

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH

May 5, 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, and James Long. Other officials present were Zoning Officer Larry Frace and Ralph Kelchner, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: David Kershner, Jennifer Kulesza, Junior Councilman Lucas Knorr, Solicitor, and Engineer.

No citizens were present.

The Minutes of the March 31, 2021 Work Session and the April 7, 2021 Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

No Solicitor's report.

No Engineer's report.

No Mayor's Report.

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

- Zoning and Construction Permits – Three permits were issued.
- Summary of Violations: Violations-9; Unsafe Structures-2, and Condemned Properties-2.
- Property Maintenance Violations were discussed. - Magistrate and Hearing updates were given.
- Report was given on the Michael Bannon property, located at 197 W Rittenhouse Road, for the construction of commercial garage in a Limited Industry Zone. An application is needed to comply with Floodplain Ordinance #167 regulations and engineer plans for the commercial garage under UCC and Ordinance #148. Water and septic are required for the structure. Larry Frace will send Mr. Bannon a letter.
- A zoning permit application was received from Scott Berlin for two signs to be installed in a Highway Service Zone. Permit was denied because only one sign is allowed to be installed per property. Per the construction code a drawing for the billboard needed to be signed by an engineer and drawing did not provide sufficient information to determine the location.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills to be paid and list of bank account balances were submitted to Council.

Information from Peter's Consulting was presented for their cost to perform work to bond Park and W Rittenhouse Mill Road to protect the Borough from expense from any road damage resulting from heavy equipment and concrete trucks in anticipation of the PPL substation project. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Emery Seeley to have Carol Kieser to contact Peter's Consulting for a formal proposal. Motion carried, no opposed.

Bruce Michael requested Carol Kieser to check to see if back taxes were received from the sale of the property currently known as the Westside Ballroom and revise the Budget Report to reflect the tax receipt

Jim Long noted a CD will be maturing on June 5, 2021. Carol Kieser was instructed to search banks, PSAB, credit unions for the best rate.

Ed Fenton noted an error in the description on the bills register for the payment to Riverview Block. Emery Seeley reported a change has been made to have bills from Riverview Block to be sent directly to the Borough instead of Blenis Excavating.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Emery Seeley to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried, no opposed.

Committee Reports

Law & Finance – No report.

Highway and Streets – Leaf grates and bus stop signs were installed.

Jim Seeley reported on the “no trespassing sign” and bumper blocks placed at the Bonanza property. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Jim Seeley to allow the property owner to utilize the Borough right-of-way and give permission to move the bumper blocks to edge of the road until the Borough needs access to the right-of-way. Motion carried, no opposed.

Building and Grounds – Discussion was held concerning the issue with the office camera. American Technology Systems, by referral from Martz Technology, was called to replace the office camera. Phantom electricity was found on the ceiling grids; and during the problem-solving process, a short occurred and the monitor was knocked out. American Technology replaced the monitor and ran a new cable for the office camera. After several attempts by American Technology, the DVR could not be accessed because of a password issue. American Technology will contact Martz Technology for assistance to access the DVR and order a new office camera.

Roofing Project – Bruce Michael read an email from Attorney Mihalik. Attorney's opinion was Borough code bidding guidelines were followed and the Borough does not need to award the bid to the lowest bidder. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to use the textured painted metal roofing for the project. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Jim Long/seconded Emery Seeley to award the contract to Hillside Roofing with the contingency the contractor will supply the texture-painted roofing at the same bid price. Motion carried, no opposed.

Tally by Council was taken to choose the color of the roofing. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Jim Seeley to order the textured Evergreen colored roofing. Motion carried, no opposed.

Berwick Area Swimming Pool – 06/12/2013 letter to Berwick United Way was read. Briar Creek Borough will donate \$5000 per year to the pool authority for maintenance and upkeep of the Ber-Vaugh Park community pool. Said payments will continue on January 15th of each year, subject to the Ber-Vaughn pool remaining in good order and repair. 06/05/2013 council meeting minutes were read, which authorized the donation.

Jim Seeley noted the date the donation is made was changed from January to the same time as the donation to the library is made. Past meeting minutes will be reviewed to confirm that change. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Ed Fenton to postpone further discussion to the May 26, 2021 work session. Motion carried, no opposed.

Jim Seeley requested an exit audit be performed since Amy Evans has resigned. Carol Kieser will contact auditor to schedule the exit audit.

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – Minutes of the March 10 and March 30, 2021 special meeting BAJSA were presented. Jim Seeley reported the May 2021 delinquent customer list will be presented at the May 26, 2021 work session.

Zoning Fee Schedule Review – Carol Kieser will check the cost to print the Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan books.

Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – No report.

No Citizen complaints or comments were received.

Old Business

Community Giving Foundation Grant – Waiting on a decision.

USDA Grant Update – Peters Consulting has completed the list of items which needed to be addressed in the environmental report. Environmental Report was emailed to Michelle Musser.

New Business

Motion made by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Long to offer the training to the zoning hearing board. Motion carried, no opposed.

Discussion was held regarding the office printer. Bodnar Sales/Service will be contacted for repair and/or a price to replace the printer.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary