

BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH
February 26, 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, Dave Kershner, Bill Witner, and Rodney Koch. Other officials present: Solicitor Barry Lewis, Tammy Trivelpiece, and Borough Manager Carol Kieser. Absent: Mayor Harold Kershner, Zoning Officers, and Engineer

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

Berwick Area Swimming Pool – Tammy Trivelpiece reported on the 02/12/2025 Ber Vaughn Pool Board meeting. A copy of the minutes and financial report is filed in the borough office. A new board member, Ray Karafinski, was voted in to replace Jay Garrett, representative from Berwick Council. Jocelyn Getty, Financial Secretary, resigned effective the end of April. Pool board is in search of a new financial secretary.

No citizen comments or complaints were received.

Secretary's Report – Carol Kieser

Included in the packets for Council were minutes from the 01/29/2025 Work Session and 02/05/2025 Council Meeting, and a list of bills for approval.

BAJSA – Jim Seeley

Minutes of the 01/05/2025 sewer authority meeting and the Briar Creek Borough past due list were submitted to Council. A copy of the minutes is filed in the Borough Office. Council held a discussion in regards to BAJSA's decision to forgive Briar Creek Township debt for the cost to connect to the system. Jim Seeley explained no funds were used from the Briar Creek Borough account. BAJSA checking account interest was used to pay BCT this debt.

Solicitor's Report – Attorney Barry Lewis

Cannot draft the PennDOT Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement nor the BCB Maintenance Agreement until information is received from those businesses who receive significant benefit from the traffic signal. Bruce Michael is still working on a letter to send to those businesses.

Discussion was held to include the yearly cost of maintenance and operation of the traffic light in the letter to the businesses. Rober Mastandrea, Vastgood Properties, will be contacted for these costs.

Old Business or Unfinished Business

Rt 11/Giant Traffic Signal – Email from Robert Mastandrea, Vastgood Properties, stated their contracted maintenance contractor, TRA Electric, has not visited the site due to the weather to determine the outstanding issues and provide a proposal for repairs.

Matt Swartz, PennDOT Traffic Control Specialist, provided a synopsis of the project to replace the RT 11/Giant traffic signal. The entire traffic signal will be replaced. That includes, but is not limited to a new power supply, a new controller cabinet and assembly, new underground conduit and cable runs, new junction boxes, new mast arms, a new vehicular detection system, new signal heads with reflective backplates and overhead street name signs. In addition, the new installation will include ADA accommodations (ramps and refuge areas) & pedestrian pushbuttons & signal heads, new luminaires (to illuminate the intersection), a battery back-up system and emergency pre-emption.

The traffic signal timing and phasing will also be updated based on existing and projected traffic volumes.

The existing traffic signal will remain in operation until the proposed signal equipment is installed and operational. After the proposed signal equipment be activated, the existing signal equipment will be de-energized, dis-assembled and removed.

A list of traffic signal design engineering firms which PennDOT has worked with in the past was received from Matt Swartz. The secretary will send an email to Livic Civil and Peters Consulting to see if they have any interest in sending a proposal to do the project.

New Business

BCT/BCB Property Maintenance Appeal Board - Search for property maintenance appeal board members is ongoing. Larry Frace will provide training for the board members. Cost of training to be paid by the Borough. Members will be paid \$50 to attend the meeting.

The Park Road/E Rittenhouse Mill Road Resurfacing Project has been advertised to receive bids before 3PM, March 5.

A 2/19/2025 Planning Commission Meeting was held to review the preliminary/final plans for the Ruckle Hill Solar 1 project. The meeting was continued until Wednesday, March 19, 2025, to review updates to the plans and discuss the sidewalk and curb waivers.

Motion by Jim Long/seconded Ed Fenton to donate \$100 to United Way Day of Caring. Motion carried; no opposed.

A request was received from Livic Civil for an acknowledgement letter regarding the Community Strategies Group project to develop the Weis Property located between Giant/McDonalds and CSS Industries on Rt 11. Site to include a homeless shelter at the rear of the site and a financial institution (credit union) at the front of the site. During the Highway Occupancy Permit process, PennDOT needs a letter from the municipality indicating "awareness" of the project. Motion by Jim Seeley/seconded Rodney Koch to authorize the secretary to send the acknowledgement letter. Motion carried; no opposed.

Jim Seeley reported on the need to hold a CPR/First Aid/AED class. Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Bill Witner to authorize secretary to contact the YMCA for information. Motion carried/no opposed.

Motion by Ed Fenton/seconded Rodney Koch to adjourn. No further business and meeting was adjourned at 7:49PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Carol A Kieser
Borough Manager
Briar Creek Borough