

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH

July 7, 2021

MINUTES

Vice-President E. James Seeley, 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, Ed Fenton, Emery Seeley, James Seeley, David Kershner, and James Long. Other officials present were Zoning Officer Ralph Kelchner, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: W. Bruce Michael, Solicitor, and Engineer.

Citizens present: Tammy and John Trivelpiece and Larry Santora.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Long to approve the Minutes of May 26, 2021 Work Session and the June 2, 2021 Council Meeting as recorded. Motion carried, no opposed.

Jim Seeley reported two letters of intent were received for the vacant council seat created by the 06/30/2021 resignation of Jennifer Kulesza. Jim Long nominated Larry Santora to fill the position until the end of the year. No other nominations were received. A roll call vote was taken: Jim Long, yes; Emery Seeley, yes; Ed Fenton, yes; David Kershner, yes; James Seeley, yes. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Larry Santora was sworn in by Mayor Harold Kershner, Jr., witnessed by Carol Kieser, Secretary.

Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Jim Long to adopt Resolution #5 of 2021, acknowledging Jennifer Kulesza's resignation and to approve the filling of the empty seat with Larry Santora. Motion carried, no opposed.

Larry Santora was approved to replace Jennifer Kulesza on the Building/Grounds Committee and as a check signer.

Citizens Comments/Complaints: John Santora questioned why the council seat vacancy was not advertised. Carol Kieser read a portion of an email received from PSAB, referencing the Borough Code, related to the filling of a vacant position on council. The Borough Code requires all interviews and voting be performed at a duly advertised public meeting. Carol Kieser noted the list of work sessions and council meetings is always advertised before the first meeting of the year. A copy of the email from PSAB was given to Mr. Trivelpiece.

No Solicitor's report.

Engineer's report. – Emissions report has been completed and Environmental Report has been resubmitted to the USDA for approval.

Zoning Officer's Report – Ralph Kelchner

- Updated council on the Bannon July 1, 2021 variance hearing. Variance was approved at the hearing, with no conditions set at the hearing. All forms and copies of the floodplain restrictions were mailed to them.
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- Received permit application from Dollar Tree for new fire suppression tank, outside and inside renovations, and two new mezzanine interior floors.
- Application received for complete remodel of Dollar Tree's existing building.
- Responded to complaints in Red Oak Mobil Home Park.
- List of violations in Columbia Blvd Mobile Home Park were investigated. Letters of violations sent and reported to Magistrate for action.

Ralph Kelchner reported efforts to clean-up the Red Oak Mobile Home Park will be taken care by him and Larry Frace will be responsible for Columbia Blvd Mobile Home Park.

No Mayor's Report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills to be paid, budget update, and a listing of the bank account balances and registers were submitted to Council. Jim Seeley suggested any account with a negative balance be highlighted on the report. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Larry Santora to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried, no opposed.

Discussion was held regarding the numerous fireworks displays in the borough.

Committee Reports

Law & Finance – Jim Long requested ideas to spend down CD #7714, which is from the sale of the firehall property.

Highway and Streets – Waiting on quotes to install several dry wells throughout the borough that are experiencing water runoff problems. Council is looking into using ARCA (COVID) funds for MS-4 purposes.

Building and Grounds – Jim Seeley reported new spigot and flex lines were replaced in the men's room. Jim Long replaced clips on the flagpole. Emery Seeley reported the stone waterways are working to move water from the parking lot and preventing mulch washouts. Mike Windsor has been contacted about the ivy growing up the trees along the municipal property.

Berwick Area Pool Association – Discussion held regarding the pool turning people away because the pool attendance was filled to capacity.

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – Minutes of the May 12th meeting was presented. An update to hire employees to fill the two open positions at the sewer plant were discussed.

Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – No report.

Old Business

USDA Grant Update – Waiting on approval of the Environmental Report and then move forward and advertise the project.

Community Giving Foundation Grant – Funds have been received and deposited in the general fund. Generator is ordered. Down payment has been sent to Dent Plumbing for the gas line.

Pavilion Project - \$4000 has been received from Community Giving Foundation Discretionary Fund and has been deposited into the general fund.

No update on the Exit Audit. Waiting on reply from PSAB for information on separate audit relating to a council member's resignation.

New Business

Carol Kieser will contact Janielle (First Aid Instructor) to set up a training session at the borough building. Recommended times are 6PM on a Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday,

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary