

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
December 27, 2023
WORK SESSION MINUTES

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

Present: W. Bruce Michael, James Seeley, James Long, Ed Fenton, David Kershner, Bill Witner, and Borough Manager Carol Kieser. Absent: Mayor Harold Kershner Jr., Rodney Koch, Solicitor, Zoning Officer, and Engineer.

Citizen Present: Holli Trivelpiece, John Trivelpiece, Keith and Christy Kehl-Hess, and Larry Cheslocle from Rayellen Dr, Berwick.

No Berwick Area Swimming Pool report was given.

Included in the packets for council were minutes of the 11/29 Work Session, 12/06/2023 Regular Council Meeting, and the list of bills for review.

A check in the amount of \$425 was received from EMC Insurance in settlement of the damage caused by a vehicle accident to the pylons in the area of the monument. No police report has been received from the Bloomsburg State Police.

No citizen's complaints or comments were received.

Jim Seeley presented and reported on the 11/08/2023 Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority Meeting. The BAJSA proposed sewer budget for the Briar Creek Borough was submitted to Council. Copy of the BAJSA report is filed in the office.

Old or Unfinished Business

No update was given on the Zoning Ordinance Text Changes.

Discussion was held regarding the LST Employer Listing. Council questioned how a business is added to the LST roles so taxes can be collected by Berkheimer and distributed to the borough. Current employer listing will be reviewed by Jim Long.

A quote from American Technology in the amount of \$1985.50 to add an additional camera on the front of the building and replacing the parking lot camera on the side of the building was presented. Motion by Jim Long/seconded Ed Fenton to accept the proposal to upgrade the security camera system. Motion carried; no opposed.

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A quote from American Technology in the amount of \$2496 to provide equipment and installation of the audio system in board room was presented. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Bill Witner to table taking action on the purchase until other options are explored. Motion carried; no opposed.

New Business

Ruckle Hill Solar 1, LLC Project – An email from Attorney Tanribilir, attorney representing the Briar Creek Borough Zoning Hearing Board was read. Carol Kieser reported she has spoken with Attorney Trathen and he is not interested in representing the Briar Creek Borough Council in this matter since Attorney Barry Lewis, Solicitor, has a conflict and cannot represent the council. Attorney Trathen is currently representing Briar Creek Township.

A discussion was held to appoint a representative from the borough council to attend the pre-trial conference, which will be scheduled by Judge Norton, and discuss settlement ideas. Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Jim Long to appoint Ed Fenton to attend the pre-trial conference to decide if/how the Council wishes to settle the matter. Roll call taken: Jim Long, yes; Jim Seeley, yes; Bill Witner, yes; Dave Kershner, yes; Bruce Michael, yes. Ed Fenton abstained. Motion carried on unanimous roll call vote.

Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Jim Long to reimburse Ed Fenton wages for any personal time off from his job. Motion carried; no opposed. Ed Fenton abstained from the vote.

Joel Vought Development – Peters Consultants designed the development plans and submitted them to Columbia County Planning Commission. County Solicitor advised that they are not able to review the land development plans on the Borough's behalf; therefore, an alternate engineer is need to review the plans. Proposals were presented from Twin Oaks Consulting and Barry Isett and Associates. Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Bill Witner to retain Twin Oaks Consulting as alternate engineer to review the Joel Vought Land Development Plans. Motion carried; no opposed.

Secretary reported the AED Pads need to be replaced for an estimate of \$62. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Dave Kershner to replace the pads and donate the outdated ones to the YMCA for use in their training sessions. Motion carried; no opposed.

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Correspondence

Email from Ross Crowl was read asking permission to hunt on a piece of borough property, located along the river. Secretary was advised to contact him and let him know that he would need to contact a private owner to access that property.

Correspondence from the Bloomsburg Recycling Center was discussed. Secretary to put information on the Borough's website and Facebook page.

Correspondence from the Columbia County Volunteers in Medicine Clinic was discussed. This is a free clinic for people who cannot afford medical care or are uninsured. Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Ed Fenton to donate \$150 to the clinic and post information on the Borough's website and Facebook page. Motion carried; no opposed.

No further business. Motion by Dave Kershner/seconded Ed Fenton to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser
Secretary