

The Borough of Speers Council met on June 1, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Todora, Mr. Sauer, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd.

Mr. Daylong presented a handicap parking application for Mr. Stasicha - 285 Grandview Way. Mr. Daylong stated that he believes he is not eligible. Council reviewed the application. They discussed the ordinance and questioned if the resident has a personal driveway or a shared driveway. Does he already have a handicap placard? Mr. Stasicha does not have a handicap license plate. Mr. Daylong states that it goes against our ordinance. What do we do if this keeps happening? The whole street will become handicap parking spaces. Mr. Daylong states if a resident has a driveway, they should not be granted a handicap parking space. Mr. Daylong has a handicap parking space and uses borough property for a drive way. Mr. McCorkle reviewed the requirements for a handicap parking space. A motion to vote on the application was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; Nays have it. Application was denied at this time.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Dennis obtained the quotes from Insight Pipe for replacing 3 sewer lines. They submitted an updated quote because the last quote had expired. This project was contingent upon securing a grant. HMT was handling the grant application. At this time, we have not heard anything from HMT.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – May budget report complete: Income = \$105,173.43, Expenses = \$45,507.23; (+) \$59,666.20. YTD: (-) 4,578.72. Financial report available for review.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong reported on code violations for grass/property maintenance on Grandview Way and Arlington Ave. Secretary will send out letters. Mr. Daylong also reported that he received 3 calls regarding people parking on the sidewalk on Grandview Way. Nobody has called the office to report. If you see cars parked on the sidewalk, call the Police. These issues will be brought up at the Police meeting. Mr. Todora suggested putting a message on social media, website and the digital sign regarding parking. Mayor Herd stated that residents need to be directed to call the office first with issues/complaints pertaining to code violations; for other matters, they need to call the Police. As far as grass violation, we can only see front yards, we cannot walk on private property to see a back yard. Mr. Daylong also reported that residents are putting out garbage too early. Council will post a message on the digital sign. Mr. Daylong reported that trailers are being parked on the streets not attached to vehicles. He stated that we need to start enforcing our ordinances.

Streetlights: No reports at this time.

Parks: Mr. Sauer & Mrs. Barcelona – They would like to see the electricity updated at the park. We need to get 3 written/telephone quotes. Dennis responded to an issue on May 13th that there was no power at the park in the pavilions or restrooms. Mr. Smaracheck – 475 Charles St., neighbor next to the park, was digging up his yard to install a french drain. He did not follow protocol and place a call into PA One Call (811) before he started digging. He proceeded to cut 3 of our lines while digging. He also blew up a transformer. West Penn Power did come out and

attempt to fix the underground wires but only half of the outlets worked afterwards. Dennis and Tim were not able to get the garage doors to open either. WPP installed a temporary box but there are still breaks in the lines that will not allow full power. Dennis contacted an electrician and he stated since the wire is aluminum, we will always have problems. He recommends putting the wires above ground which means we would have to install new poles. Mr. Smaracheck knows he needs to pay for the repairs and new equipment but has not done so as of yet. This will affect park rentals when all 3 pavilions are rented at the same time. What can we do? Send a letter with a timeframe to be fixed? Have the pole installed and bill Mr. Smaracheck? What are the consequences to Mr. Smaracheck if the project guidelines are not completed within the timeframe? Mr. Rice asked Mr. Lint to send a letter to Mr. Smaracheck. Mr. Lint stated that he cannot send a letter to him because he has represented Mr. Smaracheck in the past. The letter would have to come from Council President. Mr. McCorkle – are we legally allowed to send Mr. Smaracheck a bill? Mr. Lint – if we can prove the borough lost money on rentals due to lack of power at the park. Dennis can get a sub-contractor to install a new pole. WPP would just have to shut off the power and then turn it back on once the pole is installed. The pole would be a Borough pole, not a WPP pole. Mr. McCorkle recommends that Council obtain prices on rectifying the situation regardless of holding Mr. Smaracheck responsible. Mr. Sauer spoke to clarify the breaks in the line. Dennis will contact Thomas Electric to obtain a quote. Mayor Herd questioned the rules of a bid. Mr. Lint stated a company would need to re-bid if the amount changes or the quote expires.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – stated ridership is down due to Covid which affected funding.

Grants: Mrs. Spina thanked Jody and Curt for working on the DCED grant application for the Lower Speers Park. We needed to submit a more detailed drawing which HMT completed for us. Everything has been submitted, now we just wait to see if we are granted the funds.

Mayor Herd: suggested all the Committees go back and review the minutes and notes and make sure we are moving forward and not tabling issues for long. Mayor Herd appreciates all the Council members working together with pride and respect. He also reported the Upper Speers Park parking lot should be paved in early July. Mayor Herd also stated residents need to be directed to call the office with any issues/problems.

Dennis Carson's report: cut grass, weed whack, had water meter installed at the park, cleaned and opened restrooms for park rentals, cleaned pavilions, removed salt spreader from the truck, installed "No Parking" signs in Lower Speers by playground, installed 4 signs in Mapleview regarding cleaning up after your pet, repaired fence at the Lower Speers Park, cleaned Civic Club room for elections, purchased new trailer, painted office furniture, 10 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections.

What can we do to repeat offenders for code violations? Can we send them a fine? Review ordinance for fine amount. Per Mr. Lint - we do not have to send a letter first, we can just cite the resident. A letter is just a courtesy.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – forwarded a signed copy of the agreement with ABC for property maintenance across from the Exxon. Council can install posts around the digital sign. Mr. Lint spoke with Attorney Paluso, ABC, regarding a “property swap” in Lower Speers. Dennis is aware of the situation. Mr. Lint is awaiting written information on agreement details. It pertains to a pole in an alleyway.

Citizens: John – wants to know the status of adding drains/catch basins on Valley Circle. Mr. Todora explained the process of what would need done, including contacting an engineer first. Mr. Krider did look into the issue and stated there is not much that can be done since French drains, downspouts and springs drain out onto the road; it is not the Borough’s responsibility. Mr. Todora apologized to the resident and will continue to work on resolving the water issue. Denise DeCooman – questioned when the bridge construction work will be completed? Mid-November is the projected completion of the project per Penn Dot.

Executive Session: 8:37 p.m. – 8:42 p.m. for personnel matter.

Mrs. Spina presented a letter from the Chamber of Commerce regarding erecting a sign they would like to place on our property. Where they are wanting the sign to be located, along RT 88, is not Borough property. They would need to contact the railroad company and follow Borough sign ordinances.

A motion to accept the JED agreement which consists of 2 visits/per year for \$389.00 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

Tax Collector’s report: Deposit of \$70,309.53.

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

Old Business: Mr. Todora – is asking if Grandview Way can made into a one-way street? This was looked into previously with HMT and Penn Dot. Penn Dot denied changing it. Mr. Todora will research again.

Mr. McCorkle suggested posting messages on the digital sign when garbage pick-up days change. Mr. McCorkle created an email for anyone in Speers who wants to display a message on the digital signs. Please send ads to speersborosign@gmail.com.

Mayor Herd would like a new picture of the bridge for the website. Contact Mayor Herd with anything you want added to the website.

New Business: Mr. Sauer confirmed what Mr. Todora stated regarding the driving issues on Grandview Way. Can we post that it is a two-way street?

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Todora.