

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
November 29, 2023
WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

Present: Mayor Harold Kershner Jr., W. Bruce Michael, James Seeley, Ed Fenton, Bill Witner, Rodney Koch, Solicitor Barry Lewis, Larry Frace and Abigail Kurecian, Tammy Trivelpiece, and Borough Manager Carol Kieser. Absent: James Long, David Kershner, and Engineer.

Citizen Present: Mike Winder, Yousof Alam (owner of Briar Creek Estates and Red Oak Mobile Home Park), Holli Trivelpiece, John Trivelpiece, and Keith Hess.

Tammy Trivelpiece reported on the 11/02/2023 Berwick Area Swimming Pool Board Meeting. Financial report was given. October 2023 bills have been paid. November 2023 invoices in the amount of \$1727.97 need to be paid. Fund raisers scheduled for November and December were discussed. Sale of season pool passes to bring in funds to cover the outstanding invoices. Copy of the report is filed in the Borough office.

Included in the packets for council were minutes of the 10/25 Work Session, 11/01 Regular Council Meeting, and the 11/08/2023 Planning Commission Meeting, and the list of bills for review.

No citizen's complaints or comments were received.

Meeting was turned over to Yousof Alam and Mike Winder to update council on a proposed plan to demolish or refurbish trailers in the Briar Creek Estates. Mike Winder was introduced by Yousof Alam to complete the work on the grounds, perform demolition, and refurbish existing trailers to livable condition. An engineer will be hired by Yousof Alam to assess the condition of the trailers. Larry Frace has the jurisdiction to issue citations on those trailers that do not meet the Borough ordinances.

Carol Kieser reported the 2024 budget has been advertised for 12/06/2023 adoption.

A CD matured on 11/28/2023. Rate information was presented from the First Keystone Community Bank and M&T Bank. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Rodney Koch to invest the funds in the 11 Month Special CD at a rate of 5.25%. Motion carried; no opposed.

Carol Kieser reported the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee met on October 25, 2023 and passed the third addendum to the Articles of Agreement between the Columbia County Tax Collection Committee and HA Berkheimer. The term of the agreement will be January 1, 2024 thru December 31, 2033. Commencing January 1, 2024 through to December 31, 2026, Berkheimer will receive a 1.55% commission; and, from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2033, Berkheimer will receive a commission of 1.58% to collect the earned income tax and distribute to the municipalities.

Jim Seeley presented and reported on the 10/11/2023 Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority Meeting. Jim Seeley reported the Act 537 Sewage Planning Module Exemption was signed for Taco Bell. Copy of the minutes and customer past due list is filed in the Borough office.

Attorney Barry Lewis reviewed a proposed letter to Senator Culver and State Representative Leadbetter. Letter requested the elected representatives consider amending the Right-to-Know Law to require requesters identify a specific time period for which records are sought, with a presumption that requests for records for a period of greater than one year be considered unreasonable. If the request for records is greater than a one-year period, the requester would need to include some justification as to why the request is reasonable. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Bill Witner to sign the letter to the representatives. Roll call taken: Ed Fenton, yes; Rodney Koch, yes; Jim Seeley, yes; Bill Witner, yes; Bruce Michael, yes. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Discussion was held regarding the Record Retention Act. Carol Kieser will review the act and begin to dispose of old records by resolution.

Old or Unfinished Business

No update was given on the Zoning Ordinance Text Changes.

No update of the LST Tax Employer Listing was given.

New Business

Bruce Michael reported a speed limit sign is missing at the east end of Briar Creek Borough on Route 11. PennDOT will be contacted.

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Discussion was held to relocate the Borough Signs on E. Rittenhouse Mill Road. Secretary to contact PA OneCall.

Discussion was held regarding the number of heavy trucks that travel Park Road. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Ed Fenton to contact American Technology for a quote to install a new camera in the front of the building to capture the traffic on Park Road. Motion carried; no opposed.

2024 meeting dates were presented. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Rodney Koch to approve the 2024 work session and regular council meeting dates. Motion carried; no opposed.

Bruce Michael noted the council members will personally sponsor a luncheon for the PA State Police on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

Larry Frace reported the draft Flood Plain Ordinance is completed. Draft of ordinance will be presented to Council to review. Columbia County will be required to review and approve. Once approved by the county, a public meeting will be set. Larry Frace will email a list of residents to the borough office that will be affected by the flood plain ordinance and a letter will be sent from the borough office notifying them of the public meeting.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Bill Witner to adjourn. Motion carried; no opposed. No further business and meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser, Secretary
Briar Creek Borough