

The Borough of Speers Council met on October 4, 2023 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Spina, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. Todora.

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

Secretary read the correspondence: TCBM 10/19; Fire Relief Allocation = \$6,753.84.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: September calls

Police: 77; EMS: 15; Fire: 5 – All reports available for review.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Absent

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – Income = \$24,726.54; Expenses = \$55,307.14
YTD (+) 63,887.74.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing to report.

Streetlights: No outages reported.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – working on obtaining quotes for mulch and fencing for Lower Speers Park.

Transit Authority: MVA is possibly leasing land to MVTA in Speers Industrial Park to have a turn-around bus lane.

Grants: Mrs. Spina stated the next round of LSA grant applications are due. She spoke with Jamie Colecchi regarding applying to get additional funding for the bridge project since we still have a large gap that we cannot pay for. He advised us not to do that because it would be our 3rd time applying for grant money for the bridge and they will question why it took 3 years to complete the project. If we do apply for grant money for the bridge and get it, they will retract the last grant that was approved and we will have to start all over. We could possibly apply for the grant to go towards the Lower Speers Park.

Mayor Herd expressed his frustration with KLH and Kerry Krider regarding the bridge repair project. Mrs. Spina and Mr. Rice had a phone call with Mr. Krider trying to get answers on the progress since he will not respond to any emails from the Borough Secretary. At this time, Council is holding payment on invoices to KLH

in regards to the bridge project until progress is seen. Several businesses in the IDC Park, that will be affected by this project, have reached out to help but without bid specs there is nothing to provide them. The specs were supposed to be posted on the KLH website August 14th and as of today they still are not. Council just received a draft of the bid advertisement. Council will question Mr. Krider again on who prepared the draft and who will advertise the bid, Mr. Krider or Shannon. Council is being questioned as to why it is taking so long to complete this project. The reason is because our engineer is holding us up. Speers has paid in excess of \$70,000 so far for this project for engineering fees and we have gotten zero accomplished in 3 years. We are getting conflicting information from Mr. Krider on what the holdup is.

We are still waiting for Mr. Krider to get the sign for the Lower Speers Park Project which is a requirement for receiving the grant.

Dennis Carson's Report: cut grass, weed whacked, sprayed weeds, ordered new street signs for Back St, installed new flag at the Honor Roll, trimmed trees on Oak St, Back St, Howard St, Davidson Dr and Charles St, washed pick up trucks, worked on drain inlet at the park, cold-patched potholes, planted flowers at the Honor Roll, cleaned drains after the storms, 5 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – confirmed that he updated Mr. Lonich (attorney for Mr. Vorhes) on the street name change. Parcel Viewer and County 911 were also contacted with the changes. Mr. Lint suggests to amend/update the parking ordinance when all the information is collected.

Citizens: Mr. Jeffrey Umbel spoke on the property he owns in the Borough (M2). He started clearing the land of trees and brush. To dispose of that, he starting burning the piles. Speers has an ordinance against burning. An anonymous compliant was made to the DEP. The fire chief also requested that Mr. Umbel stop burning. The DEP investigated and concluded that Mr. Umbel's property is in an air basin which prohibits any burning other than household refuse which Mr. Umbel does not have. He is prevented from continuing to burn. We cannot issue a burning permit. The DEP regulations overrule the Borough even if we allowed it. There is no exception for burning brush. It was suggested that he contact a brush removal company. Council sympathizes with Mr. Umbel's desire to develop his land but rules of the DEP must be followed.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$4,081.35.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Mr. Hepple spoke on a tree that is laying on lines on Oak Street. Dennis has reported it several times to the utility companies. Verizon, WPP or Comcast need to handle that issue.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McCorkle reported that the Fire Dept is hosting the Hills Food Truck on October 28th and asked if they could park it at the Borough Building during the day through Trick or Treat hours. A portion of sales would be donated to the Fire Dept. It is Mr. McCorkle's recommendation that Council provide a permit granting permission. It was questioned why we would not use the local business (Ekernally Yours) that also has a food truck that could provide the same snacks? Was that business offered the same opportunity? The fundraiser is the Fire Dept's idea not Borough Council. It would be their decision to reach out. A motion to grant permission for the Hills Food Truck to park at the Borough Building was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; 3 in favor; 1 opposed.

Mr. Daylong questioned if anything will change due to the sale of BIG's Sanitation. Nothing should change since we are under contract through 2024 per Mr. Lint.

Speers Borough has used Mr. Dennis Smith for several years under HMT/KLH as our BCO (Building Code Official). Mr. Smith accepted a new job under United Code Consultants. KLH sent a letter stating they will not be providing building code review services and recommends that Speers Borough join an agreement with United Code Consultants for any and all Building and Zoning permit services. A motion to sign the agreement with United Code Consultants (Dennis Smith) for building/zoning permits was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Daylong; all in favor.

Jackie Galiffa, Tax Collector, is requesting a new paper shredder for her office. She is budgeted for supplies. She will purchase a new shredder and submit the receipt.

A motion to pay the bills except for the KLH invoices relating to the bridge project was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.