

**GROVE CITY BOROUGH COUNCIL
GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA
REGULAR MEETING MAY 19, 2014 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President George Pokrant at 7:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER was offered by Council Member Shawn Myers

ROLL CALL was answered by Council Members Mattocks, Daley, Myers, Hodge, Gallagher, Solicitor Bonner, Pokrant, Black, Mayor Riddle, Bigley, Wood, and Shi.

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Georgie Hodge, 132 North Broad Street – She is concerned about the flat iron building as it appears to be in disrepair and would like to see something done about it as she feels it’s unsafe and a fire trap. There are numerous cats in the property and local youth use a ladder to gain access to the property. She is a realtor and truly embarrassed by the property when she brings visitors into the community. She wants something done about it and wants something done about it soon. She doesn’t want to die before something is done. What does she need to do to have this building torn down?

Mr. Pokrant deferred to Solicitor Bonner for guidance on what Council can do about the property.

Solicitor Bonner reported that he met with Michael Beatty, Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer for the Borough along with Vance Oakes, Borough Manager about 6 weeks ago. He suggested Mr. Beatty prepare a written report of his inspection findings. He feels if we get into the condemnation we will likely encounter obstacles from the other side and does anticipate it will take a few years to be resolved.

Mr. Oakes will request written recommendation from Mr. Beatty for further consideration.

APPROVAL OF BILLS-TO-BE-PAID REPORT

Mr. Wood moved to approve the bills to be paid. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS PAID REPORT

Mr. Myers moved to approve the bills paid report. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Myers moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 17, 2014 with two corrections noted. Mrs. Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT

April Flynn Gillis introduced herself as the Director and is looking forward to working with everyone.

RECOGNIZE FIREFIGHTERS

Mr. Pokrant acknowledged the four recent graduates of the Lawrence County Fire Academy Program.

- Tyree Hasham
- Matthew Cushing
- Aaron McFadden
- Andrew McKinney

Mayor Riddle read aloud a letter to all four graduates commending them for their efforts and welcomed them to the Grove City Volunteer Fire Department.

CONSIDERATION OF EVENT REQUESTS

Grove City Baseball “Minor Division”, Spring 2014, starting May 2014 - **Mr. Hodge moved to approve the event request as submitted. Mrs. Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

James Chinn, “Travel Baseball Team”, Spring 2014, starting May 2014 - **Mr. Wood moved to approve the event request as submitted. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

St. Jude Children’s Hospital Benefit Race, May 31, 2014 - **Mr. Myers moved to approve the event request as submitted. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Olde Town Grove City’s Farmers’ Market, June 5-October 31, 2014 - **Mr. Hodge moved to approve the event request as submitted. Mr. Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Grove City Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Sounds Concert Series, June 12-October 9, 2014 - **Mr. Bigley moved to approve the event request as submitted. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

“70th Birthday Celebration” Cathy Donaldson, July 23, 2014 - **Mr. Bigley moved to approve the event request with the exception of the DJ as sound systems are not permitted in the park. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

“Instron Company Picnic”, August 19, 2014 - **Mr. Bigley moved to approve the event request with the exception of the DJ as sound systems are not permitted in the park. Mr. Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Scott Matson & Valerie Bauer, Reservation Request for Memorial Park Gazebo, October 4, 2014 – **No action taken on this request. There is currently no process in place to reserve a Gazebo in the park regardless of the activity.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION # 2014-5 –Authorizing Primary Signatories

Mr. Myers moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION # 2014-6 – Appointing Tax Collection Committee Delegates

Mr. Black moved to approve the resolution with deletion of line item number 3, appointing the Tax Collection Committee Secretary as a delegate. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION # 2014-7 – Authorizing Council President to Sign Maintenance Agreement

Mr. Wood moved to approve the resolution as presented. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RATE INCREASE- Electric Rate Increase

Mr. Bigley moved to approve the rate increase as discussed. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER REQUEST FOR PAYMENT #3 – Tech Services, Inc. \$223,945.67

This was included in the Bills-To-Be-Paid Report and approved as stated above.

CONSIDER HARRISVILLE BOROUGH REQUEST – Sewer Tap, Harrisville Auto Sales, 112 South Main St.

Mr. Myers moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST – Water Tap, Matt Morris at 162 Center Church Rd.

Mr. Myers moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST – Sewer Tap, Matt Morris at 162 Center Church Rd.

Mr. Myers moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AGREEMENT – Memorial Park Pool Management Agreement with YMCA

Solicitor Bonner noted that he will update the agreement to include a clause regarding the restriction of using sound systems within the park.

Mr. Wood moved to approve the agreement as presented. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Pokrant and Mr. Black abstained from voting.

CONSIDER BID AWARD – Mealy Excavation & Construction, Inc. for McConnell Street Project

Mr. Bigley moved to accept the bid as presented. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF CONGESTION HEDGE–Barclays Power, AMP Contract C-2-2007-5481

Mr. Bigley moved to approve the purchase as presented. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER ADVERTISING FOR CIVIL SERVICE TESTING – Police Department Vacancy

Mr. Bigley moved to advertise the Civil Service Testing as presented. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7:55pm –Jeff Hodge left the meeting.

REVIEW SCHEDULE – Fire Hydrant Flushing throughout Borough

Mr. Oakes reviewed the schedule for fire hydrant flushing throughout the Borough, no action required.

8:00pm – Jeff Hodge returned to the meeting.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project-Phase II – Dan Goncz reported that the Phase II work is complete with the exception of a few punch-list items. The completion date is now expected to be by the end of June 2014.

8:05pm – Jeff Black left the meeting.

