

The Borough of Speers Council met on May 7th, 2025 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Barcelona, Ms. Hartley, Mr. Sauer and Mayor Herd.

A motion to accept Ms. DeCooman's letter of resignation effective May 1, 2025 was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. A motion to appoint Mr. John McDonough to fill the position for the remainder of the year was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Ms. Hartley; all in favor. A motion to appoint Ms. Arlene Devine to fill the open position from Mr. Hepple's resignation was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Ms. Hartley; all in favor. Mayor Herd swore in Mr. McDonough and Ms. Devine.

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Correspondence: Tri-County Borough meeting will be May 15th at Beallsville Community Center.

Reports for April: Police: 164 calls; Fire: 5 calls; EMS: 11 calls for March and 8 calls for April.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance: Mr. McCorkle - April report: Income = \$21,085.79; Expenses = \$59,519.22.
YTD (-) \$52,108.50.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Sauer – looking into hosting craft shows and food truck festivals at the park, possibly in October.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – attended a Teams meeting with Mr. Creagh, Jody and Winnie (DCNR) regarding reimbursement for the Lower Speers Park Project. It is a very slow process. We have to wait for Winnie to do the reviews before moving forward.

Grants: Ms. Hartley – submitted a letter to GE for financial support regarding the Arentzen Bridge Project. She is also looking into additional available grants.

Streetlights: No new reported outages. Secretary reported an outage on Charles Street.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – MMVTA will be a designated work site for the SW PA Summer Training Program for 12 - 24 year olds for a 6-week work period. Information is available.

Mayor Herd report: He welcomed the new Council members. He is scheduling a meeting with the County Commissioners and State Representatives regarding the bridge project. The repairs are very costly and we need financial help. Mayor Herd spoke on the Course Vector invoice (\$709.20) and the requirements of the website, such as ADA compliance, which is an additional fee. He suggests looking around for another website company for next year.

Quotes for new security cameras were obtained. Three companies presented their estimates. This will be discussed later in the meeting under Old/Unfinished Business.

Dennis Carson's report: cut dead trees down at park, cleaned catch basins on Rebecca St. and Phillips St, spoke with the Water Authority regarding moving the digital sign, cleaned streets and drains in Maplevue, worked on sewer problem on Speers St, cut grass, weed whacked, cleaned and pressure washed and greased/oiled the salt spreader, cut up fallen tree at the park behind pavilion #2, had fire extinguishers serviced, worked at park removing telephone pole and planted grass, worked on park bathrooms and pavilions for rentals, had plumber fix the sinks.

Engineer's report: Mr. Creagh was unavailable but submitted a report: available for review. APC is still working on the bridge repairs that are within the available funding. The flagging invoices are being addressed. Updates will be provided when received.

Execute Session for personnel matters from 8:05 p.m. to 8:17 p.m.

A motion to promote Tim Anthony to street foreman upon Dennis Carson's retirement (July) was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mr. McDonough; all in favor. A motion to pay out Dennis Carson's accumulated vacation time (total of 6 weeks) was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. Hartley; all in favor.

Dennis Carson questioned flagging fees for a railroad crossing in Lower Speers. Part of the road will have to be closed during repairs, so can the Borough (Dennis & Tim) do the flagging and charge the railroad company a fee since it is a Borough owned road that will be partially closed? Per Mr. Lint – it is up to the Borough and railroad company to make an agreement.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint reviewed the Comcast Franchise Agreement. He has no concerns. A motion to accept the agreement was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

A motion to advertise for a full time Borough worker was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer; all in favor.

Citizens: John Brouzakis questioned how long Council knew the Arentzen Bridge was in need of repairs? There were different levels of repairs needed over the years. Most repairs are not visible to the eye but recently detected by sonar. Mr. Brouzakis also questioned the wage tax? Council does not handle that. He would have to contact the County.

Tax Collector's Report: Deposit of \$8,977.74.

Old/Unfinished Business: Digital sign: One quote from TJ was to move the sign intact and not disassemble. His estimate was \$300. Council is waiting for additional quotes. PennDot is aware.

Bridge Invoices: additional \$7500 for flagging is requested from W&LE. Secretary requested information on specific days/times/locations that flagging was used from the previous \$22,500 that was already paid before paying the additional fee.

Mon River Towns Program: Speers representative will be Mrs. Barcelona and Mr. Sauer will be the alternate representative.

Council received 3 written quotes for new security cameras.

- (1.) Kevin Emerick – Security Systems = \$13,604.86
- (2.) Ryan Marsich – Electronic Systems Group = \$29,504.00
- (3.) Kevin – Armory Locksmiths = \$11,380.00

Details for each quote are available for review. Council will check references for each company.

New Business: MS-4: Ms. Devine volunteered to be the point person moving forward. She will contact Ms. DeCooman for information to file the reports.

EOP (Emergency Operations Plan): Mr. McCorkle reviewed and made changes/updates. Council will revisit at the June meeting for adoption.

Ms. Hartley updated the letter to GE regarding funding for the bridge.

Course Vector ADA compliance will be addressed at a later date. Mayor Herd will research the use of the website to see if it is cost effective to keep.

Mr. Rice spoke on possibly selling the sewers to the Water Company. Mr. Rice will research further.

A motion to approve the bills, except for the W&LE invoice, was made by Mr. Sauer and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer.