

The Borough of Speers Council met on May 4, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mr. Todora, Mr. Sauer, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong, and Mr. McCorkle.

Mr. Todora did notify the office in advance that he would be absent or late to the meeting.

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

Secretary read the correspondence: Tri- County Borough Meeting on May 21, 2022.

Police: Mr. Rice reported 63 calls for the month of April; report available for review. Fire Dept responded to 64 calls in the area.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Rice – nothing at this time.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – apologized for missing April's meeting. March: income: \$24,255.39, expenses \$50,634.88. April: income: \$22,361.40, expenses: \$76,483.80. Mr. McCorkle explained the expenses were high due to snow removal, the office remodel and engineer work for the bridge inspection. YTD: (-)64,244.92. Taxes are due soon so that will bring money in to balance us out. We can transfer/allocate money if needed.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – stated he had one complaint from a resident reporting a car parking on the sidewalk on Grandview Way. Mr. Rice stated that they need to call the police for that when they see it happening.

Streetlights: Nothing to report.

Parks: Nothing to report.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – Nothing to report.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – is requesting a list of businesses from Mrs. Galiffa to solicit matching funds for the park grant. The secretary will contact Mrs. Galiffa. Mr. Sauer also stated he would reach out to Mrs. Galiffa. ****UPDATE**** Mrs. Galiffa stated that she can provide a list of property owners; which means some properties are owned by holding companies from out of state. Those companies pay the taxes. The businesses that rent those spaces are not listed in the tax duplicate book or parcel viewer. Mrs. Spina stated that the grant for Lower Speers Park was submitted but we may not hear anything on it until fall or next spring.

Mayor Herd: Thanked Mrs. Spina for her work on the grant application. It was a team effort and everyone was involved. He also thanked Mrs. Spina for posting the messages on the digital signs as well. Mrs. Spina would like to get a list of the 2022 Charleroi graduates to display on the signs. Council will add to social media to compile a list of names. Mayor Herd and Mr. Rice will be attending a meeting with Mr. Jeff Kotula (Washington County Redevelopment Association) on May 25th to try to get answers regarding the LSA grant for the bridge repairs.

Dennis Carson's Report: report for April – had fire extinguishers checked, inspected sewer tap at 112 Howard St., cold-patch potholes, sanded and painted all the file cabinets in the office, met with Mr. Krider regarding water issue on Valley Circle, dealing with tractor trailers at Conspec - parking on the

street and blocking the driveways to other businesses, installed “No Parking” signs at the IDC Park, spoke with Mr. Lint regarding properties that need liens, cut grass, weed whacked, replaced tire on bobcat, 8 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections. Dennis explained the reason for the expenses for the salt for snow removal.

Code Enforcement/Engineer: Not present.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – presented Council with the agreement with ABC for property maintenance where the digital sign is located. A copy is available on file at the office.

Citizens: Ms. Arlene Devine spoke on dog waste not being picked up; can we install signs? Dennis can put signs on poles but not on private property. We will also put a message on the digital signs.

Tax Collector’s Report: Deposit of \$14,730.89.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: HMT sent in a report for the Speers Park ADA Improvement project. They received 4 bids (MacBracey Corp, Morgan Exc, El Grande, Stash). Morgan Excavating was the lowest bid at \$54,722.40.

Maple Creek Beer 4 Less – Attorney Kevin Hanley spoke regarding the variance hearing; minutes from the hearing are available. No decision was made at that time. Mr. Rice recommends that the ZHB grant a variance. Council is not changing or amending the ordinance. Secretary will contact Mr. Makel and the ZHB.

Mrs. Barcelona commented on how nice the office remodel looks. She also thanked Dennis for painting the file cabinets.

Mrs. Spina is working on filing a report that is required for the American Rescue Act funding.

Mr. Rice spoke on a fence bid (1st A-Fence) that was obtained for the lower Speers Park; that bid will only be valid until mid-June, but they will try to hold the price until August then the estimate will increase. Mr. McCorkle questions if it is counter-productive to replace the fence before the park upgrades. Yes, because the asphalt will be removed for the upgrade and that means the fence and posts may get damaged by the machines. Mr. McCorkle recommends to fix the fence now. We cannot wait for the grant. It is a safety issue that needs corrected immediately. We can remove the fence replacement as part of the project. Dennis will check the cost of repairing the fence for now.

NEW BUSINESS: Dennis will need a new trailer for the new mower. A motion to allow Dennis to purchase a new trailer not exceeding \$3,500 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Todora; all in favor.

Mr. Daylong asked if Council members are required to pay the fee for a park/pavilion rental? Yes, it is the same for all residents.

Mr. Todora recommends installing 4 new catch basins on Valley Circle. Dennis did meet with Mr. Krider to discuss the water issues on Valley Circle and also the catch basin on Arlington Ave. Mr. Krider recommends bringing the catch basin to street level on Arlington Ave to eliminate the curb. Mr. Krider and Dennis stated there is one house on Valley Circle that has a French drain that drains out onto the road. Also, all the houses have downspouts draining onto the road. There is also a spring continuously running onto the road. Mr. Krider doesn’t think there is much we can do because of those situations.

Mr. Krider will look into since those issues are on private property. Dennis questioned where would we install the 4 catch basins? Mr. Todora suggests 2 basins at the intersection of Valley Circle and Davidson Dr. and 2 further up in the cul-de-sac. Mr. Todora will continue working on to come up with a solution.

Mayor Herd: spoke regarding the water issue at Hosner St; suggests adding a drain there as well. We will have HMT look into that also.

Mr. Sauer: thanked Council for directing him on where to locate the ordinances online. Mr. Rice clarified that we are permitted to have a firepit, just cannot burn trash.

Questions arose on whether it is legal to shoot a gun (pellet, bb) in the neighborhood. The ordinance only states regarding the park. No guns are permitted to be shot in a residential area. Council will look further into. If you see it happening, call the police. It was reported that a resident observed public lewdness. If you see public lewdness, call the police.

Mr. McCorkle: could/should we put trash cans around the community for the dog waste? Not a good idea.

Mayor Herd: commented on a blind resident, can we install a sign? A motion to install a "Blind Resident" sign was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded Mr. McCorkle; all in favor. Dennis will install a sign.

Mr. Rice: presented a bid from Terry Younkin on the remodel of the office chambers. The estimate is for \$2,930. Also, a new steel front door for an additional \$3,376. A motion to accept the bid was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. We do not need 3 quotes because it is under the bidding threshold.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.