

The Borough of Speers Council met on March 5, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Sauer, Ms. DeCooman, Ms. Hartley, Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. Hepple. Please notify the secretary if you will not be attending the meeting.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer.

CORRESPONDENCE: TCBA meeting will be held on March 20th at the Marianna Social Hall at 7:00 p.m. Liquid Fuels allotment for 2025 is \$40,736.81.

Reports: Police – 191 calls, Fire - 4 calls, EMS – 9 calls; reports available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Mr. McCorkle - February Income = \$53,177.88; Expenses = \$69,531.48.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Sauer – questioned if there is an alternate access route to Maplevue in case of an emergency? Yes, there is a plan in place.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – nothing to report; will defer to Mr. Creagh.

Grants: Ms. Hartley – reached out to SPC for the bridge project and was given resources for funding. Penn Dot was also included in the discussions. She will complete a survey on the bridge need. She will follow up on all the information. She has also been in contact with GE to secure possible funding. Secretary also spoke with Darrell Pearson at GE. A meeting was set up for this Friday.

Streetlights: outages were reported, still waiting for WPP to repair.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – no concerns from the studies that needed to be completed regarding the bus turnaround at the IDC Park. They are showing an increase in ridership.

Mayor Herd report: spoke with Mr. Emerick and set up a meeting for Thursday regarding the security camera update and new equipment. He also spoke on the problems with garbage payment with a resident. All procedures were followed by Mrs. Galiffa and Jody to remedy this situation. He feels certain comments were unfair and unnecessary and an apology is needed to both of them. They did their

job and should be commended for it. Mr. Sauer agrees that they have been trying to handle this for multiple years. Mayor Herd met with Morgan Excavating as well regarding bridge funding. He will follow up in a few weeks. He also reached out to Senator Bartolotta's and Mr. Bud Cook's office and is still waiting for responses.

Dennis Carson report: plowed and salted streets, cold-patched streets, reported 5 streetlight outages, replaced street signs, worked on sink hole on Soloman St., picked up 2 tractor tires for disposal, removed animal along roadway on the ramp, removed garbage from streets due to delayed service again, spread gravel at the park, cut tree down behind salt shed, trees pulled wires down – pole will be placed later in the spring, flag pole at building needs repaired/replaced, 11 One Calls.

SOLICITOR: No comment at this time.

CITIZENS: Mr. Bill Kinney wants a status update on his previous complaints of obstructions on sidewalks particularly his neighbor who has a basketball hoop on the sidewalk. Mr. Kinney stated he leaves a garbage bin on the sidewalk on purpose so someone will complain. He will keep adding bins until something is done or someone complains. That is his game now. Code enforcement sent letters out. The hoop is portable. He wants it moved back and forth every time.

Al Rost – provided an article regarding a landfill permit to dump treated leachate into the Mon River in Speers Borough. He encourages Council to attend a public meeting on March 7th and March 20th to get details. Mr. Rost suggests running safety messages on the digital signs (lock cars, reflective clothing while walking at night, watch pets, secure garbage). Mr. Rost recommends looking at the transformers on the streetlights.

ENGINEER: Mr. Creagh- via phone, per direction of Council, he directed APC to realign their focus on the high priority items on the bridge repairs to stay within the LSA grant amounts. KLH and Jody worked with RAWC (Todd) to submit paperwork for reimbursement for the paving and fencing project for the Lower Speers Park. We did receive re-imburement of \$31, 235.60. Mr. Creagh is still working with DCNR to get re-imburement for the playground equipment. He

reminded Council that the PA Small Water and Sewer Grant is still available to apply for. He will assist if needed.

Dennis Carson spoke with the foreman regarding the surface damage and markings on the bridge; it does not cover all the damages. Dennis will attend the next meeting with APC.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$23,547.12.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. McCorkle reached out to our federal leaders for funding, Fetterman – does not have time to help, McCormick – would not take any calls or return emails, Reschenthaler stated federal grants would not be the way to go and he will look into other options that could help. (Rural infrastructure grant and Appalachian Committee). Mr. Reschenthaler's office offered a letter of support as well. Mr. McCorkle is not giving up but brought up other options to consider – use funds from other accounts? Delay other paving projects? Close bridge? What would be the legal ramifications? Do we have the authority to close the bridge? Penn Dot would need to determine closing, the borough does not have the expertise to make that decision. Mr. Lint suggested in asking for money that is earmarked, do not ask for grants available.

Chair positions – Mr. Sauer will be the alternate for the Police and Fire Boards. Mr. Hepple needs assigned a chair to cover. Everyone needs to contribute and be involved.

NEW BUSINESS: Transit Authority Local Match. A motion to approve the resolution for our Local Match in the amount of \$931.00 for 7/2025 – 6/2026 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

A motion to approve Mr. Carson's insurance coverage until the age of 65 contingent upon carrier approval was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

Police coverage – Mayor Herd commented that rates will always increase. Do we look at State coverage? RESA?

Ms.DeCooman – how to handle complaints regarding the garbage service. Council needs to have a universal response. Not everyone has access to the internet to see messages.

Mr. Rice read a letter from GE asking if the Borough will install “No Turnaround”, “Dead End” and/or “No outlet” signs to combat tractor trailers from entering their property. Signs will need to be purchased. Police need to start enforcing the signage and writing tickets. Mr. Rice will contact the Chief to make sure they are patrolling and issuing tickets when witnessing a violation.

Also, a sign listing all of the businesses in the IDC Park is gone. Council will look into who can make a new sign.

Liquid Fuels account – a requirement is that 2 signature lines must be on the checks. A motion to remove Kim Heino as an authorized signature was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. A motion to add Sally Barcelona as an alternate signature on the account was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. DeCooman.