

The Borough of Speers Council met on March 1, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong, Mr. Todora, Mr. Hepple and Mayor Herd.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. Todora.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

EMS: 16 calls for the month of February.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Nothing at this time.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – February report: Income = \$69,923.45; Expenses: \$49,918.68. YTD (+) \$2,329.26. Report available.

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

Streetlights: Still waiting for WPP to respond to outage reports. Submitted requests 3 times.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – met with Kerry Krider and Ashley regarding the grant requirements for the Lower Speers Park Improvement Project. She will keep Council up updated during the process.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – submitted a rider report; available for review.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – stated she has not received notification of the grant approvals. She reached out to Jamie Colecchi with MVA. He stated we should have received a letter. Mr. Krider stated that we will not receive a letter. Not sure which answer is correct. Mrs. Spina confirmed that we were approved for the second grant for the bridge repairs, but denied for the digital speed limit sign. The second grant must be combined with the first grant. The LSA RA gets the money; no money or information comes to the office. The Engineer submits all the paperwork to them and the RA writes the checks. Since being approved for the second grant and the requirement that both grants must be combined, that means the bridge repairs will be delayed until the second grant money is released which is not until fall. The specs were advertised for bids before the second application was approved. The KGD Contracting bid was for \$128,658. The Crilon Corporation bid was for \$482,190.47. The lower bidder, KGD, has never done a project this big before. Mr. Krider recommends to wait and re-bid in the fall when the grants are combined (total of \$208,505) and then the project won't be started until Spring of 2024. He stated that he did not have the most recent bridge inspection report (November 2022) when the project was advertised. However, the secretary did forward a copy of the report to Mr. Krider prior to the advertising. Mr. Krider does not feel there is a safety issue with the bridge currently. Mr. Krider stated that he is still waiting to hear about the State LSA Grant approval. Mr. Krider will compare the inspection reports from 2020 and 2022. Other than comparing the reports, there should be no more work or additional fees until fall.

Mr. Krider spoke on the grant for the Lower Speers Park. He stated there is an enormous amount of paperwork that needs completed. Grants will still cost the Borough money. The Borough still needs to secure the remainder of the matching funds that are a requirement of this grant approval. We will need to open a separate bank account for the grant money. The project needs to be put out for bid. Mr. Krider/KLH will handle this project. Their fee will be \$13,500 - \$15,500. A motion to approve KLH as the Engineer on the Lower Speers Park Project was made Mrs. Barcelona and seconded Mr. McCorkle; all in favor. Park committee for the Lower Speers Park will be Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Hepple, and Mr. Rice. They will schedule a meeting with Mr. Krider to finalize the specs for the advertisement. Mr. Krider will look into Costars for discounted prices on equipment. Mr. Krider left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

KLH/Troy Gump will handle Code Enforcement as needed.

Mayor Herd commented that we are undertaking several projects at one time, please be aware of the financial concern this is causing. We have to keep it feasible.

Dennis Carson's report: salted icy spots on roads, met with JED Heating regarding new furnace – heat pump not worth it, cleaned salt out of trucks, washed trucks, removed leaf box off dump truck, filled potholes in alleys, cleaned streets, changed oil filters in both trucks, reported 4 vehicles that need tagged and towed, met with KLH for outfall inspections, removed fallen tree from Charles St. over the weekend, worked on furnace for Civic Club rental, 12 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections. Dennis relayed a message from the Marks Family asking for permission to install a memorial bench at the park at their expense. A motion giving permission to the Marks Family to install a sturdy, safe bench was made by Mr. Todora and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – reviewed the bid evaluation recommendation; on file.

Citizens: Dan Vorhes – 400 Charles St. – spoke regarding a raised manhole that is on his property but along our right of way. He wants to know if we can fix it or if he needs to since its on his property? He would like for it to be filled around to be ground level. Dennis stated that it is raised for a reason so it can be located when needed. Mr. Vorhes is responsible for maintaining (cutting) the grass along the right of way. He will do so therefore keeping the maintenance guys off his property. He also questioned who owns the adjoining property? Who is paying the property taxes on it? He wants to protect his investment and make sure it is maintained reasonably.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$38,794.94.

A motion to pass the resolution for the Transit Authority agreeing to the local match of \$821 was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Secretary read the correspondence: TCBA meeting will be held on March 16 at the Donora Borough Building; Liquid Fuels Allocation for 2023 is \$40,961.94.

OLD BUSINESS: Mrs. Spina – stated that she is working on the design structure for around the digital sign.

Mrs. Barcelona stated that a separate account is required for the grant funds for the Lower Speers Park. An account will be opened at CFS Bank. A motion to list Jody Burkholder and Sally Barcelona as the approved signatures was made by Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mr. Todora; all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McCorkle presented specs and bid quotes for the paving at the IDC Park. Morgan Excavating provided 2 quotes to be used for specs for advertising and/or a grant application. Bid 1 is for the entire Industrial Park for \$361,598. Bid 2 is for Power Lane, Paluso Dr., Arentzen Blvd to the bridge for \$187,652.50. The specs were given to Mrs. Spina to use for a grant application. Council can reach out to MVA and all the businesses that use the road and will be affected by the paving project to see if they are interested in becoming stakeholders to share in the costs since they use and possibly damage the roads. Mr. Rice will contact Jamie Colecchi with MVA to discuss.

A motion for an EMS membership (\$250) for a plan that provides coverage for employees in the event they become sick or injured while at work was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Spina; all in favor.

Mr. Rice spoke on the 4 bids received for replacing the pavilion floors (3). After clarifying the specs with the Solicitor, Mrs. Barcelona made a motion to award the project to Craft Con (\$59,248) and was seconded by Mr. Todora; all in favor. The completion of the project will depend on the weather.

Mr. McCorkle reported that Charleroi Borough did not pay the medical insurance premiums for the fire truck driver for 2 months. Mr. McCorkle recommends that Speers Council attend Charleroi Borough meetings as often as possible. We need to have representation there and make it evident that we have a voice.

Mr. Hepple stated that the Vista One signs were not re-installed after the bridge project was completed. He also commented that vehicles in the center lane are not stopping before turning left to enter the ramp leading to RT 70; they are driving through the stop sign. Can we paint “Stop” on the road? It was instructed if anyone sees this to call the Police to report. We cannot paint it because it is a state road. We can contact Penn Dot (Cindy Dunlevy) to see what can be done.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Daylong. The KLH invoices were questioned.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Todora.