

The Borough of Speers Council met on September 1, 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. Daylong; all in favor.

Secretary read the correspondence: LSA payment - \$12,685.91; Penn Dot meeting information regarding I-70 project.

**POLICE:** 21 calls for the month of August, report available for review; Mr. Hepple asked if there was anything to report from the actual meeting – Mr. Rice & Mayor Herd – No. Fire Dept. – 3 calls.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Streets & Sewers: Mr. Rice – Nothing to report.

Finance: Mr. McCorkle – August budget complete: income - \$56,464.03, expenses - \$45,517.13; YTD: (+) \$145,578.84.

Borough Improvement: Mr. Daylong – received calls from several residents in Mapleview to compliment Mrs. Spina on the digital sign. Mr. Rice also thanked Mrs. Spina. Mrs. Spina is waiting to activate the SIMS card to program messages onto the sign. Mrs. Spina will train others to be able to input messages for the sign.

Streetlights: We are still waiting for the contract for the new streetlights. Mr. Hepple will call. Secretary will email WPP again.

Parks: Mrs. Barcelona – Nothing to report. Mr. Krider stated on his report that the grant money (\$50,000) is coming in late September. Council can decide on what needs done with that money (pavilions, floors, parking lot, sidewalks, handicap accessible).

Grants: Mrs. Spina reported the American Rescue Act is providing 6 grant opportunities. She is taking a course/video conference on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>. She will forward information if anyone else is interested.

Transit Authority: Mr. Hepple – Nothing to report. Mr. Hepple would like to step down from the Transit Board. Secretary will add to the agenda for October's meeting so we can act on and appoint a replacement. Mr. Lint reminded the secretary to post the agenda on the website and front door with 24 hours notice and to provide a copy to all who attend the meeting.

Mayor Herd: Appreciates and thanked everyone for all their hard work. He spoke regarding the upcoming elections and the terms available; 6 candidates running, only four 4 year terms are open. He is suggesting that the candidates consider having a write-in campaign. Mayor Herd reported an issue with the website but it is now up and running. He questioned Jody on the function of the computer and printer. She is having some issues with printing certain files and slow internet service. Mrs. Spina is working on obtaining a grant to update the office equipment and possibly remodeling the office. Council will decide on an amount to spend on a computer and printer. Mrs. Spina will look into an IT grant.

Mr. McCorkle suggests pay now for immediate needs and cosmetic upgrades can wait for a grant. Council will discuss and take action at next month's meeting. Secretary will add to the agenda for October's meeting since this cannot be considered Old Business. Secretary will reach out to Arty at Larcom Systems for computer suggestions. Mr. Lint reminded Council they will need to obtain 3 quotes. Mayor Herd questioned if we are allowed to collect email addresses for residents in the Borough to notify them if an emergency arises? Per Mr. Lint – yes. If a citizen emails the Mayor with a question, can he keep the email address? Per Mr. Lint – yes. Mayor Herd also spoke on the park – can we remove the volleyball net and install more playground equipment? He also recommends remodeling/upgrading the offices/building. He would also like to see all the alleys paved throughout the Borough. Mr. Rice suggests that Mrs. Spina prepare some grant information for the next meeting. Mrs. Barcelona asked if there is a consortium to purchase office equipment? Mr. Rice will make a few calls and check with Co-stars. Mayor Herd suggested purchasing new borough equipment so Dennis and Tim do not have to use their own personal equipment. We will add to the agenda for the October meeting.

Dennis Carson's Report: cut grass, weed whack, spray weeds, clean park for rentals, painted playground equipment, bench and tables, clean catch basins, flush sewer line on Lewis Ave, trim trees in alleys, 3 downspout inspections and 2 One Calls.

**ENGINEER/CODE ENFORCEMENT**: report emailed – update on the RACW money has been tentatively approved for Speers in the amount of \$50,000 and should be available soon. HMT will review plans for the park. Mr. Rice questioned HMT on the bridge project – separate LSA funding – should be approved mid-September. Mr. McCorkle stated he thought we were already approved last year for \$89,000. Where is that money now?

**SOLICITOR**: Mr. Lint – sent letters to 2 residents regarding lien letters that were previously sent by the secretary with no response. He will look into the address of the one that was sent back stamped “Undeliverable as Addressed” and resend. Mrs. Spina asked if Mr. Lint can send a letter to Mr. Jay Oppenheim regarding his property? Mr. Lint sent those letters because there are liens on those properties already. We will have code enforcement send a letter to Mr. Oppenheim. Mr. Lint also sent a letter and invoice to 4<sup>th</sup> Street BBQ on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for payment for cleaning their sewer lines. No response yet. \*\* Update – payment was received on 9/7/2021 for the full amount of \$2,695 \*\*

**CITIZENS**: Al Rost – spoke on the costs on the bridge inspection reports; repairs vs structural. Why did the cost increase that much from the first inspection in 2016 to the second inspection in 2020? Mr. McCorkle stated HMT did a study and they recommended to go above and beyond Penn Dot's report to anticipate future issues. The bridge needs to be up to spec.

**TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT**: Deposit of \$15,727.28

**OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: Ms. DeCooman reported the hygiene donation drive for the elementary and middle/high school was a success. Products are available in the nurse's office. She reported that the Fish & Wildlife Commission stated that we can feed birds again and to clean the feeders and baths weekly with 10% bleach and 90% water solution. Ms. DeCooman commented on the “Meet & Greet” suggestion she proposed last month; will re-visit in the Spring.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Ms.DeCooman spoke on the complaints that were posted on the Nextdoor App regarding BIG's Sanitation not picking up trash on the street. Residents can/need to be responsible for picking up pieces of garbage as well as making sure their garbage is properly bagged for collection. Council will address with BIG's if it becomes an issue/problem. Mayor Herd will post the garbage regulations on the website. Mr. Hepple suggests that Council not comment on any issues posted on Facebook. If there are any issues, please discuss at a Council meeting. Mayor Herd gives a reminder to post an agenda for next month.

Executive Session 8:16 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. for a personnel matter.

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

Mrs. Spina spoke on installing a Deaf Child sign on Davidson Dr. Mrs. Spina did notify the secretary in advance to add to the agenda. The secretary did not officially post an agenda so it will be added to next month's (October) meeting agenda. The agenda with specific details needs to be posted 24 hours in advance.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. was made by Mr. McCorkle and seconded by Ms. DeCooman.