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# Barkeyville asphalt issue lingers

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BARKEYVILLE — The crowd at borough council meetings has diminished but that doesn't mean residents are letting the asphalt plant issue rest.

About 20 residents showed up to the regular council meeting Tuesday, which is fewer than recent council meetings. The meetings in February and March attracted about 50 residents crowding into the small borough building.

A few residents, including Bill Coursen and Joe Jenkins, asked council members questions about a proposed asphalt plant at Barkeyville Industrial Park. Glenn O. Hawbaker Inc.

plans to build the plant on 25 acres along Stevenson Road in the borough.

Coursen and Jenkins have tried in court to stop construction but so far work continues on the plant. The pair, along with three other residents, filed an appeal Feb. 21 to the zoning board's decision to allow the development to proceed.

Jenkins said he asked council why a stay hadn't been issued. He said borough zoning ordinances state when legal issues arise with a development, that construction be stopped.

"The answer we were given was from the borough solicitor. He said that, in his opinion, the appeal was not issued in a

timely manner and therefore he advised that no stay should be issued," Jenkins said Wednesday.

Since the residents' appeal was to the zoning board, Jenkins said that's the board that should rule on the appeal, not the borough solicitor.

Council president Leann Stearns said Wednesday the council's hands are tied on this issue and many residents don't understand that.

"Council can't do anything about it," said Stearns because it is a zoning board matter.

A zoning hearing will be held at 7 p.m. April 11 on the asphalt plant issue. The meeting is at the borough building on Route 8 in the borough.