

The Borough of Speers Council met on June 7, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mr. Hepple. Excused were Mr. Rice, Mrs. Spina, and Mayor Herd; they all gave prior notification that they would be representing Speers Borough at the Charleroi Borough meeting regarding the Water Company. Mr. Todora was absent.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

Secretary read correspondence: Charleroi fireworks donation request.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

May reports available: EMS - 22 calls; Fire Dept. – 9 calls.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Absent.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – May budget complete; Income = \$90,523.61; Expenses = \$41,863.75; YTD (+) \$8,829.11

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

Streetlights: Follow up on reported outages.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona spoke with Mr. Krider regarding the status on the Lower Speers Park project since we have not heard any updates. He stated he is still waiting to hear from Ashley Shultz with DCNR. Mr. Krider was supposed to be checking into the flooring. Flooring, fencing, tables and equipment needs to be decided on so specs can be completed and advertised. A separate bank account will be set up to receive the grant money. Mrs. Barcelona will look into options and costs for beautifying the entrance to the Upper Speers Park and will present at the next meeting.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – Excused absence.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Excused absence.

Mayor's Report: Excused absence.

Dennis Carson's report: cut grass, weed whacked, sprayed weeds, trimmed trees, cleaned storm drains and ditches along Oak Street, worked at the park planting grass and spreading top soil, cold-patched potholes, flushed sewer line on Lewis Ave, installed new "No Parking" signs on bridge at Arentzen Blvd, cleaned park restrooms and pavilions for rentals, painted "Slow" signs on Howard, Short, Grandview, Charles and Davidson, trimmed shrubs at the Borough Building, put "No Parking" sign at dead end on Lillian, 5 One Calls and 8 Downspout inspections. Park rentals are going well and received several compliments on the new pavilion floors. Mr. Daylong is asking if the handicap curbs can be repainted on Grandview Way.

Engineer: report was sent in: Bridge Project – no update. Park project – set up separate bank account and order sign.

A motion to open a new account at CFS Bank for the grant money for the Lower Speers Park with \$250 from the existing Park Fund was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor.

A motion to spend \$65 on a sign for the Lower Speers Park, which is a requirement of the grant, was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor.

Mr. McCorkle also reported on a delinquent invoice from HMT in the amount of \$810 from September 2022 relating to the Arentzen Bridge project. In July of 2022, Mr. Krider stated there would be no more Engineer fees related to the project for the remainder of 2022. That September invoice states it is for Engineer and Designer fees. The invoice does not state that it is for administrative duties. Council will look into further; payment will not be sent at this time. The secretary has followed up on this multiple times with the company. The secretary was told again in April of this year to NOT pay this invoice.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lint – No updates or issues to comment on.

**Citizens:** Felicia Riley – 271 Davidson Dr. expressed concerns regarding speeding. She is very worried for the safety of her children. She has tried speaking with the neighbors, calling the police. Nothing seems to help. She contacted Penn Dot regarding speed bumps, can we add them? Mrs. Riley also has concerns regarding the elementary school bus stop at the corner of Davidson Dr. and State St. Vehicles don't pay attention and drive through the intersection. Can we add school bus stop signs? Can we move the bus stop? The school sets the bus stops, not the Borough. The Borough is not notified where the school bus stops are located. She would have to contact the school and request to have a bus stop moved or added to the route. The Borough can add school bus stop signs but not move the bus stop locations. Mrs. Riley is also questioning if overnight parking is allowed on Davidson Dr? Yes, it is a public street, it does not matter even if they have a driveway. There is no ordinance against overnight parking on the street or in front of someone else's residence.

Mr. Vorhes – Charles St., questioned the decision on the status of changing the name of Short St.? Council took his previous comments under advisement. Nothing will be changed at this time. We can add it to the agenda for July for further discussion.

Al Rost – who can add things to the agenda? Council or citizen(s) can contact the Borough 24 hours prior to the meeting to have an item listed on the agenda.

John Brouzakis questioned if a halfway house will be in Speers? No, that is a rumor. He also asked if an employer is hiring people and paying their rent? That is not our business and has nothing to do with Borough Council. Mr. Brouzakis asked about receiving bids on adding catch basins on Valley Circle? Mr. Todora was to handle that and he is absent from this meeting.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Deposit of \$44,303.57.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Nothing to report at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Charleroi fireworks donation request. Charleroi Borough already received a substantial donation to cover the cost of fireworks. It is unclear where our donation will go. At this time, no donation will be sent.

A motion to donate \$250 to Charleroi Fire Dept for the clay shoot they held was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Mr. McCorkle spoke on the Tax Credit for eligible Fire Dept Members that live within Speers Borough. This would be a tax break on their property tax. A motion to create a tax credit ordinance for the Fire Dept for Speers residents only that qualify in the amount up to \$500 per year was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Hepple. Mr. McCorkle will send a sample model ordinance to Mr. Lint to draft an ordinance to present at the next meeting.

Secretary will send a code violation (grass/hedges) letter to a residence along Grandview Way.

Approval of bills - Mr. Hepple made a motion to withhold the payment to Charleroi Borough for the fire truck driver pending his resignation or firing; motion was seconded by Mr. Daylong. Mr. McCorkle would like a letter sent to Charleroi Borough requesting an itemized statement of where our monthly Fire Dept. payment with taxpayer's money is going. A motion to pay bills except for the fire truck driver was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor.

Dennis will contact the Borough engineer regarding speed bumps.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Hepple.