

The Borough of Speers Council met on October 6, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mr. McCorkle, Ms. DeCooman, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Mr. Daylong and Mr. Hepple.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read; a motion to accept was made by Ms. DeCooman and seconded by Mr. McCorkle.

Secretary read the correspondence: Tri-County Borough meeting, Pension State Aid - \$5,169.23, Fire Relief Aid - \$5,784.59, WCPC recycle drop off, Mr. Hepple/Transit Authority letter.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Police: report available for review – 15 calls for the month of September; Fire – 5 calls; EMS – 18 calls. Mr. Daylong questioned the \$17,000 increase on the proposed budget for next year for the Police. This is just a proposal, still working on.

Transit Authority: Mr. Hepple submitted his resignation letter to the board effective immediately. A motion to appoint Mr. Herd to fill the position was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Streets & Sewers: will discuss under Dennis's report.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – September budget complete; income = \$30,382.90; expenses = \$52,436.68. YTD is +\$123,525.06.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong - previous issues resolved; one residence is still working on their property – no address given.

Streetlights: Secretary reported that we are still waiting for the contract from WPP regarding the new streetlights for the IDC Park. Once we receive and review the agreement and pay, they will put in a work order.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing at this time. Dennis reported the memorial bench for Mayor Lee is almost done.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – working with DCED on American Rescue Act grants.

Mayor Herd – recommended putting the powerlines at the park underground; on Arlington Ave, by the fire hydrant, maybe install a bench to overlook the river – it is private property, we cannot install a bench. In Lower Speers, add handicap ramps on the sidewalks. Mayor Herd spoke regarding the upcoming elections and write-in campaign.

Dennis Carson – cut grass, weed whack, painted slow signs on the streets, cleaned park for rentals, met with WPP regarding the new streetlights, cleaned steps down to RT 88, tar cracks on Charles St., worked on the Kubota mower, installed new stop signs at Lewis & Oak, 8 one calls and 1 downspout inspection. Dennis reported the road will be milled tomorrow on Rebecca St. between Lewis Ave. and Speers Ave. and also the corner of Rebecca St. and Jane Ave; paving will start on Monday.

Kerry Krider reported the Borough is eligible for \$50,000 every 2 years through the Redevelopment Authority for certain projects. This is not a grant.

**CODE ENFORCEMENT & ENGINEER:** Mr. Krider attended the meeting; code enforcement report given; any questions will be directed to Troy.

Mr. Krider spoke on the bridge project – the grant was approved for \$88,000 for bridge. There are no plans attached to the bridge report so there is nothing to specifically put out for bid. SAI Engineers do not provide that, plans will need to be prepared. Mr. Krider obtained an estimate from Stahl Sheaffer Engineering to prepare the plans. Their fee is an estimated total of \$32,927.00. Mr. Krider recommends for the Borough to pay their fee and use the grant for the repairs and once the bids are in, ask for more funds to cover the remaining costs. Mr. Rice spoke to Ben Brown. Mr. Brown stated to wait for the engineers report before asking for more money. The grant should be released in the next few weeks. Per Mr. Lint, the preparation of the plans has to be put out for bid due to the cost. Mr. Krider – can we state they would be a sub-consultant? No, per Mr. Lint, it has to be advertised with specifications. Mr. Krider - there are no specs to release to potential bidders, only the bridge inspection report. Mr. Krider will post the inspection report on the HMT website for engineers to download so they can prepare their bid. Mr. Krider will write the advertisement and the secretary will submit to the newspaper to run 1x week for 2 weeks. Council will need to schedule a pre-bid meeting.

The Redevelopment Authority money for the park updates/upgrades is almost ready. They (RA) run the advertisement and set up the pre-bid meeting. The money will go towards paving the parking lot, line the parking spaces and adding a wearing surface to the gravel trails. He is not sure if they (RA) will go ahead this year or hold bid quotes until next year to do the upgrades. If sidewalk corners are an option, it could take an additional three months due to photos that are required to be sent to the PA Historical Society.

Mr. Krider spoke on composting. He provided paperwork under the Greenways Trails for Dennis to review. Yard composting facilities under 5 acres are exempt from a general permit if they comply with the code. Dennis will review and follow up.

**Solicitor:** Mr. Lint spoke regarding 2 liens. One homeowner paid and he needs an updated address for the other property owner. We will contact Beth Lawrence at the tax assessment office for a current address for the property owner. Mr. Lint will file a lien at the courthouse.

