

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 20, 2017 7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President, George Pokrant at 7:01 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by Council Member Mary Kay Mattocks

MEETING ATTENDANCE / ROLL CALL

X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Council Member Name	X if present	Other Name
X	Mattocks, Mary Kay	X	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
X	Daley, Kathleen	X	Pokrant, George (President)	X	Pollard, Tanya (Boro Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (V-President)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Wood, Todd		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Messer, Cammie (Jr Member)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Boshaw, Maxwell (Jr Member)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- **Mr. Matthew Fischer of 303 Hillcrest, Grove City, PA 16127 inquired about the Borough's Ordinance regarding energy credits offered by the Borough for a consumer with solar power panels. Borough Manager, Vance Oakes was able to address his questions.**

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the 'Bills Paid' report. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the 'Bills to be Paid' report. Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Regular Meeting on February 20, 2017

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on February 20, 2017 as presented. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Infrastructure Committee Meeting on March 6, 2017

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the minutes of the Infrastructure Committee meeting on March 6, 2017 as presented. Ms. Kathleen Daley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Melody Brown on March 13, 2017

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Melody Brown on March 13, 2017 as presented. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW from Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Melody Brown on March 13, 2017

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law from the Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Melody Brown on March 13, 2017 as presented. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Daniel Fortuna on March 13, 2017

- **Mrs. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing Meeting Requested by Daniel Fortuna on March 13, 2017 as presented. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY REPORT

Mrs. Heather Baker reported on the events planned for the Grove City Community Library. Mrs. Baker announced that Mrs. Kimberly Barbara is out on Maternity leave after delivering baby Elizabeth Katherine.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: WALK A MILE IN HER SHOES– To be held Saturday, April 29, 2017 In Memorial Park to begin at 11:00am; end at approx. 1:00pm.

- **Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks moved to approve the Walk A Mile in Her Shoes event request submitted by Roger Flynn on behalf of AWARE to be held on Saturday, April 29th in Memorial Park from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: ALPHA OMEGA CENTER WALK FOR LIFE– To be held Saturday, May 13, 2017 beginning at 9:00 am; end at approx. 10:00 am in.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the event request submitted by Sarah Bowen on behalf of Alpha Omega Center to sponsor the Walk for Life on Saturday, May 13th from 9:00 am to approximately 10:00 am. Ms. Kathleen Daley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: 5K SUNST RACE– To be held on April 26, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm going along Madison, Pinchalong Road and Pine Street. Sponsored by Phi Sigma Chi Sorority and requested by Jillian Breckenridge.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the event request submitted by Jillian Breckenridge to hold the 5K Sunset Race on April 26, 2017 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm going along Madison, Pinchalong Road and Pine Street. Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY POLICE ASSOCIATION DONUT DASH 5K– To be held Saturday, July 22, 2017 in Memorial Park; to begin at 9:00 am; end at approx. 11:00 am.

Council asked for additional information regarding the consideration of traffic patterns for the picnic shelter reservations.

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE PONY BASEBALL TEAM TO USE THE JR. VARSITY BASEBALL FIELD – From the end of July, 2017 thru October, 2017

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the request submitted by Cory W. Hake of the Pony Baseball Team to use the Jr. Varsity Ballfield from, April 1st thru July 15th. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE GROVE CITY MIDGET FOOTBALL LEAGUE TO USE THE UNDEVELOPED FIELD NEAR THE ARMORY– From April 1, 2017 to July 15, 2017

- **Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks moved to approve the request submitted by the Grove City Midget Football League to use the undeveloped field near the Armory from the end of July 2017 thru October 2017 pending receipt of a Certificate of Insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000.00. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A KUBOTA RTV 1100 PACKAGE FROM M&R POWER EQUIPMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,947.50

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the purchase of a Kubota RTV 1100 Package from M&R Power Equipment in the amount of \$19,947.50. Mrs. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A KUBOTA DIESEL POWERED EXMARK ZERO TURN MOWER WITH THE SUSPENSION SEAT AND 72 INCH DECK FROM ELDER AG & TURF EQUIPMENT CO. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,208.30

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the purchase of a Kubota Diesel Powered Exmark Zero Turn Mower with suspension seat and 72 inch deck from Elder Ag & Turf Equipment Co. in the amount of \$13,208.30. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A 2017 FLEET/NON RETAIL TK25903 4WD REG CAB GMC SIERRA 2500HD TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$27,704.00

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the purchase of a 2017 Fleet/Non Retail TK25903 4WD Reg Cab GMC Sierra 2500 HD truck in the amount of \$27,704.00. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PURCHASE OF A PLOW FOR THE 2017 GMC SIERRA 2500HD TRUCK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,000.00

