

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
February 5, 2025
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

President of Council 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: W Bruce Michael, James Long, E James Seeley, Ed Fenton, Rodney Koch, Dave Kershner, and Bill Witner. Other officials present: Solicitor Barry Lewis, Zoning Officers Larry Frace and Abigail Smith, and Secretary Carol Kieser. Absent: Mayor Harold Kershner, and Engineer.

Citizen present: David DeHaven, John Trivelpiece, and Holli Trivelpiece.

Minutes of the 01/02/2025 regular council meeting were approved as recorded.

No citizen comments or complaints were received.

Mayor's Report - Mayor Harold Kershner was absent and no report was given.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Barry Lewis

Ordinance #198-2025, Authorizing an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement between BCB/BCT to Implement a Joint Board of Appeals, was presented. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Bill Witner to enact ordinance. Motion carried; no opposed.

PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement (TSMA) – Attorney Lewis reviewed the agreement template from PennDOT. He will contact PennDOT with proposed changes.

A maintenance agreement between Briar Creek Limited and Briar Creek Borough, dated September 2, 1998, for the Rt. 11/Giant Plaza traffic signal is currently in place. The owner of the plaza has sold from Briar Creek Ltd to Vasgood Properties; therefore, Attorney Lewis recommends entering into an updated agreement with the Owner to incorporate some of the conditions from the PennDOT TSMA. A discussion was held to approach other businesses along Rt 11 who receive significant benefit from the traffic signal to share in any costs associated with PennDOT's maintenance requirements and include those businesses in the new maintenance agreement. Bruce Michael will write those businesses a letter and explain the need to maintain or replace the traffic signal and request a contribution toward the cost.

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Engineer's Report – Peters Consultants

No report was submitted.

Zoning Officer's Report – Larry Frace

Larry Frace submitted the January 2025 zoning report including the zoning violations, complaints, and permits. A copy of the report is filed in the Borough Office.

Discussion was held regarding the zoning district of the property located at Old Route 4 and W Rittenhouse Mill Road. Columbia County GIS has it listed as Commercial and Briar Creek Borough maps have it zoned as Rural Residential. Larry Frace will contact Columbia County to have the GIS changed to Rural Residential.

Berlin's Mobile Home Park – Draft sketch plan to replace existing mobile homes with new units was presented. Discussion followed regarding zoning setbacks, mobile home size, connecting roads to allow emergency vehicle access, floodplain elevation certificates, plot plan, tree removal, fence installation, etc. Larry Frace will contact Scott Berlin with a list of requirements.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Invoices were presented for payment. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Jim Long to approve invoices for payment. Motion carried; no opposed.

No action was taken on Resolution No. 5 of 2025, Authorization to Sign and Submit Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement.

Committee Reports

Law and Finance – CD #8994 will mature on 02/22/25. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Dave Kershner to authorize Jim Seeley and Carol Kieser to setup a new CD at the First Keystone Community Bank. Motion carried; no opposed.

Motion by Jim Long/seconded Dave Kershner to authorize Jim Seeley to negotiate a lower rate with PPL and check on services provided thru Comcast. Motion carried; no opposed.

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Highways and Streets – Ed Fenton reported on the Park Road/E Rittenhouse Mill Road resurfacing project. Motion by Rodney Koch/seconded Bill Witner to authorize Ed Fenton to work with PennDOT Municipal Services Specialist, Steve Kehoe, to move ahead with the bid proposal and advertise for bid opening at the March 5, 2025 council meeting. Motion carried; no opposed.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Bill Witner to authorize Secretary to advertise for bids for the March 5, 2025 bid opening. Motion carried; no opposed.

Buildings and Grounds – No report.

Old or Unfinished Business – No old business was discussed.

New Business

Open Floor for New Business

Discussion was held regarding how the current winter maintenance subcontractor is treating the roads during bad weather.

No further business and meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser, Secretary
Briar Creek Borough