

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
May 25, 2022
WORK SESSION MINUTES

President W. Bruce Michael called the work session to order at 7PM.

Present: Mayor Harold Kershner, W. Bruce Michael, E. James Seeley, Emery Seeley, James Long, Larry Santora, Ed Fenton, Secretary Carol Kieser, Tammy Trivelpiece, representative for Berwick Area Pool Association, and Attorney Barry Lewis, Solicitor. Absent: David Kershner, Engineer, and Zoning Officer.

Citizens Present: Andrew Sheeler, 6022B Park Rd, Berwick.
Bill Witner, 2020 Orchard Way, Berwick.

Attorney Barry Lewis was introduced as Solicitor for the Borough Council. He reported he has been working with Larry Frace to resolve some citations which were dismissed by Magistrate Judge Knecht. The Columbia County District Attorney authorized him to represent the Borough with Larry Frace in any alleged code violations as they are heard before Magistrate Knecht. Attorney Lewis will contact Magistrate Knecht to review some citations, filed by Larry Frace and are being held by Magistrate Knecht, in order to move forward with them.

Attorney Lewis recommended amending the International Property Maintenance Code Ordinance and re-adopt to treat the IPMC violations as a misdemeanor and include a penalty section in the IPMC

Tammy Trivelpiece reported on the 05/04/2022 Berwick Area Swimming Pool meeting. Financial report was given.

Included in the packets for Council were the minutes of the April 27 work session and May 4, 2022 Regular Council Meeting and a list of bills to be paid.

E. James Seeley presented the BAJSA 04/13/2022 meeting minutes and the Briar Creek Borough customer past due list.

Citizen's Comments: Andrew Sheeler discussed the overgrown grass, untrimmed trees, junk cars, etc. on the Dave Whitenight property, which borders his property. Pictures of the problem areas were submitted to council. Carol Kieser reported Larry Frace did send a warning letter to Dave Whitenight regarding the condition of this property.

A discussion was held regarding the large pine tree that borders the mobile home park and could cause extension damage if it were to come down. The property lines of the mobile home park and Dave Whitenight's property were discussed.

E. James Seeley reported the Planning Commission needs one member since Larry Santora is a current council member and that being a conflict of interest. President Bruce Michael asked for nominations to the planning commission. E. James Seeley nominated Bill Witner. No other nominations were received. Motion by E. James Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to close the nominations and appoint Bill Witner to the Planning Commission. Motion carried, no opposed.

Discussion was held regarding the procedure to bring a request for subdivision before the Planning Commission.

Old Business or Unfinished Business

Village Lane Stormwater Project – Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Larry Santora to approve and sign the “Notice of Final Completion” submitted by Peters Consulting. Motion carried; no opposed.

Motion by James Seeley/seconded Emery Seeley to approve Application #3 for \$56,370.78 and pay Don E. Bower Inc. for the Village Lane Stormwater Project. Motion carried; no opposed.

MS4 Projects (American Rescue Covid Funds) – Certificate for Payment to Don E. Bower Inc. was presented. A discussion was held regarding the low spots that formed in the pavement after the project was completed. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Long to postpone signing the Payment Certificate until the June 1 council meeting. Motion carried; no opposed.

Discussion was held on uses of the ARPA Funds for stormwater management to berm roads. Carol Kieser will clarify that these funds can be used for this purpose.

Motion by Emery Seeley/seconded Larry Santora to transfer \$6272.58 from the general fund into the Covid Fund to pay Don E. Bower Inc. for the Drywell Project. Motion carried/no opposed.

BIDA Downtown Project – No report given.

PennDoT Rt 11 Project – Voicemails left with PennDoT engineer, Adam Kinley, for update. No report given.

Pavilion Project – Jim Seeley reported on the meeting held on May 11, 2022 with Matt Hess and Betsy Rubio from Columbia County Housing and Redevelopment, Emery Seeley, Jim Seeley, and Carol Kieser. Matt Hess will attend a future work session to discuss the plans for the project.

Community Giving Foundation Audio/Video Project – Decision to award the grant to be made in May.

New Business

The Weis property located adjacent to Giant is overgrown with weeds and tall grass. Carol Kieser to contact Weis Corporate office and report.

One proposal was received for the Winter Maintenance Contract. Bob Vosburg will be contacted to attend the next meeting and answer questions regarding salt and cinder storage and the equipment he has to do the snowplowing.

Council suggested a letter be sent to Jason Blenis thanking him for his past cooperation with the borough and find out how much salt or sand is left over from last year and is being stored on his property.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Seeley to approve the 2021 Financial Audit and public advertise the report. Motion carried/no opposed.

Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Jim Long to increase the hall rental fee to \$225 (rental fee \$175 and refundable cleaning fee \$50) beginning June 1, 2022, and these fees do not affect any rentals already reserved. Motion carried/no opposed.

Contact was made with UGI and reported there is no cost to install the two lights on Ash Alley. Lights should be installed in six weeks. Monthly cost is approximately \$15/light. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Emery Seeley to authorize the installation of these two lights. Motion carried; no opposed.

Correspondence

The letter, which was mailed to each BCB resident, announcing the Summer Splash Program was presented to council. This program is funded by a grant administrated by the Columbia County Housing and Urban Development.

Letter was received from Community Giving Foundation announcing Eric Pangelinan as New Program Officer.

No further business. Meeting was adjourned at 8:35PM.

Respectfully submitted:
Carol A Kieser, Secretary