

The Borough of Speers Council met on September 4, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Hepple, Mrs. Barcelona, Mrs. Spina, Ms. DeCooman and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mr. Daylong (prior notification given).

A motion to accept the previous meeting minutes as read was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Correspondence – LSA payment of \$13,657.59.

August report: Police = 146 calls, EMS = 16 calls, Fire Dept = 4 calls.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Mr. McCorkle - Income = \$45,557.17; Expenses = \$74,848.92. YTD (+) \$69,828.95.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong: Absent.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Phase 1 of the Lower Speers Park is complete. We will sign off and advertise for Phase 2 (fencing and asphalt).

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Nothing at this time.

Streetlights: No reports of outages.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd – reported that Van Beck is no longer in the building and they are discussing options of what to do with the vacancy (tear down, rent out). They applied for a tax abatement for a year.

Mayor Herd: Briefly spoke on the Police budget, current garbage contract is almost expired, Road crew contract is also due for negotiations. He thanked Mrs. Barcelona for her work on the Lower Speers Park project. He reported that the commitment funds from Guttman are still needed for the matching funds requirement; Mrs. Spina will follow up on this. Mayor Herd reiterated that all residents must obey the ordinances and permit requirements. He also thanked Dennis for addressing the solicitation permit situation. Please send any messages to him that you want added to the website. He thanked Mr. McCorkle on keeping the finances/budget on track. Congratulated Mr. Cardinale on his retirement from the Water Authority.

Dennis Carson report: cut grass, weed whack, spray weeds, fix door to Civic Club Room, cut tree up at the park after storm, trim shrubs at Grandview/RT 88, replace “No Parking” signs on State St, refaced stop signs, met with Penn Dot at IDC Park for road measurements for paving, cold-patch potholes, flush sewer line on Lewis Ave, clean park pavilions and restrooms for rentals, water flowers at Honor Roll, 7 One Calls and 6 downspout inspections.

Dennis contacted Penn Dot to have the dumpster and garbage removed along RT 88 ramp.

ENGINEER: Mr. Creagh joined over the phone to report that Phase 1 of the Lower Park is complete. We will sign off on that portion. Phase 2 will include fencing and paving/asphalt. Secretary will advertise the bid specs on Tuesday September 10th and 17th. Bids will be due by 2:00 p.m. on October 1st. Bids will be opened on October 1st and potentially be awarded at the October 2nd meeting. We are still waiting for Allison Park to sign off on the contract. They needed to revise their railroad insurance. Once signed, Notice to Proceed will be issued. Secretary will send the invoice from Play & Park Structures to Mr. Creagh so he can upload to the portal to request the final grant payment.

SOLICITOR: Mr. Lint provided the garbage bid specs for the new contract. Specs will be advertised in the MVI paper with sealed bids due by 7:30 p.m. on November 6th, 2024. A pre-bid meeting will be held on October 9th, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. Bids will be opened at the Council meeting on November 6th, 2024. Mr. Lint will evaluate all bids and prepare to award at the December meeting. Specs will be available the Borough office. Mr. Lint also provided an ordinance draft prohibiting the deposit of materials in the rights-of-ways of the Borough. A motion to advertise the intent to take action at the October 2nd, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Spina.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$12,747.30.

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Ms. DeCooman asked where the run off/sewage issues were coming from? Dennis confirmed it was along Twilight Hollow Road when Penn Dot milled the road and decapitated the manhole cover. The millings clogged the sewer line.

Mr. McCorkle met with Jonna Knapik, Liquid Fuels rep, regarding paving the IDC Park. For the milling it would be \$115,312.50, paving would be \$181,975; total would be estimated at \$297,287.50 for the entire IDC Park. A motion to move forward with Jonna preparing bid specs and advertising the project was made by Ms. DeCooman and seconded by Mr. Hepple; all in favor.

Mr. McCorkle presented 3 quotes to replace the damaged digital sign:

1. Mon Valley Signs - \$16,214.40
2. DSM - \$11,400.00
3. Stewart Signs - \$14,502.54

A motion to accept the bid from DSM was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor. The bid includes one new sign, ViPlex software upgrade for all 3 signs, spare parts kit, 5-year parts warranty, 6-month labor warranty, on-site training and laptop/cloud based communications. The amount includes a \$600 discount for pre-paying in full.

Clean-up day details are still being worked out; where to meet, where to clean up, lunch/drinks provided? Secretary will reach out to the insurance company and see if Speers is liable if a volunteer is injured. Mr. Rost questioned if the IDC Park will be included in the clean-up area?

Will signs be posted for safety reasons? Ms. DeCooman will have a list of volunteers by the end of the weekend.

NEW BUSINESS: Budget draft for next year will start on October 9th after the pre-bid meeting.

Mayor Herd reported there will be a budget increase for Police salaries; increase of approximately \$22,000 for Speers Borough; we pay 20% of their contract fees, Charleroi pays 65% and North Charleroi pays 15%. This will be considered a contract extension for 1 or 2 years. We will not have to re-negotiate again in that timeframe. A motion to accept the Police budget with an increase of \$1,876.25 a month for Speers was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. DeCooman; all in favor; Mr. Hepple voted against.

Speers Borough will discuss a tax increase for next year.

Mayor Herd spoke about looking into CD's or other investments to roll over funds. You have to look at the stipulations/requirements of the funding source to see what is allowed.

Council and Civic Club will discuss Halloween details. Parade and Trick or Treat will be held on October 26th. Prizes and gift bags are through donations, not Borough money.

Crystalline is no longer in business. We will have to find another company to handle our security cameras.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mrs. Spina met with GE, Brett-CFO, to discuss the bridge project. They are concerned with alternate exit options. Discussion regarding contributing funds to the project took place and they will let us know if they can help.

Mayor Herd will also follow up with Technip to see if they can contribute as well.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.