- Mrs. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the purchase of a plow for the 2017 GMC Sierra 2500 HD truck in the amount of \$4,000.00. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PAYING 1/3 OF THE COST FOR GRIFFIN EXCAVATING TO REROUTE A 6" SANITARY SEWER LINE FROM DAVEVIC BENEFITS TO THE BOROUGH ALLEY RIGHT OF WAY BETWEEN S. CENTER STREET AND LOTS LOCATED IN PINE TOWNSHIP AT THE END OF THE BOROUGH ALLEY

- Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve paying 1/3 of the cost to Griffin Excavating to reroute a 6" sewer line on Davevic's property. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT WITH J.S. GROVE CITY DD, LP FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DUNKIN DONUTS STORE AT 108 W. MAIN STREET

- Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Developers Agreement with J.S. Grove City DD, LP for the construction of a Dunkin Donuts at 108 W. Main Street. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-3 MRT CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER (CAO)

- Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2017-3 MRT Chief Administrative Officer (CAO). Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-4 DONATING UNCLAIMED ABANDONED BICYCLES

- Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2017-4 Donating Unclaimed Abandoned Bicycles. Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2017-5 APPOINTING PROFESSIONALS

Mr. Mike McCaig with RBC Capital Markets addressed Council on the efforts to refinance the 2009 bond issue in order to take advantage of lower interest rates.

- Mrs. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2017-5 Appointing Professionals. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR WATER EXTENTIONS AT:

- Aware, 339 Center Church Road in Pine Township, Grove City, PA 16127
- Eric Bishop, Carriage Lane in Pine Township, Grove City, PA 16127

- Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Pine Township's request for water extensions at the above addresses. Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SEWER EXTENTIONS AT:

- Justin Bandi, Cranberry Village in Pine Township, Grove City, PA 16127
- Eric Bishop, Carriage Lane in Pine Township, Grove City, PA 16127

- Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Pine Township's request for sewer extensions at the above addresses. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Gannett Fleming, Inc.:

- Design is 60% complete for Phase IV of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Project. The operations staff will have a project meeting sometime in March. The environmental permits will be submitted to the appropriate regulatory agencies in April 2017. Mr. Goncz anticipates a May 2017 design completion date.
- The Borough's Municipal Wasteload Management Report for 2016 has been completed and will be submitted to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PaDEP) no later than March 31, 2017.
- Gannett Fleming began gathering information to prepare the Water System Master Plan Update. The anticipated completion date is July of 2017.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT – Mr. Vance Oakes:

