

**BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH**  
**April 7, 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 James Long. Other officials present were Zoning Officer Ralph Kelchner, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: Jennifer Kulesza, Junior Councilman Lucas Knorr, Solicitor, and Engineer.

Citizens in Attendance:        Tammy Trivelpiece, 1930 Orange St, Berwick, PA  
   Joel Young, Mifflinville, PA  
   John Young, Mifflinville, PA  
   Cindy Connor,

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded James Seeley to suspend the rules. Motion carried, no opposed.

Tammy Trivelpiece stated she is interested in applying for the position on the Berwick Pool Authority. Guidelines were explained: Official is required to attend the pool authority meetings and report back to Council, either at a work session or council meeting. Compensation is for \$50/pool meeting, up to two meetings a month. Official is responsible to submit the pool meeting minutes to Council.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded David Kershner to appoint Tammy Trivelpiece, as representative of Briar Creek Borough, to the Berwick Pool Board, with voting privileges. Motion carried.

Joel Young spoke regarding their private radio station, WRCX, and is looking for a location to install a transmitter tower. Request was referred to Larry Frace.

Cindy Connor reported a small section of property, located at 7 Village Lane, has a proposed right-of-way on it, which has never been recorded by Allied Contractors. Jim Long and Emery Seeley will research the borough's maps in order to provide a corrected deed.

Cindy Connor stated their building at 9 W. Rittenhouse Road is currently being used for storage and would like to hook up water and sewer to the building. She was advised to contact the PAWC and BAJSA for hook up information.

Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Ed Fenton to return to the rules. Motion carried, no opposed.

The Minutes of the February 24, 2021 Work Session and the March 3, 2021 Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

No Engineer's report.

No Mayor's Report.

Zoning Officer's Report – Ralph Kelchner reviewed his March 2021 Report. Report to be included in the official record.

- Zoning Permits and Construction Permits were issued to Megan Church for temporary structure (replacement greenhouse at Sunrise Pools) and Nathan Stoudt for a new home.
- Ordinance fees (Resolution #2 of 2020) was collected from Red Oak MH Park and Briar Creek MH Park.
- Special Exception for Westside Ballroom was granted with one condition: "Property is subject to the condition that any vehicular traffic be limited to one direction or "one way".
- Received a check from Dave Whitenight to demo the house next to him. Waiting for the demo application from him. Emery Seeley reported on the proposed ingress/egress for the property.
- Summary of Violations: Violations-6; Unsafe Structures-2, and Condemned Properties-2.
- Zoning Violations-Magistrate and Hearing updates were given.
- Discussion was held regarding any permits required for the Hotdog Stand, located across the road from EPCO. Zoning Officer to investigate.
- Discussion was held regarding the Geisinger Building after the fire and any permits or inspections required for them to renovate. Zoning Officer will investigate.
- No vagrants are living in the former Bonanza building refrigerators and the refrigerator's doors are safely secured. Building appears to be secure. This is private property and not able to gain entrance to condemn.
- Fee schedules were provided from Nescopeck, Stillwater, Shickshinny Boroughs and Locust, Main, Nescopeck, Black Creek Townships. Carol Kieser will put information on a spreadsheet for the April 28, 2021 Work Session.

Discussion was held regarding Resolution #4 -2015 fee schedule to file for a variance versus a special exception. Variance fee is \$950 and special exception fee is \$600. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Dave Kershner to refund \$350 back to the Talanca's for the difference in fees since the Talanca's were granted a special exception instead of a variance. Motion carried, no opposed.

Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Ed Fenton to amend Resolution #04-2015 and increase the fees to \$950 for a special exception. Motion carried, no opposed.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills to be paid and listing of bank account balances were submitted to Council. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded David Kershner to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried, no opposed.

#### Committee Reports

Law & Finance – Discussion was held regarding the past poor treatment the Briar Creek Borough representatives have received from the pool board. Contention of Council is: No minutes; no donation.

Emery Seeley explained the pool passes are funded by a grant and the \$5,000 donation is for yearly pool startup and maintenance. Suggestion was made to divide the \$5,000 donation into 12 monthly payments. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Emery Seeley to table the decision. Motion carried, no opposed. Finance Committee to meet and report at 04/28/2021 Work Session. Carol Kieser was instructed to research the Briar Creek Borough/Ber-Vaughn Pool Agreement.

Highways & Streets – Emery Seeley reported Jim Seeley has filled the holes at the Hess and the Stroud property driveways on Ruckle Hill Road. More stone is needed to finish the job.

Shoulders are need of repair. Bower is contracted for Summer maintenance agreement. Bower will be contacted to repair the shoulders.

Jim Seeley reported the water has rerouted at the curve on W Rittenhouse Mill Road. Referred to Highway and Streets for solution.

Jim Seeley reported he has picked up 21 tires off the W Rittenhouse Mill Road and disposed of at Steve Shannon Tire. He picked up three garbage bags of trash in the area of Old Route 4. Additional trash has accommodated and needs to be picked up over the guardrails at Cindy Connor's and other areas in the Borough. Emery Seeley voiced his concern that Winders was contacted and still has not started the job. Jim Seeley will continue to cleanup trash throughout the Borough.

Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to purchase two new school bus stop signs and install them at the curve on Rittenhouse Mill Road. Motion carried, no opposed.

Building & Grounds – Emery Seeley discussed the condition of the Borough building's roof and the rubber under the bell tower. Contractors will be contacted for estimates for either shingles or metal to replace the roof.

Handrail for side door has been measured and given to Bruce Michael for manufacture.

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting were submitted to Council. Jim Seeley reported another mailing of letters to delinquent sewer customers will be sent. BAJSA has decided not to shut water off on delinquent customers because of new paperwork mandates from PAWC. Copy of PAWC agreement will be provided to Bruce Michael.

Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – No report.

No Citizen complaints or comments were received.

Old Business – No old business

New Business

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

USDA Grant Update – Carol Kieser reported an email has been received from Michelle Musser with a list of items which need to be addressed in the environmental report submitted by Peters Engineering. Once the environmental report is corrected/updated, the report will be provided to USDA Environmental Consultant. Carol Kieser will contact Peters Engineering and ask the report be completed before the April 28, 2021 work session.

Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Dave Kershner to adopt Resolution #2-2021 and appoint Cindy Connor to the Zoning Hearing Board. Motion carried, no opposed.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56PM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Carol A Kieser, Secretary