

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
June 30, 2021
WORK SESSION 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.

Present: W. Bruce Michael, Mayor Harold Kershner, Jr, Ed Fenton, Emery Seeley, James Seeley, Jennifer Kulesza, and James Long. Other officials present were Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: Junior Councilman Lucas Knorr and David Kershner.

Citizens: Tammy Trivelpiece, Berwick Pool Association, Larry Santora, Xiao Lin Law (current owner of Rolling Pines Golf Course, John Definnis (previous owner of the golf course), and Joanne Bechtel.

Joanne Bechtel explained her property, located at 47 Village Lane, Berwick, PA, is basically landlocked by a property owned by the borough. The Borough Council was in agreement to offer the piece of property, as an add-on, thru a Quit Claim Deed. Jim Long will provide Joanne Bechtel a copy of the map showing that section of land.

John Definnis introduced the new owner of the Rolling Pines Golf Course. Plans for improvements to the existing bar, pro golf shop, and the addition of a hotel were discussed. Temporary, non-foundation, structures and tents are planned for this year. Discussion was held regarding the plans to sewer the facility.

Tammy Trivelpiece presented and discussed the June 3, 2021 minutes from the Berwick Area Pool Association. Concerns were voiced regarding the number of residents being turned away due to full capacity. Carol Kieser reported two checks have been issued to the pool for the summer splash program.

Jennifer Kulesza presented her June 30, 2021 letter of resignation to Council. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to accept Jennifer Kulesza's resignation. Motion carried, no opposed.

Procedure to appoint a new council member was reviewed. Resolution will be presented at the July 7, 2021 council meeting. Larry Santora submitted a letter of interest to fill the remaining 2021 term of Jennifer Kulesza. Ed Fenton suggested the appointment be made at the July 7, 2021 council meeting.

Included in the packets for Council were the minutes of the May 26, 2021 Work Session, the June 2, 2021 Council Meeting, and a partial list of bills to be paid.

Motion by Jim Long/seconded Ed Fenton to approve the public works hours performed by Emery Seeley. Motion carried, no opposed.

BAJSA Minutes and the Briar Creek Borough past due list were reviewed. Jim Seeley reported an ad has been placed to fill two positions at the sewer plant. Sewer issues at the Red Oak Mobile Home Park were reported to Gloria Bobersky. Sewer plant personnel investigated and the owner of the mobile home park was contacted.

Jim Seeley reported BAJSA is planning to spend 2.4 million dollars for stormwater projects. BAJSA has scheduled a special meeting and is requesting money from the Berwick Borough, who received over 7 million dollars in COVID funds.

No citizen's issues or complaints were received.

Old Business

Correspondence from Shelley Houk regarding the exit audit was reviewed. Carol Kieser will clarify with Shelley Houk, the meaning of "elected" official in the borough code, i.e., council person who resigns, needs an exist audit, as well as the resignation of previous secretary.

Community Giving Foundation Grant – Awarded for the generator project and funds have been received. Generator is on order for December delivery. Down payment has been sent to Dent Plumbing for the gas line installation.

CDBG Grant for Village Lane Project – Peters Consultants have addressed items in the Environmental Report and report was forwarded to USDA.

New office security camera has been installed and all building lights have been converted to LED.

The roof replacement project has been completed and the contractor paid in full.

New Business

Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Ed Fenton to advertise for the Emergency and General Highway Maintenance contract. Motion carried; no opposed.

Jim Seeley reported the YMCA is offering First Aid, CPR, and AED training. The instructor will hold a class at the borough building with a minimum of four participants if anyone is interested. Cost is \$40/person. Council agreed to pay for the attendees.

Carol Kieser reported \$4000 has been received from the Community Giving Foundation Discretionary Funds for the pavilion project. A grant can be applied for in the Spring for the balance.

Jim Seeley reported Carol Kieser has passed her probationary period. The Secretary's agreement was reviewed. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to give Carol Kieser a dollar an hour increase, beginning July 1, 2021. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion was held to use the American Rescue Plan Funds (COVID money) for MS-4 stormwater management. Highways and Streets Committee to evaluate areas which may have drainage problems.

Jim Long reported on the CD #7714, which is from the sale of the firehall property. He noted money from this account can be used for public benefit only. Discussion was held to use the money for the yearly donation to the pool or construction of the pavilion.

Jim Seeley reported the dehumidifier has been checked and the filter cleaned. The issue of the stale air smell and problem with humidity in the hall has been alleviated. A new faucet and plumbing have been installed in the men's restroom.

Taps Bar Room has been sold. Transfer tax should be received from the sale.

Council agreed to issue two peddler's permits to the Little League for two concession stands during the State Championship playoff games. Council agreed these permits will be issued at no charge, like the ones given to the Girl Scouts each year to sell their cookies.

Discussion was held regarding the land being cleared behind Giant and BerVaughn Park. Jim Long and Bruce Michael will check for the boundary pins. Council has concerns regarding the safety of the children playing in the park. Suggest the developer come to the Borough to discuss land use and zoning.

Bruce Michael reminded a Zoning Hearing will be held at the borough building at 6PM, July 1, 2021, for Bannon Trucking.

Correspondence

A thank you note was received from the Berwick Pool Association for the donation from the borough.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary