

**BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH**  
**January 29, 2025**  
**Work Session Minutes**

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

Present: Bruce Michael, E. James Seeley, Jim Long, Ed Fenton, and Rodney Koch. Other officials present: Solicitor Barry Lewis and Borough Manager Carol Kieser. Absent: Mayor Harold Kershner, Dave Kershner, Bill Witner, Z o n i n g O f f i c e r s , and E n g i n e e r

Citizens present: John Trivelpiece, Holli Trivelpiece, and Keith Hess.

Meeting was turned over to Matt Swartz, PennDOT Traffic Control Specialist, and Robert Mastandrea, Vastgood Properties. Mr. Swartz reported the Rt 11/Giant traffic signal has an issue where the left turn arrow (toward Berwick) comes up every time even if there is no one in the turning lane. This issue was reported to Representative Leadbeter. Matt Swartz, Jim Long, and Robert Mastandrea confirmed there is a problem with the loop amplifier detecting a fault. The loop needs to be replaced according to the approved permit with PennDOT.

Mr. Mastandrea noted he will contact their contracted maintenance company, TRA Electric, Inc., to visit the site and fully troubleshoot the operational issue and suggests those other businesses that receive significant benefit from the signal should, therefore, share in any costs associated with PennDOT's requirements. Bruce Michael volunteered to write those businesses a letter and explain the need to maintain or replace the traffic signal and request a contribution toward the cost.

Mr. Swartz reviewed grant opportunities to replace the entire traffic signal, ADA accommodations (ramp and refuge areas) and pedestrian pushbuttons and signal heads, battery back-up system, and emergency pre-emption. These grants will require a 20% contribution from the borough. Attorney Lewis suggested a new agreement with neighboring businesses to help offset the 20% cost of the new installation.

Mr. Swartz will email the borough office a list of traffic signal design consultants that PennDOT has worked with before related to the ARLE/GLG/Multi-Modal grant programs.

The following documents from Josephine Beaver, PennDOT, were distributed for council's review: (1) Template for a Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement and (2) Example Resolution for Authorization to sign and submit agreement. Documents referred to Attorney Lewis.

No citizen comments or complaints were received.

Secretary's Report – Carol Kieser

Included in the packets for Council were minutes from the 01/02/2025 council meeting, Statement of Financial Interests Form, and a list of bills for approval.

BAJSA – Jim Seeley

Minutes of the 12/11/2024 sewer authority meeting and Briar Creek Borough past due list were submitted to Council. A copy of the minutes is filed in the Borough Office.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Barry Lewis

Comcast - The waiver, developer's agreement, and financial security documents have all been received from Comcast. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Jim Long to sign the development plans. Motion carried; no opposed.

Solar Farm Documents – No report given.

Ordinance #198-2025, Creating Joint Board of Appeals, has been advertised and will be presented at the 02/05/2025 Council Meeting.

Old Business or Unfinished Business

Discussion was held regarding the current winter maintenance contractor pre-salting before a snow storm. Pros and cons of this practice were discussed.

New Business

Ed Fenton reported he has contacted Steve Kehoe, PennDOT Municipal Services Specialist, for bid specs to resurface E Rittenhouse Mill Road and Park Road. Item to be added to 02/05/2025 Council Meeting agenda.

CD #5888, Fire Property CD – Bruce Michael read his thoughts regarding the use of the fire company property money to mill and replace the Ber-Vaughn Park Entrance Road from US Rt 11 (Front Street) to the main entrance gate of the public park, install two dry wells to mitigate runoff water to surrounding properties and US Rt 11. Briar Creek Borough Fire Company 1 donated a lot of land to the Borough for public use; or should it be sold, money is to be used only for publicly beneficial purposes. Property was eventually sold to Jeffrey and Karen May and proceeds are currently held in a CD. Council discussed who owns the current road leading into the park entrance. No action taken.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Rodney Koch to adjourn. No further business and meeting was adjourned at 9PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser, Borough Manager Briar Creek Borough