

The Borough of Speers Council met on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mr. McCorkle, Mrs. Spina, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mr. Hepple.

Council interviewed the three candidates that submitted letters of interest for the vacant Council seat position. This Council seat is just for the remainder of the (2021) year. A motion to appoint Denise DeCooman was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. Mayor Herd did a temporary swearing in. The secretary will contact Judge Porter for an official swearing in and signed oath.

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

Secretary read the correspondence: fireworks donation request, JED agreement, Tri-County meeting, LSA deposit. A motion to accept the agreement with JED for 2 routine visits a year for \$344.00 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Police: 31 calls for April; Fire Dept: 7 calls; EMS: 15 calls.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Streets: Mr. Rice – The gas company is working on replacing/repairing the sidewalks. Milling on State St has started.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – budget is complete for April; income = \$22,796.81; expense - \$43,828.01. Mr. McCorkle ran a budget analysis report; available for review. Overall, still doing well; waiting for tax income, bills just went out.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – reported that his neighbor is requesting a handicap parking spot. There was a signed posted previously for the family, requesting it be re-installed. The office is waiting for the application to be submitted. A motion to install the sign when the application and payment (\$50 fee) is received was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Ms. DeeComan; all in favor. Mr. Daylong also reported a neighbor called him complaining about parking; Mr. Daylong called Police; Police looked into and stated no violations. He would also like a letter sent to 101 Schaffer Ave for grass violation. Code enforcement sent certified letter to 138 Arlington for ordinance violations. 156 State St. was maintained.

Streetlights: Mr. Hepple and Dennis met with WPP representatives Jim Cannon and Christine Smith regarding streetlights not working in the IDC Park. This has been an ongoing issue for 7 months. They submitted a plan to install 14 new streetlights with LED lights for approximately \$14,000 -\$16,000. The Borough would be responsible to pay for the poles and WPP will be responsible for the electricity and maintenance. Mrs. Spina questioned if we need to advertise for bids? Per Mr. Lint – no – because the utility company will be installing the poles and the estimate is under the bidding threshold. A motion to move forward and accept the estimate from WPP was made by Mrs. Spina and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; all in favor. Secretary will contact Jim Cannon to initiate the formal paperwork.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing at this time.

Mr. McCorkle questioned the status of the park grant; HMT will update on their report.

Transit Authority: Mr. Hepple – Nothing to report at this time; still working on the merge with Washington Rides. They are considering adding another stop.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Nothing at this time.

Mayor Herd: He will be sending a mock-up of the website. Council will decide what to have on the website: activities, meetings, minutes, photos, information.

Dennis Carson's report: cold patch potholes, cut grass, weed whack, worked on sewer issues at 124 State St, had maintenance done on the Kubota, treated Honor Roll with weed killer, met with ABOC to change valves, re-installed meter at the park, opened park for rentals, cleaned bathrooms, met with WPP regarding streetlights at IDC Park, had the fire extinguishers inspected, cleaned roots at 315 Grandview Way, cut tree at the park, fixed tire on Kubota, 6 dye tests and 9 One Calls. Mr. Hepple asked if 118 State St had a downspout inspection, yes-passed. Mr. Daylong questioned if the Borough has authorization to cut down trees between the sidewalk and the street? The trees are on the Borough right-of-way; but the Borough did give permission to homeowners/residents to plant the trees there because it is their own property. The homeowners paid for the trees. Should the Borough be responsible to cut the trees down? Mr. Lint recommends addressing the homeowner if the Borough has to cut the tree, the homeowner will be billed. Dennis confirmed at this time, there are no issues with tree roots in the lines causing problems. If a problem occurs, he can have a camera inserted in the line and handle accordingly.

**ENGINEER/CODE ENFORCEMENT:** Mr. Kauffman – report given. MS-4 – ongoing; Morgan subdivision completed; working on bridge inspection reports and a structural analysis needs completed. Previous structural analysis was completed by Mackin in 2012. The Borough does not have a copy of the results. Mr. Kauffman is requesting permission to speak with Mackin to obtain a copy of the previous analysis and also to research companies and costs for a new structural analysis – Mr. Rice gave permission. Mr. Kauffman will report back to Council for approval before anything further is done.

**SOLICITOR:** Mr. Lint – Spoke on the vacant Council seat and reviewed the term guidelines.

**CITIZENS:** Ed Perry at 167 State Street – spoke regarding an incident where a car did some damage to his yard. He wants compensated for his time and supplies to repair the yard. He received compensation for the supplies. He submitted an invoice on labor from another company's bid. He did not use that company to repair his yard. He did the work himself. Mr. Perry was upset that he was not notified of the court date. Mr. Lint clarified it is up to the courts to notify of court hearings. Mr. Lint also stated that he should only be reimbursed for the supplies and cannot get restitution for another's bid when you do the work yourself. This is not a Borough issue. Mr. Perry would need to follow up with the Police with any complaints.

Al Rost: spoke on the American Rescue Plan and the allotment for Speers Borough; Council will check on the criteria to receive the money.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT:** Deposit of \$6,129.30.

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Mr. McCorkle – Community yard sale will be held on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.; the fee to participate is \$5.00 per house/yard and the money will go to the Civic Club. Council is discussing more events to host in the near future. Mrs. Spina is researching information on food truck costs. Some companies will give a percentage of profits back to the Borough. Council will discuss further. Mrs. Spina spoke with Mr. Zahand regarding installing the electronic signs. He will be installing the sign along RT 88 at the entrance to Mapleview this week. Mr. Bassi gave permission on a monthly basis to the Borough to install a sign on his property (across from Exxon and corner lot) in exchange that the Borough will maintain the grass. Mr. Zahand stated that he can run the electricity for the signs now and they can be moved at any time if needed. Mrs. Spina will train any Council member on how to access and program messages to the sign. Mrs. Spina is looking into applying for a \$500 grant which can be used to enclose the sign.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms. DeCooman is asking what will be included on the Borough website? Can we add contact information for the local utility companies? Council will decide what information to have available. Ms. DeCooman would like to see the Police receive immediate training on crisis and mental health emergencies. Council recommends that she contact the Police Board with her concerns. Mrs. Spina reported that “The Little Great Race” is scheduled for September 11, 2021. The Charleroi Fire Dept. and Police Dept. will be holding a clay shoot; details to follow. A motion to donate \$100.00 to Charleroi Borough towards the fireworks display was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor. Mr. Hepple thanked Council for accomplishing so much at this meeting.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mrs. Spina.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.