

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
GROVE CITY, PENNSYLVANIA  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 17, 2014 7:00pm**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAAYER** was offered by Council Member Mary Kay Mattocks

**MEETING ATTENDANCE / ROLL CALL (\*denotes later arrival time)**

X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Other Name
X	Mattocks, Mary Kay	X	Black, Jeffrey (V-President)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
X	Daley, Kathleen	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Miller, Christine (Boro Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Coulter, Michael	X	Rose, Will (Boro Asst. Manager)
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Bigley, Joel	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Wood, Todd		
X	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)		Thomas, Alaina (Jr Member)		
X	Pokrant, George (President)		Foley, Ethan (Jr Member)		

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

No response, no discussion

Review of suggestion by a resident of a neighboring township suggesting that they be able to use Grove City Borough's composting site for a nominal fee. This type of request is better directed to the township supervisor's where the resident lives.

Mr. Pokrant reported that Council met in Executive Session prior to this meeting to discuss a litigation matter.

**CONSIDER CDBG ITEMS FOR APPROVAL/ADOPTION**

**Resolution 2014-13: Grant Application**

**Cooperation Agreement for administration of CDBG funds (between Grove City and MCRPC)**

**Resolution 2014-14: Fair Housing**

**Resolution 2014-15: Minority Business/Women Business Plan**

**Resolution 2014-16: Section 3 Plan**

**Resolution 2014-17: Anti-Displacement/Relocation Plan**

**Resolution 2014-18: Citizen Participation Plan**

- Dr. Coulter moved to approve CDBG Resolutions: 2014-13; 2014-14; 2014-15; 2014-16; 2014-17; 2014-18 and the Cooperation Agreement between Grove City Borough and the Mercer County Regional Planning Commission as presented. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Oakes clarified that the CDBG Application is due January 3, 2015 and the Borough's allocation this year is just over \$116,000.00. Application is for funds to be applied toward the downtown streetscape, with approximately \$30,000 being used to repay that debt service; 9% administrative allocation goes to MCRPC; balance applied to multi-year water and sewer improvements on McConnell Street.

**APPROVAL OF 'BILLS-TO-BE-PAID' REPORT**

- Mr. Black moved to approve the bills to be paid and addendum reports. Mr. Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Black left meeting at 7:10pm; returned at 7:12pm

**CORRESPONDENCE FROM AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC.** (attachments) – No action necessary.

- Mr. Oakes explained that an additional rate increase is necessary due to an upcoming request for increase in transmission rates. This was not foreseeable at the time the budget was established because First Energy and their subsidiary American Transmission Systems Inc. (ATSI) just filed for this rate increase, which will be effective January 1, 2015.
- Utility Engineers, PC representatives Jim Havrilla and Norm Baron have been monitoring the situation and provided detailed information on what has occurred. Lengthy discussion regarding the matter followed.
- Utility Engineers, PC recommendation is that the Borough implements a rate increase to recover those costs during the period that the costs are incurred, which in this case would be in 2015, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- To recover this cost (increased transmission rates and additional ancillary service charges to be collected by the PJM System Operator) requires that the Electric Fund budget line item be increased by \$200,472.00
  - This equates to an increase of approximately \$15/per mo. per household, rather than the initial \$12-13/mo. increase that was budgeted for.
    - The Borough receives no profit from this additional increase; it simply allows for the recovery of the additional transmission costs.
    - This will be an increase that affects all electric consumers in the First Energy / ATSI service area. It is not isolated to only Grove City Borough.

**CONSIDER RENEWING AGREEMENT WITH ALLEGHENY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE** (attachment) – Utility Engineers, PC recommendation is that the renewal of the agreement be approved to enable the Borough to continue to receive federal preference power. Solicitor Bonner has no objections to the agreement as presented based upon Mr. Havrilla's recommendation.

- **Mr. Black moved to approve the Renewal of the Agreement with Allegheny Electric Cooperative. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT**

- **Mr. Black moved to approve the bills paid report. Mr. Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

- **Mr. Wood moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on October 20, 2014 with one correction: second on motion to accept Refuse Collection bid should have been Mr. Black not Mr. Riddle. Mrs. Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2014-19 VERIZON RIGHT OF WAY AGREEMENT**

Mr. Oakes clarified that Penn Power cannot allow Verizon to attach to the poles along the Pinchalong Rd water tank driveway because the existing easement says that it is for power line only. Verizon needs an easement to be able to attach their fiber optic cable to the existing poles. Mr. Oakes recommends approval since rent cannot be collected for the new cell phone tower unless it's in use, and this is necessary for it to be operable. Verizon will occupy the existing power poles along the driveway owned by Penn Power.

- **Dr. Coulter moved to approve Resolution 2014-19, Approving and Accepting a Verizon Pennsylvania, LLC Request and Agreement for a Right of Way Grant for the Construction of Telephone Communications Facilities at 72 Pinchalong Road, Pine Township, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER 2015 BUDGET**

2015 Budget is balanced with no additional tax increase or other service increases (with the exception of the electric rate increase due to capacity and transmission rate increases)

- **Mr. Black moved to approve the 2015 Budget with an increase to line item for Electric Fund Distribution by \$200,472.00, offset by an increase for the same amount in Electric Fund Revenue. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Thanks extended to all those who served on the budget committee and worked together to achieve the balanced budget without unnecessary increases.

