

The Borough of Speers Council met on September 7, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mr. McCorkle, Mr. Todora, Mr. Sauer, Mrs. Barcelona, Mr. Daylong and Mayor Herd. Absent was Mrs. Spina.

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

Mr. Rice spoke regarding the ongoing issues that Mr. Todora has with Mrs. Spina and the other members of Council. Mr. Rice wrote and read a letter supporting Mrs. Spina. Mr. Rice requested the immediate resignation of Mr. Todora. Letter is available for review.

Mrs. Barcelona read a letter supporting Mrs. Spina. Mrs. Barcelona requested the immediate resignation of Mr. Todora. Letter is available for review.

Mr. Sauer spoke next, reading a letter of support on behalf of Mrs. Spina. Mr. Sauer requested the immediate resignation of Mr. Todora.

Mr. McCorkle read a letter addressing the problems with Mr. Todora verbally attacking Council members. He read a letter of support and requested the immediate resignation of Mr. Todora.

Mr. Daylong expressed his disgust of the actions going on. He spoke in support for Mrs. Spina and asked for the immediate resignation of Mr. Todora.

Mayor Herd spoke in support of Mrs. Spina. He requested that Mr. Todora apologize to Mrs. Spina. Mayor Herd is disappointed in his actions. Everyone is there for the betterment of the Borough and all need to show respect. Mayor Herd feels that Mr. Todora owes all members of Council an apology.

The letters were read aloud during the meeting to show complete transparency.

Mr. Todora stated that he did apologize to Mrs. Spina. Mr. Todora stated that he did not know he was on speaker phone when he made derogatory comments about Mrs. Spina. He stated that it is Council's job to represent Americans and he is not sorry for the things he said. Mr. Todora wants his kids to grow up seeing/reading people's faces and not be a compromised person. He stated "the fair thing to do was to not put Covid messages on the digital sign." He did not promote anyone getting the vaccine shot(s) because he felt they were dangerous. He wanted the messages to state "Don't get the shot, Don't wear the mask, Be an American, Be free." Mr. McCorkle - Why are we still talking about this? Those messages were on the digital sign back in March, it is now September. Mr. Todora - "There are other views other than yours, how dare you talk to me that way?" Mr. McCorkle - How dare you talk that way and call Mrs. Spina the "C" word? Mr. Todora - "It was one word and Mrs. Spina is a grown adult. I don't feel good about saying it and I did apologize." Mr. Todora stated we are supposed to show respect but yet he kept getting interrupted. Mr. McCorkle apologized to Mr. Todora for interrupting. Mayor Herd stated we are not getting into political views, we are here to represent Speers Borough. Mr. Todora feels that making his kids wear a mask is the same as making a dog wear a muzzle. It should be their choice. Why is it being shoved in people's faces? Mr. McCorkle - When and where is it being shoved or forced on people? Council has not displayed any Covid related messages on the digital sign since March. Mr. Todora feels that for 2 years everyone was bombarded with Mr. McCorkle's ideals. Mr. Todora asked why wear a diaper on your face when you are a healthy person. Mr. McCorkle stated it is his choice as an American to wear a mask or not. Mr. Todora - wearing a mask makes you look like a dunce. He felt no Covid messages should have been displayed on the digital sign. He stated nobody asked for the sign.

Mr. Lint - the digital sign was obtained through a grant with the stipulation of displaying Covid related messages for 1 year. Mr. Todora feels we didn't need the sign. The grant was approved before Mr. Todora was elected to Council. Mrs. Gailffa – It is not a diaper and everyone has an opinion and their own choice to wear a mask or not. Mr. Todora feels that the sign is telling people what to do. Mr. McCorkle – let's put Covid aside because this issue is beyond Speers Borough's control. Not sure why we are still talking about the messages anyway since no Covid messages have been on the sign for months. The real issue now is how Mr. Todora spoke about Mrs. Spina. Mr. Todora stated he spoke to Mrs. Spina and no other adults need to worry about it. If Mrs. Spina resigns from Council, then what? Mr. Todora said to warn the next person to not antagonize the town. He also said that Mrs. Spina will not quit, it's all a ruse. Mr. Todora feels that Council is being secretive on who controls the signs. Multiple people have access to posting messages on the sign, it's no secret. Mr. Todora said there needs to be transparency. Mr. Todora stated Mr. McCorkle looks like a Covid character because he wears a mask. Once again, let's get back to the text messages that were sent to Mrs. Spina. Mr. Todora asked why it wasn't said that the garbage day changed? Why keep deflecting when asked about the texts?