**Citizens:** Mel spoke on the leaf pick-up/composting. Is it worth the time/effort and money of the Borough? Is this important to the residents to look further into this before we apply for a grant? Dennis will forward the composting paperwork to Mel for review. Can the garbage company pick up the leaves? It is stated in the contract that BIG's Sanitation is not required to pick them up. The Borough is not legally responsible to pick up the leaves. It was a courtesy. What do other towns do? They have the space, money and employees to compost and/or mulch.

Al Rost – commented on the agenda and time limit to speak. How do we get on the agenda? Contact the secretary to add to the agenda prior to the timeframe for posting. Mr. Lint clarified that anything can be discussed just cannot act on unless on the agenda. The agenda must be posted 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

Jesse – questioned how is information relayed to the residents? Facebook, social media, Speers Nextdoor app, the Borough website, digital sign.

Al Rost – listed a few options where to purchase office equipment and set it up so that it is functional.

**TAX COLLECTOR:** Deposit of \$2,961.30.

**Old/Unfinished Business:** A motion to purchase new office equipment (phone, computer, desk) not exceeding the limit of \$9,000 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; All in favor.

Deaf child sign – Davidson Dr. A motion to install the sign was made by Mr. Hepple and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; All in favor. Dennis will order the sign.

Purchasing new Borough tools – 2 DeWalt drills, grinder, charger and two batteries for \$299. A motion to purchase new tools was made by Ms. DeCooman and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; All in favor. Mr. Rost suggested Ridgid tools at Home Depot.

Handicap parking spot – options? Lease a spot? Change the current ordinance? Re-apply every 2 years? Leasing – what stops every resident from leasing spots for multiple cars? It is giving residents the options of buying their own spots. Per Mr. Lint – we can lease a spot but we cannot deny someone else asking for the same thing. Mayor Herd – handicap leasing only? – No such thing. Change the ordinance to 2 spots per the block? Mrs. Spina - Then what? Since it is an aging population, do we keep changing the ordinance every time someone applies for a spot? When does it stop and how do we tell someone no? Council abides by the ordinance. Mr. McCorkle feels that it is fair to change it to 2 spots per block, not for a specific person but for the aging population in general. Mrs. Spina – what defines a block? It is mapped out in the ordinance book. Mr. Lint – the ordinance already defines what constitutes as a block, this will only change the number of handicap spots allowed per block. Grandview Way is different because it is a two-way street with parking on only one side. A motion to amend the ordinance from one spot to 2 spots along Grandview Way was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong. The motion to change the current ordinance was opposed by Mr. Hepple and Mrs. Spina. Per Mr. Lint this vote is moot at this time anyway. Council is not adopting this change. First, Council has to give permission authorizing Mr. Lint to revise a draft of the amended ordinance to present at the November meeting, then it will have to be advertised for adoption at the December meeting. At the December meeting, if any Council member is opposed to it, then they do not vote in favor of it at that time. Mrs. Barcelona – can an ordinance be deleted? Yes per Mr. Lint. Mr. Daylong reviewed the ordinance and stated that if a person has an access driveway, they do not get approved for a handicap spot because they can park in their driveway. Should we have applicants re-apply every 2-3 years to give others a chance? Mr. Lint reviewed the current ordinance. Mr. Daylong stated he would have opposed the vote to change the ordinance if it was discussed in more detail before voting. A motion to rescind the

previous vote was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. The current ordinance will stay as is. Mayor Herd – are we liable -can someone sue the borough if we deny an application? Per Mr. Lint – No. Mr. Hepple – can we grant a temporary handicap spot and then have them re-apply every 2 years?

Mrs. Spina is trained on programming the digital sign. She will train others if they are interested. The second sign still needs installed; Mr. Zahand is waiting for the poles to come in.

**New Business:** Mr. Rice – discussion regarding trick or treat. Treat Bags for the parade participants and prizes for the winners of 3 categories (scariest, most original, and cutest) will be provided by private donations. Parade line up at the church (Jane and Rebecca), walk State St. to the borough building. We will have police and fire dept. patrol the Borough. A motion to hold the Halloween Parade at 5:00 p.m and Trick or Treat from 6 – 8:00 pm on October 30<sup>th</sup> was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Spina; all in favor. Mrs. Spina will order number bibs for the parade participants. Council will advertise on social media and the website.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. Daylong and seconded by Mr. McCorkle. Secretary will hold the HMT bill until we get a revised invoice.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.