- Borough Manager, Vance Oakes expressed his thanks to Representative Tedd Nesbit for his help in obtaining the PA DCED approval for the Borough's 2016 CDBG funds to continue to be used to pay down the loan taken out for the McConnell Street Water & Sewer Project. The PA DCED is allowing our application for 2016 but could not promise that the funds could be utilized for this purpose beyond the 2016 allocation. After the 2016 payment is received from the DCED the Borough will still owe approximately \$400,000.00.
- Mr. Oakes spoke with Pam Bailey and was informed that Bailey's have finalized their plans to move into a new home and will be out of the property recently acquired by the Borough on May 1st, 2017.
- Mr. Oakes reported that American Legal Publishers will have a draft of the new Ordinance Codification Book ready for review in April.
- A listing of Ordinances adopted in 2016 was presented to Council and it was noted that the Municipal Sewer Service Agreements were advertised and approved in September of 2016 but did not have an ordinance number associated with it. As a result the number was over looked and issued to the next ordinance that was approved in November. Mr. Oakes asked Council for a motion to correct the Meeting Minutes and assign the next ordinance number available to the Wastewater Service Agreement. Solicitor Bonner recommended to go back and correct all the Meeting Minutes and change the ordinance numbers to match the dates that they were adopted.
 - **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve changing the ordinance numbers to match the dates that they were adopted and correcting the Meeting Minutes. Mrs. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Oakes supplied Council with the recent utility bill insert "The Public Power Advantage". Mr. Oakes explained that he created this insert to help explain to the citizens of Grove City the importance of what we do with our electric system and how it benefits the community in that we are able to keep our tax rate so low by the benefit of revenue that we can bring over to our general fund to offset costs for our police and fire departments, the community library and public works. It also provides funds for other services provided by the Borough as well as recreational opportunities. Mr. Oakes noted that there has been some controversy recently in the Borough of Ellwood City. A group of residents have been complaining to their Borough Council about the way they bill for electric service. Unlike Grove City Borough, Ellwood City Borough bills their electric service with a purchase power adjustment. This causes month to month adjustments in their rates so residents do not know what rate they will be charged in the future. This has got the attention of PA State Representative Aaron Bernstine. He is proposing a bill where municipalities would not be able to transfer funds from the electric fund to the general fund and would restrict Council's decisions on rate increases. If this bill passes it could be devastating to our community. Mr. Oakes noted that right now our community benefits the equivalent of 32 mills of real estate taxes for general operations of the Borough from the electric fund. If the bill passes Council will have to talk about raising taxes and cutting some Borough services to offset the loss. Councilman Joel Bigley noted that approximately 58 percent of Grove City is tax exempt and that if there was a tax increase only the 42 percent of taxable property owners would be effected. Solicitor Bonner commented that public utilities such as Penn Power are out to make a profit for the shareholders whereas the profit from our system is returned to the citizens and community and the rates are competitive to Penn Power's rates. Mayor Randy Riddle noted that the Borough Manager's cost comparison between the Borough and Penn Power as of February 1, 2017 for 850kwh was only \$0.36 higher per month than Penn Power. Council President, George Pokrant added that the reliability of Borough's electric service is far better than that of Penn Power. If there is a power outage it is usually back up in a very short time due to the fact our linemen live in the community. Councilwoman Amy Gallagher pointed out the many services the Borough offers as a result of being able to transfer funds from the electric to the general fund. These services include the obvious like or police and fire departments, but also our public library, parks and recreation, yard debris pick-up and the ability to negotiate a Borough wide trash and recycling pick-up rate. Mr. Joel Bigley thanked Mr. Oakes for sharing his informative information with the citizens of the Borough. Mr. Oakes then asked Mr. Matthew Fischer if he is the person responsible for the Borough of Grove City Electric Rates Are Too High Facebook page. Mr. Fischer asked Mr. Oakes why he would think that. Mr. Oakes responded that a lot of the information on that page was requested by Mr. Fischer thru "The Right To Know Act". Mr. Fischer did agree that he received information from the Borough Manager and Secretary and has been sharing that information. Mr. Fischer's argument is that the Borough Electric Rates are extremely higher than Penn Power. Councilman Scott Jaillet disagreed noting that he pays his mother's Penn Power bill and noted that it is higher than his Borough bill. Mr. Jaillet stated that the actual kwh in the Borough is higher but that Penn Power has so many extra fees such as a customer charge, distribution charge, as well as others, that once totaled Penn Power is comparable or more than the Borough. Mr. Pokrant asked to move the conversation along noting that the point is that the Borough Electric system benefits our community not shareholders of a corporation.

- Work continues on the new picnic shelter at Memorial Park. Dr. Joseph Pisano has offered the Grove City College Band to perform at a dedication ceremony. Mr. Oakes has asked Councilwoman Mary Kay Mattocks to be involved in planning the dedication for some time in early June. He suggested a Friday evening event.
- Mr. Oakes congratulated the Grove City High School Boys Swim Team on their achievement of earning PIAA AA State Champions two years in a row.

JR. COUNCIL MEMBER’S REPORT

- Mr. Maxwell Boshaw also congratulated the Grove City High School Boys Swim Team and noted that the Bocce Team is also going to State next week.
- Mr. Boshaw noted that the spring sports are getting underway. He also announced that the Grove City High School Spring Musical this year is The Little Mermaid. It will be performed April 6, 7, & 8th starting at 7:00 pm.
- The YMCA Skate Nights started in late January and have been a huge success. They are getting a turn-out of about 100 kids on Friday nights and near 80 on Saturday.

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

- Mayor Riddle also congratulated the Grove City High School Boys Swim Team and noted that the Borough was able to provide them a police escort in town that night at 11:30 pm.
- The PSAB “Wake Up To The Issues” breakfast meeting will be on April 14, 2017 in Meadville. Penn DOT will be providing updates and some zoning discussions.
- Mayor Riddle reminded Council again that the PSAB Conference is May 7-10th and there is a discounted rate until April 7th. Part of the programming will include an awards luncheon as well as work sessions for the attendees to learn about all sorts of borough issues. One of the afternoons there will be a visit to the Capital building and interact with the legislators there. Cal Ripken Jr. will be the featured speaker at the event.
- The Wolf Creek Slippery Rock Creek Council of Governments Meeting was held last week. Scott Jaillet, Todd Wood, Vance Oakes and Mayor Riddle attended on behalf of Grove City.
- Mayor Riddle announced he will presenting two proclamations at an upcoming Eagle Ceremony at Center Church on Saturday April 8. They will be presented to Nicholas Filer, a third generation Eagle Scout and Joshua Woodman.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

NEWS MEDIA

No members from news media that were present.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for Council’s consideration, the regular meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tanya M. Pollard,
Borough Secretary