The Borough of Speers Council met on September 2, 2026 at 7:30 p.m.

In attendance were Mr. Rice, Mayor Herd, Mrs. Reinhard, Mr. McCorkle and Ms. Barcelona. Absent were Mrs. Devine, Dr. Hartley and Mr. McDonough. All gave prior notification.

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

Correspondence: LSA payment of $14,072.53.

Reports: Police = 200 calls (117 patrols); Fire = 10 calls – report available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance for August: Mr. McCorkle – Income = $67,282.06; Expenses = $82,132.91;
YTD (+) $140,910.15.

Borough Improvement: Mrs. Reinhard updated that the nuisance properties are showing improvements. We received a call from the school stating overhanging branches on trees in Mapleview are damaging the buses. She confirmed that trees need trimmed back so buses and fire trucks can operate safely. Letters will be sent out addressing these concerns.

Parks: Ms. Barcelona – no new updates until we receive quotes on the underground wires for the Upper Speers Park.

Grants: Ms. Barcelona read an update provided by Dr. Hartley – Spoke with Jonna Knapik regarding the Arentzen Bridge and the Multi-modal grant; followed up with Alyssa at DCED regarding the tar and chip project-engineer needs involved; at this time, we are waiting for the next bridge inspection report before making a final determination; she is creating an LTAP account; the Mapleview sign will be updated by the end of September.

MS4: Mrs. Devine – Absent.

Supplies: Mr. McDonough – Absent.

Streetlights: No outages reported.

Transit Authority: Mayor Herd reported that they are working on changing Local Match requirements, hoping to lower the required amount. He gave injury/accident report updates for July; minutes from their meeting are available for review.

Mayor Herd would like to commend all Council members when they speak up when residents report their concerns.

Tim Anthony report: commented on a state-owned drain that he located on State St. which is completely blocked causing extra rain to filter down State St. and cause flooding. After speaking

with them, they are to jet the lines and clean it out to open it up. Tim would also like to cut ditches along Davidson Dr. to re-direct the water from coming down to State St. Mr. McCorkle spoke with Mike (KLH) to possibly install more drains. Mike stated that a study would need to be completed first and would also need to make sure that the new lines could be tied in to the current system. We will discuss this again in October after the State cleans out the drain and the ditches are dug to see if additional drains will be needed. Another factor is driveways are slopped which causes the runoff from rain to flow back towards the house and cause flooding in basements.

The remainder of Tim's report: attended a Teams call with the railroad company – they are wanting us to take responsibility and maintenance of the crossing in Lower Speers (such as painting and posting signs), having the Bobcat serviced next week, contacted electricians for quotes for the underground wires at the park, cut grass, weed whacked, painted curbs, had JED service the units in the building, cleaned park pavilions and bathrooms for rentals, cleaned building for meetings, marked 8 One Calls, 2 downspout inspections, worked on obtaining bids on salt. Three Rivers bid is $24,000 for 150 tons. Morton has not responded yet.

Solicitor: Nothing to report.

Engineer: Not available.

Citizens: No comments.

Old/Unfinished Business: Tim obtained 3 phone quotes on cutting down 1 tree at the park:

1. Dillon's - $3,000 for 1 tree with a clause of additional fees if a second tree needs removed.
2. White Mountain - $4,000 for 1 tree.
3. Jim's – would not give a quote stating too dangerous, not safe.

A motion to accept Dillon's quote to cut the tree down with possible additional fees was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard; all in favor.

Tim is still working on obtaining quotes for installing underground wires at the park. Companies are not showing up to give an estimate.

New Business: Jody (secretary) is requesting that the CFS account for the Upper Speers Park be changed from a savings account to a checking account. A motion to remove Kim Heino as an authorized signer on the CFS savings account was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard. A motion to change from a CFS savings account to a CFS checking account with two authorized signers, Jody Burkholder and Curtis Rice, was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard; all in favor.

Mr. Rice presented a copy of a resolution stating that Council members can vote via phone if there is an in-person quorum present at the meeting. Mr. Lint stated that is not true under the Borough Code which falls under State law. Mr. Lint will look into any revisions to that Code. Mayor Herd will also check with PSAB. Mr. McCorkle provided information from the Sunshine Act that states boroughs are not permitted to vote via phone.

Council will start working on the proposed budget for next year later this month so we follow the advertising and adoption timeline. All Council members and secretary/treasurer should be included at the meetings.

Mr. McCorkle presented 2 payment requests for the Fire Dept. Recruitment and retention for $3,000 and the yearly service agreement for $6,000. Mr. McCorkle reported that he found the Borough and Fire Dept have been in agreement for service since at least November 7, 1933. Are these contractual obligations? There is no contract that states that we are obligated to pay it however past practice shows that we have always paid it. Are these considered donations then since there is no contract? These payments were budgeted for but unfortunately several expenses have come up since approving the budget last year. At some point, we need to curb the donations/payments. This is taxpayer's money and we need to be responsible. We need to start focusing on the needs of the borough also. The roadcrew needs new equipment (dump truck) that we cannot keep waiting for a grant to cover. Mr. McCorkle stated that if we are not going to approve these 2 payments then we should just hold off on paying the Police and everything else. Mrs. Reinhard stated that is not a valid option. When unexpected expenses come up, something has to give. We need to make sure the Borough comes first on some things. Everybody agrees that the Fire Dept is essential. That is not the issue. The issue is we cannot keep giving money out and then seeing what is left for us to be able to run the borough efficiently. Mayor Herd interrupted saying we can disagree but we need to show respect during these conversations. It is getting out of hand with the yelling and insulting. We are looking into options for purchasing the needed equipment through Costars and LSA. There are stipulations to using LSA money. Should there be an updated agreement with the Fire Dept since this one is very old? If we are paying an additional $9,000 every year, there should be a more current agreement/contract. We are not completely cutting off the first responders. We are just giving a little less until we can re-evaluate Borough expenses. Per Mr. Lint - since there is no specific contract stating what the quid pro quo is, these payment requests are technically a donation. Why are we budgeting for donations and not for more possible Borough expenses? Some equipment is urgent and needed now. We cannot just keep waiting and assuming we will be approved for a grant. As far as the dump truck, can it be repaired? There are several issues with the truck and will not pass inspection. We will check with Tim and Chad.

A motion to pay $9,000 to the Fire Dept was made by Mr. Rice and seconded by Mr. McCorkle; Mrs. Reinhard and Ms. Barcelona voted no at this time. Mayor Herd abstained. We will add it to the October agenda when all Council members are in attendance.

A motion to pay the bills was made by Ms. Barcelona and seconded by Mrs. Reinhard; opposed by Mr. McCorkle.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. Barcelona.