

**BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
MARCH 3, 2021
MINUTES**

Council President, W. Bruce Michael, called the meeting to order at 7PM. The Pledge Allegiance to the Flag was recited, followed by a Moment of Silence.

Roll call of Council Members was taken. Present: Mayor Harold Kershner Jr, W. Bruce Michael, Ed Fenton, Emery Seeley, James Seeley, David Kershner, and Jennifer Kulesza. Other officials present were Zoning Officer Larry Frace, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: James Long, Junior Councilman Lucas Knorr, Solicitor, and Engineer.

Citizens in Attendance: Leo and Victoria Talanca, 54 Moofy Lane, Berwick
James Benninger, 2450 Old Berwick Rd, Berwick.

The Minutes of the January 27, 2021 Work Session and the February 3, 2021 Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

Citizen's Comments – Leo and Victoria Talanca introduced themselves as the new owners of the Westside Ballroom, located at 7588 Columbia Boulevard. Building is to be used as a banquet hall for wedding venues, social events, bingo, and sporting events. A set of prints was submitted to Council for the proposed renovations.

Larry Frace reported an application was received from Leo Talanca for a variance for the property zoned in the Highway Service District and a variance or special exception from the Borough Zoning Ordinance is required. Carol Kieser will contact Attorney Kevin Tanribilir, Solicitor, Hearing Zoning Board, to set up a zoning hearing.

Zoning Officer's Report - Larry Frace reviewed his March 2021 Report. Report to be included in the official record.

- No Zoning Permits were issued.
- No Occupancy Inspection Fees were received.
- No Construction Permits were issued.
- Summary of Violations-6; Unsafe Structures-2, and Condemned Properties-2.
- Zoning Violations-Magistrate and Hearing updates given.

Larry Frace reported he received an application for a temporary structure at the Sunrise Pools for a flower stand.

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A 02/25/2021 zoom meeting, hosted by Kelly O'Brien (BIDA), was held to discuss a feasibility study by Encina to purchase the Baran Farm to construct and operate a plastic recycling plant. Larry Frace commented this project is in the early stages and no action is required by him at this time.

Jim Seeley reported the abandoned Bonanza Steak House property has collected garbage and debris at the site and the unused refrigerator doors are open. Larry Frace will issue a notice.

Larry Frace reported on the request from McDonald's to release the 2013 performance bond and suggested Kelly Lee, Real Estate Coordinator for McDonalds, reach out to Liberty Mutual for a request for release form, sign, and forward to Council for execution.

Reported an auto repair shop is planned for the building beside McDonald's. Larry Frace will keep Council updated.

Jim Seeley asked if a permit is required for the Berwick Borough, who owns a property in Briar Creek Borough, to construct a fence for the recycling area at the Test Track. Bruce Michael voiced concerns regarding liability and Council suggested Larry Frace issue a permit, with no fees.

Seven lots on Suncrest Avenue have been sold by Albert Martino to BC Storage LLC. Larry Frace to keep Council updated.

Larry Frace was asked to submit his fee schedule at the March 31, 2021 Work Session.

Larry Frace introduced Ralph Kelchner, who has been hired by him to handle residential inspections and he is looking to hire an assistant zoning officer.

Solicitor's Report – None presented.

Engineer's Report – None presented.

Mayor's Report – None presented.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills to be paid, a budget vs actual report, and listing of bank account balances were submitted to Council. A Certificate of Deposit had matured on 01/30/2021 and has been renewed for a term of one year. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Jennifer Kulesza to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Seeley to approve the 2021-2022 Costars Salt Agreement and authorize Carol Kieser to sign the agreement. Motion carried with all in favor.

Motion by Jennifer Kulesza/seconded Ed Fenton to accept the 2020 year-end financial audit and authorize Carol Kieser to advertise the audit in the newspaper. Motion carried with all in favor.

Committee Reports

- Law & Finance – No report.
- Highways & Streets – Emery Seeley suggested the cracks on Ruckle Hill Road be repaired. Proposal from Mike McCracken to be submitted at the 03/31/2021 Work Session.
- Jim Seeley reported the post, which was damaged during a 02/05/2021 automobile accident on W. Rittenhouse Mill Road, has been repaired and the damaged post is being stored behind the shed. Carol Kieser reported the PSP accident report has been received and an invoice has been mailed to the Cole Prowant for damages. To be updated at the 03/31/2021 work session.
- Harold Kershner questioned when the snow plowing contract is due. David Kershner reported the contract is for two years and ends June 2022. A discussion was held regarding the cost to store the salt and cinders at the Blenis location.
- Building & Grounds – Contact was made with DCNR for a small community grant application for the pavilion project and was advised the grant is for projects \$50,000 and over. Carol Kieser will contact Senator John Gordner and Representative Dave Millard for grant information.
- Berwick Area Swimming Pool – Readvertise on Facebook for someone to sit on the pool board. Carol Kieser did send a letter to pool board and asked them for minutes of meetings and financial reports. No response received. Carol Kieser will follow up.

- Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – Minutes of the January 13, 2021 meeting were submitted to Council. Discussion was held regarding delinquent accounts and the BAJSA collection efforts.
- Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – No report.

Old Business – No old business.

New Business

Community Giving Foundation Grant – Grant application was submitted. Waiting on a decision.

USDA Grant Update – Carol Kieser read the email from Michelle Musser. Per Kelly Green, State Environmental Coordinator, the final letter will go out as soon as she is able to complete the review of the environmental documents that were submitted by Peter's Consultants.

Letter from Jennifer Berlin asking the Council to exonerate three mobile homes from municipal taxes, located on Lark Avenue in Heritage Hills Mobile Home Park, so she can gain ownership, renovate, and make these homes habitable, was referred to Columbia County commissioners.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary