

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
November 1, 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: Riley Miller, Sean Salmon, David DeHaven, Jordan Smith, Holli Trivelpiece, John Trivelpiece, Judy Reichert, and Keith and Christy Kehl-Hess.

Minutes of the September 27 Work Session and the October 4, 2023 Regular Council Meeting were approved as recorded.

Citizen Comments and Complaints

John Trivelpiece remarked about the October 11, 2023 letter he received from Attorney Lewis requesting all homeowners to remove trees, shrubs, etc. from the borough's right-of-way on E Rittenhouse Mill Road by December 31, 2023. The letter has a conflicting "remove by" date of December 31, 2023 while the September 6, 2023 minutes lists a date of November 30, 2023. Attorney Lewis explained a discussion was held at the September 27th work session to change the date to December 31, 2023 since extra time was needed to compile the list of owners and addresses. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Jim Seeley to ratify the December 31, 2023 "remove by" date. Roll call: Jim Long, yes; Ed Fenton, yes; Rodney Koch, yes; Jim Seeley, yes; Bill Witner, yes; Dave Kershner, yes; Bruce Michael, yes. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

John Trivelpiece questioned why weight limits are not being enforced on Park Road. Ed Fenton explained that local ordinances are not enforced by the state police.

Riley Miller read her letter expressing safety concerns regarding the condition of several trailers, some of which have been abandoned, in the Briar Creek Mobile Home Park and the poor condition of the roads, lined with dead trees throughout the mobile home court. Yousef Mahamad Alam, owner of the property, will be contacted and asked to attend a council meeting.

No Mayor's report was given.

Solicitor Barry Lewis reported his office has received a complaint concerning a scam to update QuickBooks and urged Briar Creek Borough office to be aware of the scam.

No Engineer's report was given.

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

The Planning Commission Meeting to review the Taco Bell Land Development Plans is set for Wednesday, November 8th at 6PM.

Complaint was received regarding the wording on a sign at Adult World. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Dave Kershner to authorize Attorney Lewis to look at case law regarding sign advertisements. Motion carried; no opposed.

Complaint of junk, garbage, and the living condition at 63 Sparrow Drive, Lot 31, in the Red Oak Mobile Home Park was received. Property has been condemned.

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 that intersection. A Certified Arborist to submit a change order to the E Rittenhouse Mill Road tree removal contract for this tree's removal.

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October 4, 2023

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.

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