

**BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
JANUARY 6, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by W. Bruce Michael at 7:00 P.M.

Members of Council present were Emery Seeley, James Seeley, James Long, David Kershner, Council President W. Bruce Michael, and Mayor Harold Kershner Jr in person and Jennifer Kulesza and Lukas Knorr participating by phone. The Secretary was also in attendance. Council Member Ed Fenton, The Zoning Officer, the Solicitor and the Engineer were not in attendance.

Paul Goy was present.

The minutes of the Council Meeting of December 2, 2020 and the corrected minutes of the Work Session Meeting of October 28, 2020 were approved as written.

Mr. Goy requested that the Borough approve a peddler permit for the sale of Girl Scout cookies.

On motion of David Kershner with a second by Jennifer Kulesza and the rest of Council in agreement, the fee for a peddler permit for the sale of Girl Scout cookies is waived.

The Solicitor requested reappointment for 2021.

On motion of James Long with a second by James Seeley and the rest of Council in agreement, Jack Mihalik of Hummel, Lewis and Smith is hereby reappointed to serve as the Solicitor to the Borough.

The Engineer requested reappointment for 2021.

On motion of James Seeley with a second by James Long and the rest of Council in agreement, Dennis Peters of Peters Consultants is hereby reappointed to serve as the Engineer to the Borough.

William Brior requested reappointment for 2021.

On motion of Emery Seeley with a second by David Kershner and the rest of Council in agreement, William Brior of Brior Environmental Services is hereby reappointed to serve as the Sewage Enforcement Officer to the Borough.

Zoning Officer Larry Frace reported that there were eight violations, two unsafe structures, one building condemned and five peddlers' permits issued. A driveway that was installed without a permit on Ash Aly was discussed. Larry informed Council that some properties were removed from the flood zone from the last flood plain map. It was discussed that Ber Vaughn Pool needs a permit for the shipping container that they plan on using for storage. Larry also discussed 93 Rittenhouse Mill Road. He attempted to obtain a warrant to inspect the property and was denied twice.

On motion of David Kershner, seconded by James Long, with the rest of Council in agreement, the Borough will clean the property and place a lien against it for the costs.

Larry Frace did not submit a Zoning Report.

Mayor Harold Kershner Jr. reported that a tree was hanging over the road on Rittenhouse Mill Road and A Certified Arborist will be removing the tree tomorrow at 7:00AM.

The Borough Secretary provided Council with financial reports and the list of bills to be paid.

On motion of Emery Seeley and seconded by David Kershner, with the rest of Council in agreement, the Secretary's report is accepted and the bills shall be paid.

The Borough Secretary submitted a letter of resignation with her final day being January 29, 2021.

On motion of James Long and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement the resignation of the Borough Secretary is accepted.

On motion of Emery Seeley and seconded by James Long, with the rest of Council in agreement an advertisement for the position of Part Time Secretary-Treasurer shall be advertise in the Press Enterprise and the Times Leader with resumes being due by January 20, 2021.

The Law and Finance Committee will review resumes, interview applicants and make a recommendation to Council at the next Council Meeting.

Council discussed building the Borough website.

The Highways and Streets Committee reported that two signs were installed on East Rittenhouse Mill Road and two leaf grates will be installed once winter weather is over. The Village Lane Storm Water Project will be advertised as soon as USDA allows for the bidding process to begin.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that the flowering pear trees will not need pruning for a couple more years. The faucet in the Borough hall leaks sometimes and periodically needs to be tightened.

Jennifer Kulesza reported that the pool board will meet on January 14, 2021 and that the pool board said that no additional insurance is required for the climbing wall. Jennifer is waiting to hear from Larry Frace regarding weather a permit for the climbing wall is necessary.

E. James Seeley reported that the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority board signed the union contracts and management contracts are being reviewed. Briar Creek Borough residents are \$15,500 in arrears. Bruce Michael added that he feels the manhole cover should be raised to ground level at Pennsylvania Aluminum. James Seeley will discuss it with the Board at their next meeting.

Council discussed future MS4 related expenses and detention basins. Bruce Michael discussed the pipe under the railroad tracks at Hayes Road being half blocked. The Secretary will contact them and request that they clean it out.

Amy Evans reported that the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee still plans on meeting in February.

Council discusses applying for a grant for an automatic generator, Generac brand or similar.

On motion of James Long, with a second by James Seeley, Emery Seeley opposed and the rest of Council in agreement, a grant application shall be submitted to the Community Giving Foundation for an automatic generator.

On motion of David Kershner, with a second by James Long and the rest of Council in agreement, a Resolution appointing Heather Fenton to the Planning Commission with a term ending December 31, 2023.

On motion of David Kershner and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 8:08 P.M.

Amy Evans
Borough Secretary