

The Borough of Speers Council met on May 3, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mayor Herd, Mr. Todora, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong, Mrs. Barcelona, 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. Hepple.

Secretary read the correspondence: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter LSA payment= \$9,530.37, Davies Ford Golf outing, info available, Library Donation request.

April: POLICE – 82 calls; FIRE – 7 calls; EMS – 12 calls. Reports available for review.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – Budget report for April: Income = \$39,094.42. Expenses = \$48,766.92. YTD: (-) 33,034.64. Real Estate Tax money will be coming in.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing to report.

Streetlights: Mr. McCorkle reported 4 lights out. Secretary will report to WPP (729 Lewis, 206 Scott, 203 Davidson, Borough Building).

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – met with Kerry Krider to discuss Lower Speers Park upgrades relating to the grant. They are researching flooring (mulch, rubber, foam, asphalt). Upper Speers Park pavilion floors are complete.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – installed 7 entertainment signs to relay messages. Reported the rock slide project should be completed by end of May.

Mayor Herd: Keep projects in mind. Also reported that the Honor Roll grounds need to be repaired from the bridge project. He contacted Cindy Dunlevy with Penn Dot to make sure the grounds are restored as soon as possible.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – No updates at this time.

Dennis Carson's report: cut grass, weed whack, water meter turned on at the park, replaced picnic tables at the pavilions, painted yellow "Slow" lines around the borough, removed salt spreader – washed and greased equipment, repaired picnic tables, cold-patch potholes, checked on sewer problems on Phillips Street, 9 One Calls and 1 downspout inspection.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lint – spoke on the Free and Clear tax sale; no action is needed. He will notify the Courthouse that a lien for 142 Grandview has been paid. Mr. Daylong questioned the process if a resident wanted to donate their property to the Borough. Mr. Lint stated the property owner would need to state it in their will or transfer it to the Borough now.

### **Citizens:**

Matt – Russells Rental – requested building permit application, secretary will provide the paperwork.

Camillo Carozza – 135 Crest; would like a tree trimmed. It is on Borough property. The tree is causing his gutters to clog and moss build up on the roof. Dennis will check. He does not want the whole tree to be

cut down, just trimmed. Mr. Carozza will be willing to pay for half the expense to trim the tree. He is also upset that Dennis did not pick up signs that he left on the road for him. It is not Dennis's responsibility to pick up advertisement signs nor was he asked to.

Jim's Tree Service – Jim wanted to confirm that he did not report the Borough to the DEP for dumping at the park. He does not appreciate feeling like we are fighting him against doing his job in the Borough. We were not allowing any company to drive on the grounds across from Exxon due to the mud. Mayor Herd confirmed as well. Any misunderstandings were cleared up. Dennis nor the Borough dictates who accepts their bids on jobs, that is up to the property owner.

Mr. Vorhes – Charles Street – inquired about the reason for changing Vorhes Drive back to Short Street. Mr. McCorkle explained the concerns regarding 911 calls and possible confusion. There have been issues in the past with timely responses to the correct location and he was concerned with delays. Mr. Vorhes does not agree and would like the name changed. He contacted an attorney. Mr. Vorhes owns property along Vorhes Dr/Short St; he does not own the road. By changing the street name, it changed his property address. At this time, nothing is developed along this street. He is concerned there is a discrepancy with the street name because there is another Short Street located in Charleroi and that causes confusion. They would like the street name changed. Council will take it under advisement and discuss options.

Mr. Vorhes spoke regarding the exposed manhole cover on this property. He would like it filled in around it. Mr. Todora admitted he was going to handle this and did not yet; he will look into it immediately.

Mr. Vorhes questioned the reason for cutting 4 trees around pavilion #1. The roots were damaging the pavilion floor. New floors were just completed and it was voted on to remove the trees so they did not damage the new floor. Mr. Vorhes stated the trees were there before the pavilion. He questioned why didn't we move the pavilion instead? The trees were dead inside and infested with ants. Mr. Lint confirmed that the trees are on Borough property and it is the Borough's decision on what to do. Another reason to cut the trees were due to safety concerns. Since the trees were dead inside, there was a risk of them falling; which has happened in the past. The contract was to cut the 4 trees, not all the trees around the park. Yes, Council has cut down trees for safety reasons but they have also planted new trees around the park as well.

Mrs. Vorhes feels that actions that are voted on during a meeting are being done before the minutes of the meeting are posted and residents don't have a chance to voice their opinions. Mr. Lint stated that the meeting agenda is always posted prior to the meetings. Citizens are welcome to attend the meeting and voice their opinions/concerns then.

Mr. Vorhes commented that several citizens are unhappy with the logging taking place on the backside of the park. Mr. Rice stated the majority of the logging is being done on private property abutting the park. Also, cutting some of the older trees makes room for the younger trees to grow. Mr. Vorhes feels that cutting some of the trees ruined the park for years and generations to come and nobody can enjoy the woods anymore. The contract states the company will restore any trails/grounds that were disturbed. Mr. Vorhes feels that it will never be the same. Bushes and undergrowth (jagger bushes), not younger trees, will grow back first because that is what happened when he cut trees on his property. Mr. Vorhes spoke on the Donated and Dedicated Property Act. He is asking how we got permits approving

the logging. The logging company obtained all required permits from the Borough engineer, The Conservation District, the E&S reports and bonding insurance.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** Deposit of \$14,463.25.

**Old/Unfinished Business:**

Mr. McCorkle tabled the discussion on the Tax Credit.

Mrs. Spina has a phone meeting scheduled with Adam regarding the posts for around the digital signs.

**New Business:**

Mr. Daylong reported that his neighbor complained of garbage not being picked up and/or garbage being left on the streets. He wants somebody to call BIG's. Mr. Daylong will get the address. The homeowner should call BIG's to complain.

Mr. McCorkle spoke regarding the annual Community Yard Sale. A motion to hold the Community Yard Sale on June 10, 9 am to 2 pm was made by Mrs. Barcelona and seconded by Mr. Daylong.

A motion to charge a \$5 per yard fee was made Mr. Rice and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona. The monies collected will be donated to the Civic Club. Payment can be mailed into the Borough Office (300 Phillips Street).

Mrs. Spina will advertise in the newspaper and digital sign. It will be posted on the website and Facebook page as well.

Mayor Herd reported on the Police Golf Outing Fundraiser. He would like Speers Council to purchase a sponsorship. A motion to purchase a Gold Sponsorship for \$250 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. Registration information is available upon request. The funds raised will be used to purchase necessary equipment and pay for training for the officers.

Council discussed the donation request for the Charleroi Public Library. Mrs. Spina explained the grant they received was allocated for the exterior grounds and signage only. A motion to donate \$500 was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. Todora; all in favor.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.