Requisition No. II-B 15, \$85,835.35 – **Mr. Wood moved to approve Requisition No. II-B 15 in the amount of \$85,835.35 as requested. Mrs. Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project-Phase III - Dan Goncz reported that they anticipate being able to advertise for bids in May.

8:08pm – Jeff Black returned to the meeting.

Pine Street Streetscape Project – Dan Goncz reported that they continue to address concerns raised by PennDOT and anticipate a delay in the start of the project.

Update on discussion with Bankson Engineers regarding Springfield Township sewer capacity -

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Oakes reported:

- Expanding on what Dan Goncz just reported regarding Springfield Township, there is a COG meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 21st and Springfield Township has invited Gary Dovey from Penn-Northwest Development to attend. Mr. Dovey will share information regarding nationwide developers and the increased interest in developing in the Springfield Township area in addition to the Springfield Commons. They feel we need to be prepared for increased development.
- He has advertised an RFP for professional services managing our pension asset funds. It's been a number of years since we've solicited proposals. We should have 3 Council members review proposals. Mr. Pokrant feels the Finance Committee should take care of this project.
- An application for a demolition permit has been received from Grove City College for demolition of the middle school. We should see activity soon.
- A videographer will be in town tomorrow from CGI Communications, the company we are working with for the video project that will be available on our website. The Mayor will be featured presenting our "welcome" message. In addition they will be capturing video and photos throughout the Borough.
- Last week during the heavy rain, we had sewer back-ups on Edgewood Avenue including Jean Jacobs property again. The Public Works Department responded and cleaned and disinfected her basement. We have noted through PA One Call for the gas company to mark her lines. We plan to excavate where her house lateral connects into the main sewer and we're going to put a back-flipper (check valve) that will prevent sewer back-up. We are going to continue flushing the sewers along Edgewood Avenue and surrounding streets to see if there is anything contributing to this back-up. One of the

projects we had previously approved was the pipe bursting project along the 100 block of State Street. This project will be going on this summer and we think this may alleviate some of the problems Ms. Jacobs has had. Finally, we also need to do some smoke testing in that entire neighborhood. This involves taking the lid off the manhole and having a fan with a smoke agent blow the smoke up the sewer lines into the customer laterals. If they would happen to have drain of any kind the smoke will come out which will help to identify illegal connections to the line. We want to avoid alarming anyone should smoke infiltrate their homes. We will provide information to the newspapers and distribute door-hangers to the residents prior to any testing.

- June 3rd is the PMEA annual event in Harrisburg. He is hopeful that a few Council members will join him at the meeting.
- He would like everyone to meet briefly for an executive session for a personnel matter.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Riddle reported:

- He met with young scout Mike Kneables prior to Council. He is here again with his father. He is interested in working on his merit badges as he works toward his eagle. We had discussion about a project that he might do in the park.
- The Grove City Police Department will again be running the seatbelt enforcement program from today through June 8th.
- The Grove City Police Department has the medication take-back box accessible during regular working day hours.
- Mercer's Memorial Day parade is coming up on Monday. Our Council usually participates by marching with Mercer Borough. Anyone interested in attending should be in place at 10:45am along the parade route.
- The Grove City Police Department's new cruiser is in and anticipated to be on the road by the end of the week.

JUNIOR COUNCIL PERSON REPORT

Steven Shi reported that this will be his last session at Council. He would like to thank everyone for taking the initiative to guide him and Sam during the past two years and allowing for this experience. In addition he thanked Jeff and Will for originally interviewing them and allowing them to join in this program. He thanked Dr. Coulter for his personal assistance with his college application process and mentoring him through the process. In addition, he thanked Joel for being a friendly and helpful neighbor.

He feels the Council meetings are run professionally and efficiently. The Council members have always made the meetings enjoyable and productive. He was initially surprised by the depth of the issues covered at the meetings and feels it took about a year to become adaptive enough to understand the new items presented on the agenda and then it took about another year for him to be able to predict the enumerable complications associated with the issues.

The bottom line is that these volunteers make things look simple and easy but the truth is there are always complications and it's the Council that addresses everything.

One thing he admires is that local citizens are able to attend each meeting and share their concerns. He has true appreciation for all the little things done throughout the community. The first things that come to mind include the constant monitoring of sewer capacity and the repair of utilities at moments notices here.

He has been greatly blessed with a full ride to attend Brown University for Computer Engineering and will be leaving Grove City. This summer he will be returning home to China to celebrate with extended family there but looks forward to returning to Grove City in the future.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mary Kay Mattocks reported that she and Vance went to the MPO meeting in Hermitage last week. Two grants have been awarded, one in Springfield Township for a walk-bike path near the factory shop area. Sharpsville was granted quite a sizeable grant for a streetscape project. It was also announced that there will be some monies available for more streetscape projects if we are interested. The bids for Liberty Street should be open and they should be working in July. They also had PennDOT Bridge program 101. Lastly, there is a poster at each station for Strawberry Days which is coming up quickly. She will get with Chief, and Barry and Jeff to work with them on all that they do to support the activities.

8:23pm – Joel Bigley left the meeting.

Amy Gallagher reported that there is a group going to the High School to present regarding the Junior Council Program and solicit interest from students. She invited Steven if he is available to share his experiences. Todd Wood shared that he will be part of the presentation and Mayor Riddle stated that he plans to attend as well.

8:26pm – Joel Bigley returned to the meeting.

NEWS MEDIA

News media had a few questions related to the water main break that occurred today, clarifying the size of the break and the number of residents affected. Mr. Oakes stated that few residents were affected and referred her to Barry Spiker, Director of Public Works for specific information related to the location of the break and the pipe system. She also requested confirmation on the decision to hire a new police officer. Mr. Pokrant stated that the Civil Service Test will be administered to identify a list of candidates.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

Cheri Hill
Borough Secretary