Mr. Todora stated that he has things he believes in and he will not stop. There is going to be transparency and he assumed Council would hate him. He asked previously to remove the Covid messages from the sign after the requirement was fulfilled. Council voted 6-1 to keep two messages for another month, which was back in April. Since then, no messages regarding Covid have been displayed. Mr. McCorkle stated the sign was installed before Mr. Todora joined Council. If you had a problem with the sign, why didn't you come to a meeting as a citizen and voice your complaint? He didn't know the liberal that was working the sign. Mr. Rice - The party lines need to go away in local government. Mr. Todora wanted on Council to video the meetings and show transparency. Mr. Todora called Mrs. Galiffa the trash of the town. It was stated that Mr. Todora parks on a yellow line in front of his house. He feels the yellow line is not legal. The Police Officer in attendance of the meeting stated it is illegal to park on a yellow line. Mr. Todora asked if you can paint a yellow line across a paper alley? Mr. McCorkle - again, when the discussion about the digital signs took place, where were you? Why didn't you ever come to a meeting prior to being on Council to express your concerns? Mr. Todora stated he wanted to be on this side to show transparency. He stated that he did come to two meetings prior to being on Council. It was established that he never attended prior meetings. He then said he was new and didn't know. He didn't know how Council worked and wanted to mind his own business. Most hardworking people mind their own business. Most hardworking people that actually matter are home now resting from their hard day. Mr. McCorkle – you're telling our constituents that they are not hardworking? A citizen stated they have been trying to get another bus stop for years. Another citizen commented that it is impossible to talk to Mr. Todora and he will never change his mind about anything. Mr. Todora stated that Council suggested to Mrs. Spina to file a police report. Later in the day that Mr. Todora sent the text messages, he asked Mrs. Spina if she wanted to talk. Mrs. Spina said no. Mr. Todora stated that Mrs. Spina is not afraid of him. Mr. Todora – “I don't like how I spoke about her, I didn't talk like that to her.” Mr. Todora doesn't believe that Covid exists. People are dying of pneumonia not Covid. The messages are hurting his kids and he is tired of it being shoved down his kid's throats. Mr. Todora wants to install cameras for the Council meetings to show transparency. It was suggested to put the meetings on Zoom again. Mr. Todora will handle that and add it to next month's agenda. Mrs. Barcelona – do we have to make a motion to allow other voice recorders into the meeting other than the secretary's recorder? Mr. Lint – No, he can voice record it himself, there are no requirements. If Council wants to televise a meeting, they have to make a motion and put it to a vote and decided by Council. Mayor Herd – is there a

difference between television and Zoom? Mr. Lint- yes. Mr. Todora – Zoom will just invite you guys to drop it the second someone is not looking. It was stated previously that Mr. Todora would be in charge of handling the Zoom meeting so how could someone else drop it? Mr. Todora – even when I am gone, I want people of this town to trust what’s going on with Council. Mr. Rice - The meetings are open to the public. Anyone can attend if they are concerned. Mr. Todora – what if they can’t walk? There is a ramp. What if they can’t drive. Mr. McCorkle will pick them up.

Secretary read the correspondence: LSA deposit = \$13,657.59; yearly request for Fire Dept donation; Tri-County Borough Meeting 9/15/2022 – co-host with Charleroi.

Mr. McCorkle is asking if we can increase the one-time donation to \$6,000 instead of \$4,000. Mr. McCorkle to abstain. A motion was made by Mr. McCorkle to donate \$6,000 and seconded by Mr. Todora. All in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Police: 93 calls for Speers for August; report available.

Fire Dept: 44 calls for August.

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Todora – Nothing to report at this time.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – August report available. Income = \$55,661.18; expenses = \$76,884.25. YTD: (+)11,219.83.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – Nothing to report at this time.

Streetlights: No reports.