**CONSIDER ADVERTISING INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #1429 FOR 2015 TAX RATES**

- Mr. Wood moved to approve advertising the Intent to Adopt Ordinance # 1429 for 2015 Tax Rates. Mr. Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Bigley mentioned appreciating sacrifices made by each department to achieve no tax rate increase.

**CONSIDER ADVERTISING INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE #1430 FOR INCREASING ELECTRIC RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015**

- Mr. Black moved to approve advertising the Intent to Adopt Ordinance # 1430 for Electric Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2015 as confirmed by Utility Engineers, PC. Mr. Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**MCCONNELL STREET WATER/SEWER REHAB PROJECT:**

- Construction progress report
  - Progressing well
  - Deadline has passed, but they had some circumstances beyond their control that put them behind – extending grace on that for now, and can revisit that next month.
  - Mrs. Mattocks and others shared that they've had compliments about how the construction company is handling the project
- Mealy Excavating payment requisition #2 - \$145,713.42 (construction through November 7, 2014)
- Mr. Myers moved to approve Mealy Excavating payment requisition #2 - \$145,713.42. Mrs. Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously

**ENGINEER'S REPORT – Gannett Fleming, Inc. represented by Mr. Dan Goncz:**

- Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project-Phase III
  - On 10/13/14, after removal of the digester lid for repair work, it was discovered that there were significant leaks in the wall
    - Recommendation to line it with a rubber membrane at a cost of \$51,258.00.
  - Contractor adding additional asphalt (without fiber) for a 5'x 65' strip for the Roll-Off Box parking and turning area
- Mr. Wood moved to approve the recommendation for lining the WWTP digester for \$51,258.00. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- Contractor adding additional asphalt (without fiber) for a 5'x 65' strip for the Roll-Off Box parking and turning area
- Mr. Black moved to approve the recommendation for additional cost of \$7,514.00 for asphalt to put a 5'x 65' strip for the Roll-Off Box parking and turning area. Mr. Wood seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
  - Boiler replacement bids have been requested; opening is scheduled for December 3, 2014 at 2:00pm
  - Consider request for payment of Requisition No. II-B 21, \$153,272.85 for construction activities, including some electrical work on replacing light fixtures
- Mr. Myers moved to approve the payment of Requisition No. II-B 21, \$153,272.85. Mr. Black seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- Official Sewage Facilities Plan a.k.a. 537 Plan (engineering study related to sewer plant expansion)
  - It is understood that Springfield Township has provided the required funds to proceed with plan prep
  - A motion is in order to authorize work on Act 537 Plan
    - Schedule would be to have a draft report in April and final report in July
- Mr. Hodge moved to approve the authorization for Gannett Fleming to draft the Act 537 Plan. Mr. Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
- Pine Street Streetscape Project Phase II
  - Construction Bid Results
    - A motion is in order to accept the low bid from M&B Services, LLC in the amount of \$224,469.25 contingent upon approval and acceptance by PennDOT
- Mr. Black moved to approve to accept the low bid from M&B Services, LLC in the amount of \$224,469.25 contingent upon approval and acceptance by PennDOT. Dr. Coulter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously
  - Source and Use of Funds-project will be within budget, though landscaping may need additional funds

**ENGINEER'S REPORT (continued) – Gannett Fleming, Inc. represented by Mr. Dan Goncz:**

- Dr. Coulter asked about planting ground cover vegetation at WWTP (inside the fenced area) to help cut down on man hours that are spent mowing the lawn there
  - Mr. Gonz to investigate this request
- Water Distribution System Modeling Project nearing completion – still on target to complete within deadline

**BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Vance Oakes:**

- Included with our upcoming utility bill mailing will be an insert detailing the new recycling bins from Tri-County
- On November 4<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Oakes and Mrs. Gallagher met with Gary Dovey from Penn Northwest Development to discuss programs for land development for commerce
- The Infrastructure Committee has been asked to consider meeting to discuss being a part of the county-wide road and street seal coating work in 2015. Last time, those participating saw a 35% cost reduction for this work.
- Letter from Matthew Fischer requesting appointment of Deputy Tax Collector, he is suggesting that his wife Carolyn be appointed as his deputy collector.
  - Will address this request at the December Council meeting

**GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT**

Currently, there is a vacancy for the Library Director. Report being submitted by Wendy Riggi.

**JR. COUNCIL MEMBER'S REPORT**

**MAYOR'S REPORT - Mayor Randy Riddle (with information from Chief Osborne):**

- New Officer William (Wally) Nicol is doing well in his training
- Police Dept received the Platinum Award from AAA for traffic safety, aggressive driving and seat belt enforcement, etc.
- October 29<sup>th</sup>, Chief Osborne presented information at the Community Drug Forum. Very well attended by community, and much positive feedback.
- Reminder for residents to utilize 9-1-1 system.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- David Mills of Olde Town Grove City mentioned:
  - upcoming events, including: Light Up the Night on December 6<sup>th</sup>; Santa comes to town (on a fire truck)
  - Merchant Trick or treat in Olde Town was successful, despite the weather – 39 merchants participated
  - Home for the Holidays sales event went well - 33 merchants participated
  - Planning is underway for the Wine Walk event on February 28<sup>th</sup>

**NEWS MEDIA**

Council members answered questions from members of the news media that were present.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for Council's consideration, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine Miller  
Borough Secretary