

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
August 2, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

President of Council W. Bruce Michael called the meeting to order at 7PM. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited, followed by a Moment of Silence.

Roll call of members was taken. Present: Mayor Harold Kershner, Jr., W Bruce Michael, E James Seeley, Ed Fenton, Dave Kershner, and Joe Riggio. Absent: James Long, Bill Witner, and Engineer. Other Officials present were Solicitor Barry Lewis, Zoning Officer Larry Frace, and Secretary Carol Kieser.

Citizen present: David DeHaven, Jordan Smith, Holli Trivelpiece, John Trivelpiece, and Keith Hess.

Minutes of the June 28 Work Session and July 5, 2023 Regular Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

Comments and Complaints

John Trivelpiece voiced his opinion of widening the E Rittenhouse Mill Road. He cited the traffic would move thru the area at a faster pace and use the road as a cut thru to Park Road. He offered the following suggestions (paraphrased):

1. a bigger sign for E. Rittenhouse Mill Road at the Intersection of Route 93 to eliminate those who miss the entrance from Route 93 from traveling on to the busy intersection of Route 93 onto Park Road and into E. Rittenhouse Mill Road.
2. widen dual lane at Rt 93 intersection so all deliveries enter E. Rittenhouse Mill Road from that end. This should help the congestion on Park Road, E. Rittenhouse Mill Road, and Route 93.
3. This suggestion would be a cheaper alternative to widening E. Rittenhouse Mill Road.

Bruce Michael explained Council is proposing to widen and pave E. Rittenhouse Mill Road for safety reasons which were brought to Council's attention by the 09/10/2022 petition signed by residents on that road, as well testimony at the 04/20/2023 Smith Pipe Zoning Hearing regarding the unsafe width of that road.

Keith Hess questioned why this road has all of a sudden become an issue and why the road cannot be made one-way. He was concerned about using tax payer's money on the small road.

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Bruce Michael explained the safety issue, which was brought to Council's attention during the Zoning Hearing, where testimony was given that (paraphrased) if two vehicles, firetrucks, etc. going in opposite directions, met along the road, they could not pass; and, in the interest of safety, it was brought before Council.

John Trivelpiece remarked (paraphrased) the issue has been going on for 25 (?) years and many businesses have come and gone at the (Smith Pipe) location, without him (John) making a complaint, and feels since a lawyer has gotten involved, now Council is proposing to do something about the width of the road for safety reasons.

Dave DeHaven asked for an update on the demolition of the Bonanza building. Larry Frace reported no application for demolition permit has been received.

No Mayor's report was given.

No Solicitor's report was given.

No Engineer's report was given.

Larry Frace submitted a zoning report and discussed the zoning activity for July 2023. A copy of the report is filed in the Borough Office.

An update of the violations at the Heritage Hills MHP was given. Violation letters will be sent.

Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 6PM to review the final plans for the Briar Creek Self Storage Development.

Special Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 9, 2023 at 7PM to act on the Planning Commission's recommendations for the Briar Creek Self Storage Development.

Zoning Hearing Board has scheduled a Special Exception Hearing for the Ruckle Hill Solar Farm on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 6PM.

Two zoning violations were discussed:

- (1) 7474 Columbia Blvd – Lot clearing and paving without a permit.
- (2) 7421-7459 Columbia Blvd - Earthmoving with no permit; wetland evaluation by Columbia County needs completed.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Joe Riggio to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried; no opposed.

Committee Reports

Law & Finance – Secretary started a draft of the Hall Rental Policy.

Jim Seeley discussed having a representative from First Columbia Bank speak with Council regarding a Sweep Account to replace the Borough's checking accounts. Bruce Michael suggested PSAB and the Borough's Auditor be contacted for advice.

Information from Edward Jones Financial was presented. Council is not interested in putting them on the agenda for the August 30, 2023 work shop. Secretary will contact the representative.

Highway and Streets – Peters Consulting will schedule a date with Jim Long and Jim Seeley to place the survey pins on E. Rittenhouse Mill Road.

No action was taken to advertise for RFP's to widen and pave E. Rittenhouse Mill Road.

Secretary reported the certified letter to Mr. Eveland was sent and the certified receipt from the post office was returned that he received the letter. Secretary will try to contact him by telephone.

Emergency Highway and General Maintenance contracts will be advertised for bid opening on Wednesday, August 30, during the work session.

Ed Fenton will provide Council with specs for the Crack Sealing Project at the August 30, 2023 work session.

Jim Long has been given a list of street lights to check before a decision is made to install an additional one on W. Front Street.

Jim Seeley reported the pavilion project is ready for the concrete to be installed.

Old or Unfinished Business

No update was given on the Zoning Ordinance text changes.

New Business

Councilman Joe Riggio presented his resignation letter. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Dave Kershner to accept his resignation. Motion carried; no opposed.

Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Ed Fenton to amend the agenda. Motion carried; no opposed.

Nominations were entertained to replace the vacant council person position. Jim Seeley nominated Rodney Koch. Ed Fenton nominated Christy Kehl-Hess. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Seeley to close the nominations. Motion carried; no opposed.

Voice vote was taken to appoint Rodney Koch to Council: Jim Seeley, yes; Dave Kershner, yes; Ed Fenton, no; Bruce Michael, yes. Vote tally: 3 yes; 1 no. Rodney Koch was appointed to fill the vacant position.

Bruce Michael presented Resolution 6-2023. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Dave Kershner to adopt Resolution 6-2023. Roll call: E Fenton, yes; Jim Seeley, yes; Dave Kershner, yes; Bruce Michael, yes. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Dave Kershner to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 7:55PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser, Secretary
Briar Creek Borough