Parks: Mr. Sauer reported that the grant that Mrs. Spina applied for was approved (\$70,000) to upgrade and rehabilitate the Lower Speers Park. The Borough did receive monies in matching funds from local businesses (Guttman, Fourth Street Barbecue, National Polymers, Speer Street Grill, Back Porch).

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd commented that the first day of service for the new bus stop at the IDC Park will be October 1, 2022.

Grants: Mrs. Spina – Absent. Mr. Sauer previously reported on the grant that Mrs. Spina obtained for the Lower Speers Park.

Mayor Herd: Thanked Police for the protection during the bridge closure. He spoke on the Lower Speers Park grant and the upgrades/rehabilitation that will be happening. He reported the paving project in the Upper Speers Park was completed due to a grant as well.

Dennis Carson’s Report – Cut grass, weed whacked, sprayed weeds, checked on sewer problems at Maple Terrace, blacktop sink hole at IDC Park, trimmed trees along roads, worked on outlets at the park, installed new outlets at pavilion #2, met with water company about a leak at 703 Lewis, cleaned catch basins after storms, cleaned park for rentals, met with state and contractors at Honor Roll regarding water problem, met with engineer at IDC Park about sewers and grease in lines from Kodiak, 20 One Calls and 2 downspout inspections, had broken sidewalk repaired, signs and handicap ramps installed, got electricity at the Speers Park ready for movement of power to pavilions – a mast was attached to the concession stand, will go from underground wiring to above ground wiring.

Engineer/Code Enforcement: Not present.

Solicitor: Mr. Lint – sent lien letters for 165 Arlington Ave and 142 Grandview Way. He will also prepare to file a lien on 35 Carson St.

Citizens

Anne McCorkle – Expressed thanks to Mrs. Spina for all her hard work in obtaining grants for the Borough. She also supports the new bus stop. She commented that Mrs. Spina had nothing to do with adding the bus stop. Please show respect to everyone even if you have a different opinion, do not target anyone if they disagree with you.

Sam DeSantis – spoke regarding an abandoned boat and car that is parked along RT 88. The boat has trees growing up through it. Unfortunately, that is railroad property, not the borough. Council did report it years ago to the railroad company. Mr. Rice will contact them again.

TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT: Deposit of \$5,440.16.

OLD BUSINESS: Mr. Daylong is requesting that a letter be sent to Mrs. Spina asking her to stay on Council and each member sign it. He is also asking the citizens to send her a letter as well. Mr. Daylong stated that Mrs. Spina is one of the best Council members he has ever known.

Mr. McCorkle – spoke on digital speed limit signs. He reached out to 4 different places for information/quotes; only 2 responded. Waylan was \$10,000 – \$12,000 per sign. Radarsign - TC 400 is battery powered – 4 signs = \$12,660. TC 600 is solar powered and permanent – 4 signs = \$15,780. Specs for both are available upon request. What information is displayed? Can we apply for a grant to cover costs? How effective are the signs and for how long are they effective? Do they come with a backup battery? Police do not have radar guns at this time. Mrs. Galiffa – can we have speed bumps? They are not allowed and it will also damage the plows during snow removal. Mr. Daylong stated the Borough can be sued if the speed bumps damage a car.

NEW BUSINESS: Mr. McCorkle suggested instituting a refundable clean up fee with the park rentals. \$25? \$50? That money would go to Dennis and Tim if they have to clean up garbage. We can decide to add for next year. Mrs. Barcelona will work on a rental application. Would they pay with 2 separate checks? Credit card? A credit card machine is very pricey. Mr. Daylong stated when he was at the park, the dumpster was moved for paving and was hidden in the trees. Add garbage cans? Not a good idea because animals will get into the cans. A motion to request a \$75 fee for the pavilion rental and a separate \$50 refundable fee for cleanup starting in 2023 was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona; all in favor.

Mayor Herd commented on making Halloween plans. Parade at the park? Trick or Treat times? He will reach out to Civic Club. Possible parade at 5 and Trick or Treat to follow 6-8 p.m on October 29th.

Mr. Lint commented on the possible relocation of the State Police Barracks moving into Speers Borough. He suggested maybe send a letter of encouragement and support to Lt Commander Brown. Any Council members opposed to having the barracks in the Borough? No comment.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mr. Sauer. A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Mrs. Barcelona.