

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
October 4, 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, James Long, Ed Fenton, Dave Kershner, Bill Witner, and Rodney Koch. Absent: Engineer. Other Officials present were Solicitor Barry Lewis, Zoning Officer Larry Frace and Abigail Kurecian, and Secretary Carol Kieser.

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

Minutes of the August 30 Work Session and the September 6, 2023 Regular Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

Comments and Complaints

John Trivelpiece asked for an explanation of the "Review Zoning Ordinance Text Changes" item on the agenda. Bruce Michael explained it is a realignment of uses in the Zoning Ordinance.

No Mayor's report was given.

Solicitor Barry Lewis reported a letter has been sent to Lance Eveland to advise him the Borough needs to cut back a dirt bank in the area of Ruckle Hill Road and W. Rittenhouse Mill Road in order to improve the line of sight for the traveling public. Jim Long reported he has spoken with Mr. Eveland and Mr. Eveland is not interested in allowing the Borough to remove the tree located on his property for this project.

Larry Frace will supply the names of the E Rittenhouse Mill Road residents to Attorney Lewis to send a letter requesting all property owners abutting the Borough's right-of-way to remove all trees, shrubs, bushes, etc. to increase safety by providing clear sight lines on that road.

Attorney Lewis reported an issue occurring when an email is sent to the Borough. Ed Fenton will send contact information to the Borough office of a forensic tech Salem Township uses to resolve the email issues.

No Engineer's report was given.

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

Taco Bell scoping application for driveway access off W Front Street was approved by PennDOT. Land development plans have been submitted to Columbia County and the Borough Engineer for comment. Attorney Lewis noted a developer's agreement and financial security is required before final approval by Council.

Complaint of welding and grinding at the Smith Pipe location early in the morning Larry Frace notified the owner.

Larry Frace reported on the timeline to have the Borough's Floodplain Management Ordinance approved by FEMA.

Secretary presented a list of bills for payment and bank account balances and registers. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Dave Kershner to approve the Secretary/Treasurer's Report. Motion carried; no opposed.

Committee Reports

Law & Finance – The LST employer list from Berkheimer was supplied to Council. Council members to review and discuss at the October 25, 2023 work session.

Discussion was held regarding the acceptance of cash as payment for hall rentals, etc. Council opinion was to continue to accept cash transactions in the office.

Highway and Streets – Letter from Joanne Bower was read. Letter gives authority to Briar Creek Borough to trim/remove the bush/tree located on the Briar Meadows Development property, corner of SR 93 and E. Rittenhouse Mill Road, to improve line of sight at the intersection. A Certified Arborist to submit a change order to the E Rittenhouse Mill Road tree removal contract for this tree's removal. Jim Seeley to contact A Certified Arborist for the change order.

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Rock Bottom Dirt Worx has been notified that they have been awarded the crack sealing project. Ed Fenton will coordinate the project.

PPL has been contacted to install a new street light on W Front Street. PPL will assign installation to an engineer with an estimated eight-week installation date.

Buildings and Grounds – Concrete has been poured according to plans. Pavilion to be moved and Mike Winder has been contacted to backfill around the pavilion area.

Flick Brothers has installed a new mini split in the kitchen area of the hall. All mini splits have been inspected by Flick Brothers. Jim Seeley reported he has cleaned all the filters on the units. Small amount of mold was found in Unit #2 and Flick Brothers recommends the heat be left on in the units to prevent mold from growing on the filters.

Old or Unfinished Business – No update was given on the Zoning Ordinance Text Changes. Mayor Harold Kershner will assist Bruce Michael in completing these changes.

New Business – No new business discussed.

No further business. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Ed Fenton to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser, Secretary
Briar Creek Borough