

The Borough of Speers Council met on May 1, 2024. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong, Ms. DeCooman 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 Mrs. Barcelona.

Correspondence: LSA 1<sup>st</sup> quarter allotment = \$8,767.31.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

April calls – Police: 139 calls, Fire: 2 calls; reports available.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – Income: \$33,106.67; Expenses: \$51,305.17; YTD (-)\$18,198.50.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – reported on 144 Grandview Way, grass violation, letter was sent already.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing to report.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Nothing to report.

Streetlights: Still waiting for repairs. Secretary is in constant contact with WPP for updates.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – MVTA is planning on installing a turn around area and shelter at the Industrial Park. Preliminary plans/drawings are done.

Mayor Herd – was asked to set up a meeting with Steve Morgan and Jamie Colecchi. Mr. Morgan would like to purchase more land at the IDC Park (by the bridge – ravine area). This land would be filled in, construct another building and potentially add 30 jobs. Mayor Herd also reported on a police car being totaled and the need to purchase another vehicle. They will use monies received from the wrecked car to defray costs, which is around \$12,000.

Dennis Carson Report – Cleaned catch basins after storms, cut grass, weed whacked, had furnace fixed from flood damage, removed salt spreader- washed, greased and stored away, cold-patched, filled potholes in alleys, removed leaf box, had water meter turned back on at park, worked on door for the Civic Club room, fixed sink hole on Schaffer Ave, worked on park bathrooms, 18 One Calls. Dennis asked the status on paving at the IDC Park; will discuss under Old Business.

Engineer: Mr. Creagh sent in report and attended through Teams Meeting.

Bridge Project – in contact with Todd Fleissner (new rep with WCRA), discussed agreement with railroad (WLER) to move forward with bids. Council will approve the agreement and project will go out for bid.

Lower Speers Park – working with DCNR, Ashley, on project; will use Co-Stars for equipment and fencing but will have to bid out separately for the asphalt for the parking lot. Mr. Creagh feels he

can bid out the project in June, award it in July and order equipment in August. The grant money (\$32,000) will not be available until July.

Per Mr. Lint – recommends signing the railroad agreement. A motion to approve the WLER Railroad agreement was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Where will project be advertised? Accu-copy and local newspaper.

Mr. Lint spoke regarding the agreement (available for review). The agreement is for Engineering only. The Borough will be responsible for any costs involved, approximately \$12,000.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lint – provided paperwork from the Courthouse showing liens were satisfied (142 Grandview Way and 35 Carson St).

Mrs. Spina stated Mr. Zahand did us a courtesy by temporarily fixing the digital sign. Mr. Zahand stated he would take care of it over a year ago when the damaged happened. He did not which resulted in more damage and the need to replace that side of the sign which would cost the Borough approximately \$16,000. The information for the trucking company that hit the sign was given to Mr. Zahand when it happened. They were willing to pay. It should not have to come out of taxpayers money. Mr. Zahand has the company name and estimate for repairing the sign.

Council would like to have a formal letter written up by Mr. Creagh to explain what is covered and what is not covered under the KLH retainer agreement (\$200/month, renewed yearly) with his signature. Secretary will contact Mr. Creagh with this request.

### **Citizens**

John Brouzakis spoke on the raise in property taxes. He suggests raising wage taxes and school taxes instead. That is up to the State and School, not the Borough. The taxes have only been raised twice in 36 years. He also reported streetlights out on Davidson Dr.

### **Citizens/Old Business**

Jackie Galiffa spoke on the previous discussion on removing the yellow line along the curb on Grandview Way. She is against it due to safety reasons. If the yellow line is removed for parking spaces, there is nowhere to pull over if another car is coming up the hill when someone is going down. It is very dangerous. Unfortunately, parking is an issue in Mapleview. Grandview Way cannot be made a one-way street.

Sam DeSantis spoke that most residents treat Grandview Way as one-way anyway and rarely go down Grandview Way. They follow it around to Arlington then continue down.

Council suggests having a special public meeting for further discussion. All residents will be welcome to come voice their opinions.

Mrs. DeSantis complimented the work Dennis and Tim did on 100 Grandview Way; a lien was placed on the property for the grass violation.

Mrs. Spina asked Mr. DeSantis if he would be willing to repair the wooden sign at the bottom of Grandview Way along RT 88.

**Tax Collector's Report:** Deposit of \$23,295.39.

### **New Business**

Mrs. Barcelona would like to possibly attend training classes. She will submit a request since it is in the budget for training courses.

Paving the alley between Lewis and Speers; it was decided before that it was not able to be done due to the flooding it would cause to the yards from the run off.

Paving at the Industrial Park; Mr. Morgan previously gave 2 quotes. Could we get the businesses to help with the costs? We will contact Johnna Pro with the DCED to attend our next Council meeting to discuss the Neighborhood Assistance Program which lets the businesses get a tax credit if they donate funds. We will contact Jonna Knapik (rep with Liquid Fuels) for more information as well.

Fire Dept. donation request: Mr. McCorkle presented the request from the Fire Dept; they are requesting \$1,200 for Recruitment and Retention Strategies. This will go towards programs, training and advertisements. A motion to make the donation was made by Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mr. Daylong; Mr. Hepple abstained. The Recruitment and Retention program will not conflict with the Tax Credit Ordinance.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.

**\*\*\* Community Yard Sale will take place June 8, 2024; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$5.00 per yard can be mailed into/dropped off at the Borough Building. All proceeds will go to the Civic Club. \*\*\***