

**BRIAR CREEK BOROUGH  
DECEMBER 7, 2016 REGULAR MEETING**

The meeting was called to order by W. Bruce Michael at 7:00 P.M.

Members of Council present were Emery Seeley, Jennifer Kulesza, E. James Seeley, David Kershner, W. Bruce Michael and Mayor Verncel Creveling. Zoning Officer Ronald Bogart and Secretary Amy Evans were present as well. Ed Fenton and James Long were not in attendance.

Citizens John Kulesza, Linda Reinhardt, Harry Reinhardt and Gordon Bilby were also in attendance.

The minutes of the Council Meeting of November 2, 2016 and the minutes of the Work Session Meeting of October 26, 2016 were approved with a correction to the minutes of the Work Session Meeting

Citizens informed Council that at 4:00 PM there was a car that was speeding along Park Road. John Kulesza added that he feels that Council should consider stop signs on Park Road and also informed Council that another municipality charges citizens an assessment of \$10 annually in order to maintain a low crime community.

James Seeley addressed Council with information on a landlord registration process that includes annual property inspections that are paid for by the property owners. Bruce Michael suggested that in order to enforce that sort of ordinance the Borough may need to hire an additional Zoning Officer.

Council informed Citizens that the Centennial Committee will be meeting on December 12, 2016 at the Borough hall at 5:30 PM.

Council considered a request from Jack Mihalik with the Law Offices of Hummel and Lewis to be reappointed as the Borough Solicitor for 2017.

On motion of Ed Fenton, and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement, Jack Mihalik with the Law Offices of Hummel and Lewis is appointed as the Borough Solicitor through 2017.

The Engineer had nothing to report.

Zoning Officer Ronald Bogart reported that two peddler's permits were issued in November. Ronald spoke with a property owner in the Borough regarding the removal of a dumpster. All reports were completed and submitted. Ronald also spoke with Mr. Berlin regarding a bed bug infestation in one of his mobile homes and sent certified letters notifying him that the property will be condemned unless it is properly fumigated as per the International Property Maintenance Code.

Mayor Verncel Creveling took a moment to recognize all of the accomplishments that have happened in the Borough and the Berwick Area, with the help of Borough citizens, specifically mentioned; the opening of Ber Vaugh Swimming Pool, the opening of the Berwick Theater and Center for Community Arts, Dumpster Day, the spaying and neutering of feral cats, the installation of a bus shelter, the tree trimming, the establishment of a Centennial Committee, the 1-year anniversary of Prime – Time at the Borough, Security Cameras installed at the Borough, recovering from a robbery, new out-door lighting

installed, MS4 Advanced Waiver Application on schedule, Halloween in the Park, and 9 children from Prime – Time making the honor roll at school.

Mayor Creveling announced that there will be a Christmas dinner at the Borough at 5:00 PM on Tuesday with the children from Prime – Time and their families if anyone would like to attend.

Council reviewed some additional bills that were added to the list of bills since the Work Session.

On motion of Ed Fenton, and seconded by Jennifer Kulesza, with the rest of Council in agreement, the Secretary report is accepted and the bills shall be paid as presented.

The Law and Finance Committee had nothing to report.

The Highway and Streets Committee reported that the grate at 2211 West Front Street has been cleaned and that the street signs that were needed have been ordered.

Jennifer Kulesza inquired about a meeting with Penn DOT concerning Park Road. Due to flooding, the District Penn DOT representative has been unavailable to meet. Jennifer Kulesza will contact the Penn DOT representative to discuss options for traffic calming along Park Road.

Ed Fenton informed Council that a resident on Ruckle Hill Road has decided to maintain the original driveway that was installed on his property rather than seek a permit to install another driveway. Council can feel free to stop at the property and inspect the existing driveway or any other work as per the property owner.

The Building and Grounds Committee reported that new out-door lights have been installed at the Borough and invited any suggestions for the Borough property from Council.

James Long sent no report for the Berwick Area Swimming Pool. Bruce Michael shared a survey of the Pool property with Council.

James Seeley reported that the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority Work Session will be opening the last bids for the storm water separation project on December 12. The estimated total cost of the project is \$2.5 million.

Secretary Amy Evans reported that the Columbia County Tax Committee will meet December 13 and will consider the 2017 budget.

On motion of Ed Fenton, and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council and the Mayor in agreement, Ordinance Number 180-2016 setting the tax rates for the tax year of 2017 at 3.6636 mills for general purpose, \$52.00 per year for local services and abolishing per capita tax is adopted.

On motion of Ed Fenton, and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement, the adoption of Resolution 6 of 2016 appointing the Auditor for the 2016 Audit of the Borough accounts has been ratified.

Council further discussed the traffic count on Park Road. Jennifer Kulesza will share the information with the Penn DOT representative.

Ed Fenton agreed to speak with Ted Hess regarding fireworks on Ruckle Hill for the Centennial celebration.

David Kershner requested that summer maintenance bids be a topic for discussion at the December work Session.

Council considered a request from Ronald Bogart to be reappointed as the Borough Zoning Officer through 2017.

On motion of Jennifer Kulesza, and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement, Ronald Bogart is appointed the Borough Zoning Officer for 2017.

On motion of Ed Fenton, and seconded by Emery Seeley, with the rest of Council in agreement, the meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Amy Evans  
Borough Secretary