

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
November 3, 2021
COUNCIL MEETING 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, James Seeley, David Kershner, Ed Fenton, Larry Santora, and James Long. Other officials present were Larry Frace, Tammy Trivelpiece and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: Solicitor and Engineer.

Citizens present: David L. Malatesta, 24 Village Lane, Berwick.
 James Penzel, 1600 Monroe Avenue, Bloomsburg.
 Joel Vought, Midnight Auto, 1336 W. Front St, Berwick.

Tammy Trivelpiece presented the October 7, 2021 minutes of the Berwick Pool Association. Decision was made to purchase the calking and have pool association members install. Paperwork is currently being prepared to refinance loan with First Keystone Bank. Currently looking for additional funding for the Splash Pad; i.e. applying for a grant thru the County ARP (Covid) grant. Ginny Grake will setup a zoom meeting with Senator Gordner for assistance.

The minutes of the September 29, 2021 work session and the October 6, 2021 council meeting were approved as recorded.

Citizen's Comments:

Joel Vought introduced himself and discussed his plans to purchase the property next to Surplus Outlet. He plans to expand his business from 1336 W Front Street, Berwick, to this area with an auto repair garage, sales office, and used car lot. He is currently working with Larry Frace on the permitting process.

No Solicitor's Report was presented.

Engineer's Report – Waiting on approval from Michelle Musser (USDA) to award the Village Lane Project.

Zoning Officer's Report – Written report was presented to Council.

Summary:

Zoning and Construction permits were issued to Giant Plaza for T-Mobile store. A zoning permit was issued for a fence at 2330 W Front St.

Property at 51 Village Lane was inspected and several violations were found. Owner has applied for a permit to fix the deck. Continue to work with Adult Services to remedy any issues inside the home.

Red Oak and Briar Mobile Home Parks were sold. Violation files have been sent to the new owners. Larry Frace commented the new owners are willing to work with him and to resolve the violations. However, all violations will need to be filed again at the Magistrate's office since ownership has changed with these mobile home parks.

Paperwork has been sent for building permits for the six lots on Village Lane. Jim Long and Emery Seeley met with the developers for the driveway permits.

Jim Long reported Barry Travelpiece, Columbia County Soil Conservation, has contacted Bob Vossburg, regarding the recent excavation at the former Carl Rinehimer property. Larry Frace will follow up with Barry Travelpiece.

Discussion was held regarding our ordinance for installation of a fence. Carol Kieser will research the fence ordinance.

Mayor's Report – No report given.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report - The list of bills, listing of bank account balances and registers 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 – No report.

Highway and Streets – Street signs will be replaced on Village Lane and Delta Road.

Building and Grounds – Building heating system was repaired by Dent Plumbing.. Discussion was held to contract yearly inspection and maintenance of the furnace.

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority – Jim Seeley reported on the sewer replacement project. Problem was found in the cradle in the area of the golf course. Roto Rooter cleaned the pipe and Don E. Bower fabricated a new cradle.

Columbia County Tax Collection Committee – Carol Kieser attended the meeting on October 6, 2021 at the Central Columbia High School Board Room. A 2022 budget was passed. Briar Creek Borough owes \$33.66 from 2019. This committee oversees the Berkheimer Association for collection of the Local Service Tax and Local Earned Taxes. Next meeting to be held in October 2022.

Old Business

Secretary applied for additional grant money thru USDA. According to Michelle Musser, an advance on funds may be obligated late November/December. After grant money is awarded, Michelle Musser will then authorize the Borough to issue the Notice of Award to Don E Bower.

Briar Creek Borough will be responsible for 25% of the project projected costs. Council agreed the funds should be paid from the general fund.

Jim Long reported he is working with Steve Kehoe for specs on the drywell project. The project is projected to be bid in January 2022, with construction to begin in the Spring. Funds for this project will be paid from the American Rescue Funds (Covid).

Motion by Jim Long/seconded Jim Seeley to donate \$1000 in January 2022 to AGAPE. Roll call was taken: Jim Long: yes; Ed Fenton: yes; Emery Seeley: yes, James Seeley: yes; Larry Santora: yes; David Kershner: yes. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Adam Kinley, PennDOT Engineer, was called and emailed to set up a meeting to discuss the proposed project on Rt. 11. Council suggests changes to the entrance to Ber Vaughn Park from Rt 11; placing an overhead sign to Commerce Drive; and drainage issues on Rt. 11.

New Business

A draft of the 2022 budget was presented. The Finance Committee will meet with Carol Kieser to finalize. Proposed budget to be advertised for public comment ten days before the December 1, 2021 council meeting.

Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Ed Fenton to authorize Carol Kieser to contact Koala Computers to purchase a second screen for the office. Motion carried; no opposed.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary