into a stipulation that under a certain size compost pile, it would make us exempt. Mr. Kauffman was researching a grant to purchase a grinder. Mrs. Spina will exchange contact information with Ms. Dean.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$56,394.15.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mrs. Spina - the digital sign along RT 88 should be installed by this weekend. Mr. Zahand cannot install the other sign until the agreement is signed by the Bassi's. Mr. Daylong presented the handicap parking application from Mrs. Synder for review; payment has not been received as of yet. Mrs. Spina questioned the limit on handicap parking spots. She will review the current ordinance. Mayor Herd spoke on the tractor trailer trucks coming into the Borough; can we install a larger sign? Dennis has 2 bids on signs from US Municipal (No Outlet and No Tractor Trailers Allowed). Where to install them? They would run on solar power. The estimate is \$1,800 per sign.

Mayor Herd asked if we can fine the driver if they still come into the Borough even though signs are installed; that would be up to the Police for a traffic violation.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. Rice stated that if a problem/issue arises or the need to speak with Jody/Dennis, please call the office first (724-483-5882). Do not call a Council member privately. Jody or Dennis will forward the message to the correct person. Mr. McCorkle suggested starting a Code Enforcement Committee. Call the committee first, then the Committee will call Jody or Dennis. There are too many calls going on outside of the office. There is a procedure and process that needs to be followed. Mrs. Spina commented on the fees for letter/calls from HMT for code related issues. Mrs. Spina suggested that the committee can also suggest solutions to help residents with the violations; help not harass; instead of paying HMT and not seeing results, use that money to help the resident. Mr. Krider stated in theory it is a good idea, but from past experiences, it makes it worse. Residents will just stop maintaining their property and wait for Dennis and Tim to clean it up. Help one, you have to help everyone. Ms. DeCooman suggests doing wellness checks on residents that appear to be in need of help maintaining their property. The Police would have to do that. It is not the Borough employees business on how someone is feeling or living as that would be an invasion of privacy. Mr. Lint – the property owner is responsible for the property and making sure it complies with the ordinances. Providing assistance doesn't always help. Jody asked that once a letter is mailed to the resident, please give them the time frame listed to become compliant; please do not call daily to check the status of the property. Property owners are given 7-10 days to show progress on the property violation. Mr. Daylong does not agree with steps to go through for the committee. He thinks each Council member should call the office on their own. That is the current process and it is not working; too many calls on the same issue. If you are reporting a property violation, please make sure you are giving the correct address. Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona and Mr. Hepple will be on the committee. Mr. McCorkle will contact Jody or Dennis with issues. Ms. DeCooman questioned if residents can own chickens? She will check the ordinances. She also commented on the recent increase in bird deaths; remove bird baths and feeders. We will post on the website as well. Mr. Hepple stated a liquor license was purchased for the old BP station. Frick Bank purchased the PNC Bank. Mayor Herd asked to start the August meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the park. We cannot change the time of the meeting. Council can meet at the park at 6:30 p.m. for the bench dedication on August 4th. Jody will check with Mrs. Lee for her availability.

Mrs. Spina questioned the HMT invoices; Mr. Krider explained the fees. Mrs. Barcelona questioned the miscellaneous income on the budget; Jody will show her the statements. A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:39 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple.