

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH

August 4, 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: W. Bruce Michael, Mayor Harold Kershner Jr, Emery Seeley, David Kershner, Larry Santora, and James Long. Other officials present were Zoning Officer Ralph Kelchner, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: Ed Fenton, James Seeley, Solicitor, and Engineer.

Citizens present: Matthew T. Hess, Columbia County Redevelopment Authority.

Minutes of the June 30, 2021 Work Session and July 7, 2021 Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

Meeting was turned over to Matt Hess, Assistant Executive Director, Columbia County Redevelopment Authority. Matt Hess reported on the programs and services his office can provide to a municipality with low-to-medium (LMI) residents. CDBG grants are available to promote redevelopment and infrastructure improvements to enrich the Briar Creek Borough community. The Redevelopment Authority will assist to identify projects and the administer grant funding. In addition, the Redevelopment Authority will assist in determining the eligibility of projects from the COVID funding.

Blighted properties are properties in poor condition and a direct danger to the surrounding community and those properties that have been presented at tax sale several times and not sold. CDBG Funding is available for projects that benefit the entire municipality such as rehabilitation or removal of blighted properties and his team of construction officers would work with the zoning officer to perform inspections and determine if a building would qualify for the blighted property program.

Discussion was held concerning the former Bonanza property. Matt Hess stated he will reach out and work with Kelly O'Brien to rehabilitate the property and make it marketable. Council agreed the owner has been very cooperative with installing a dry well for the property.

Matt Hess explained the grant process, i.e. identify project with Redevelopment Authority involvement, project submittal to DCED for review, project submittal to Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for approval. Redevelopment Authority will assist and administer the required paperwork.

Bruce Michael suggested the Rt. 11 entrance to Ber-Vaugh Park be upgraded. Ownership to the entrance of the park needs to be determined. Matt Hess would like to meet with council members to look at the project. Contact information for Matt Hess was given to the Borough Secretary.

No citizen's comments or complaints were received.

No Solicitor's Report was submitted.

Engineer's Report - Motion made by Jim Long/seconded Dave Kershner to authorize Peters Consulting to complete and all questions associated with the revision of the Environmental report for the Village Lane Project. Motion carried; no opposed.

Zoning Officer's Report – Written report was presented to council and Ralph Kelchner discussed:

- Bannon July 1, 2021 variance hearing. Variance was approved at the hearing, with no conditions set at the hearing. Temporary driveway permit was issued. A variance from council is needed to store flammable liquids in the floodplain. All forms and copies of the floodplain restrictions were mailed to them.
- Received payment of \$2756 from Dollar Tree for partial expansion inside the building and a second fire holding tank on the outside of the building.
- List of violations in Columbia Blvd Mobile Home Park lot #28 were investigated. Letters of violations were sent to Magistrate for action. Magistrate fined trailer owner \$600. Discussion was held regarding the eviction notice given by the trailer park owner to the owner of the trailer on Lot #28 and the park owner's responsibility to clean up the property per borough ordinance.

No Mayor's Report.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills, budget update, listing of bank account balances and registers, and spreadsheet for yearly General and Emergency Highway Maintenance cost comparison were submitted to Council. Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Larry Santora to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried, no opposed.

Committee Reports

Law & Finance – New bank account signature cards were signed.

Highway and Streets – Council is looking into using ARCA (COVID) funds for MS-4 purposes. A proposal from Don E Bower to install a dry well at Sunset Drivewas presented. Tabled until August 25, 2021 work session.

Building and Grounds – No report.

Berwick Area Pool Association – No report.

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – BAJSA June 9, 2021 Minutes and the Briar Creek Borough customer delinquent list were presented.

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Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – No report.

New Business

Community Giving Foundation Grant – Invitation was received for the Tuesday, August 24, 2021 breakfast to recognize the grant recipients and the impact the foundation has on the community. A photo was taken of council members and will be posted on Facebook, Borough website, and at the breakfast.

Carol Kieser will contact Janelle (First Aid Instructor) to set up a training session at the borough building for Monday, August 30, 2021.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary