

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 21, 2021 7:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Ms. Amy Gallagher**

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	Remote	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
X	Daley, Kathleen	Absent	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pollard, Tanya (Boro Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Oakes, Alex (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott				

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Borough Zoning Officer, cited Borough Ordinance 839, Chapter 151, Section 12, Item I – “Prohibited uses. No cow, calf, swine, sheep, goat, chickens, geese or ducks shall be kept in any dwelling, part thereof, or yard”. Mr. Pokrant received a complaint call on May 17, 2021 of chickens being keep by Mr. Don Huntington at 315 Lincoln Avenue. Mr. Huntington was issued a violation letter of Ordinance 839 on June 1, 2021.
- Mr. Don Huntington, 315 Lincoln Avenue, presented his argument and petition to change the current Ordinance to allow hens in the Borough. He also prepared a proposed Ordinance which addresses the concerns related to having chickens in the Borough.
- Mr. Robert Gropp, 406 W. Washington Boulevard, asked that Council keep the existing Ordinance banning chickens from the Borough. He believes that allowing chickens would create a rodent problem and de-value properties. He also has concerns that chickens carry diseases and are smelly and make noise.
- Mrs. Brenda Huntington, 315 Lincoln Avenue, pointed out that the Borough allows potbelly pigs which are not a traditional pet and that cats and dogs run loose through the Borough. She stated that dogs and cats carry more diseases than chickens. She said chickens that are kept in a fenced back yard and supplied with a coop for night do not decrease property values.
- Mr. Scott Moore, 438 Memorial Avenue, spoke in support of the Huntington’s.
- Mr. William Caldwell, 214 Franklin Place, asked Mr. Huntington “Why chickens in 2021?” Mr. Huntington replied that they are his pets and he enjoys having healthy fresh eggs and knowing where your food comes from.
- Mr. Jeff Kochis, 320 W. Main Street, spoke in support of Mr. Don Huntington stating that it’s not going to hurt anybody.
- Ms. Sophia Slivka, 325 McConnell Street, recalled that her family had once had backyard hens but had to re-home them due to the Ordinance. She said having chickens teaches responsibility.
- Mr. Jubal Slivka, 325 McConnell Street, stated chickens can be kept responsibly avoiding any of the concerns brought about.
- Mr. Sebastian Anastasi, 420 McConnell Street, stated that any objections have been addressed in Mr. Huntington’s proposed amendment to the Ordinance.

- Mr. Vincent Anastasi, 420 McConnell Street, asked that Council members not let their personal opinions get in the way and to keep an open mind and listen to the concerns that have been addressed by Mr. Huntington and other constituents.

Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks thanked everyone for their input and noted that a Council Work Session will be scheduled and advertised to further discuss.

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting, the June 7, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting and the June 14, 2021 Special Meeting.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021 Regular Meeting, the June 7, 2021 Finance Committee Meeting and the June 14, 2021 Special Meeting. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

Mrs. Heather Baker reported that the Library will re-start its major programming in September.

CONSIDER SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: PA Interscholastic Cycling League "Local Dirt" Race – To be held in Memorial Park on the mountain Bike trail on October 9, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve PA Interscholastic Cycling League "Local Dirt" Race to be held in Memorial Park on the mountain Bike trail on October 9, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Approval is pending liability insurance naming the Borough as an additional insured in the amount of \$1,000,000 and providing course monitors where bikers will cross the road. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST: County Market's Firework Display – To be held in Memorial Park on the High School Baseball Field on July 16, 2021 at dusk.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve County Market's Firework Display to be held in Memorial Park on the High School Baseball Field on July 16, 2021 at dusk. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER BIDS FOR A 2012 DODGE CHARGER

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the high bid of \$5,900 on the Municibid auction of a 2012 Dodge Charger. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT presented by Borough Manager, Daniel Goncz

Water Treatment Plant

Gannett Fleming received a preliminary cost proposal for converting Well Nos. 8, 9 and 10 to production wells. The estimated cost is \$308,760 but does not include buildings for the control panels. Gannett Fleming is working with the Borough's hydrogeology consultant Groundwater Resources to finalize the cost proposal for the Borough's consideration.

The environmental permit applications consisting of the Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan, Post Construction Stormwater Management (PCSM) Plan and the General Permit application for the stream crossing

for the pump station force main, were submitted to the Mercer County Conservation District the week of June 14, 2021.

Gannett Fleming anticipates the following schedule for project completion:

PaDEP Permit Submission	July 2021
Receipt of all Permits	December 2021
Advertisement for Bids	January 2022
Receipt of Bids	February 2022
Notice-to-Proceed	April 2022
Completion of Construction	October 2023
Water Treatment Plant Commissioning	February 2024

Water Distribution System Improvements

The new waterline has been installed on Spring Street from Stockton Avenue to Main Street; and, on Stockton Avenue from Spring Street to Sunset Avenue. Construction activities have moved to Main Street where work on the new waterline will be performed during the evening. Work during the day will consist of locating the existing water service lines along Main Street and preparing for the reconnection of the customers to the new waterline.

Gannett Fleming is recommending payment of Payment Request No. 1 for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$440,136.90.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the payment of Payment Request No. 1 for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$440,136.90. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT presented by Borough Manager, Vance Oakes

- The COVID Relief Small Business Grant Program has been re-advertised and opened up for applications. The due date for the next round of funding is set for July 14, 2021. A recommendation for Borough Council is anticipated by the regular Council Meeting on July 19, 2021.
- The Civil Service Commission met on June 17, 2021 to begin the process of establishing a new eligibility list to hire a patrolman to replace Officer Daryl Webb, who has accepted a position with the Pennsylvania State Police. The written exam will be administered on July 27, 2021. The plan is to have a list of qualified candidates for Council’s consideration at the September or October Council Meeting.
- The Borough will receive approximately \$812,000 as its first allotment of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. This federal funding is eligible to be used for wastewater infrastructure improvements. Lennon Smith Engineers is set to have the Act 537 special study complete by the end of August, including their alternatives analysis to determine if connecting our gravity system to the Pine Township hospital lift station would be the best solution or if the black run lift station should be upgraded and remain in service.
- The trees that were stolen from Memorial Park have been re-planted.
- Demo work on the two building at N. Broad Street and Lincoln should be complete by the end of the week.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Alex Oakes

- Mr. Alex Oakes reported on the high school prom that was organized by parents and hosted at the Keystone Safari Animal Park.
- Mr. Oakes attended the Senior Award Ceremony held on June 1, 2021. He offered congratulations to Gabe Nichols on becoming a West Point cadet.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle sent a letter to Senator Michele Brooks strongly opposing SB 597 – Water Quality Accountability Act.
- Mayor Riddle is working with Ms. Jenn Shelley to obtain a firm quote for the grass volleyball court at Hunter Farm Park. Mayor Riddle announced that he has procured funding for the court.
- Mayor Riddle spoke with the Canadian National/Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad about repairing the fence between S. Center Street and S. Broad Street as well as asking them to address the weeds along the tracks.
- There was only one applicant for the vacant Junior Council member position and it was Mr. Mack Messer. Mr. Messer was in the audience and was introduced to Council.
- Mayor Riddle reported on the progress that Hall Industries is making cleaning up the old Cooper Bessemer Plant on Lincoln Avenue.
- Mayor Riddle, Mr. Vance Oakes, and Mrs. Mary Kay Mattocks attended the Hall Industries ribbon cutting ceremony.
- The Wolf Creek Slippery Rock Creek Council of Governments met on May 15, 2021.
- On June 1, 2021 Mayor Riddle attended the Senior Awards Ceremony and present Hannah Foley the Distinguished Junior Council Member Award.
- The Executive Director of PSAB will be in town on July 6, 2021.
- Mayor Riddle attend the PSAB Trustee and Board of Directors meeting on June 2, 2021 via Zoom.
- Police have filed charges of criminal homicide and aggravated assault against Randall Leaf in the death of Gretchen Pallack.
- Officer Jesse DiPietro has been assigned to the CIRT Team and Officer Jason Bennet has resigned from the Team.

OTHER BUSINESS

- The 4th of July Fireworks display will be July 4th at 9:30 PM at the high school practice football field. The show is being put on by Kellner's. Harrisville's fireworks will be held on July 3rd at 9:45 PM.
- Mr. Shawn Morley won the write-in campaign for Ward 2.
- Mr. Pat Cavanaugh is donating funds to resurface the basketball court in Memorial Park as well as replace the backboards and poles.

NEWS MEDIA

Council was available to answer questions from the media.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully,

Tanya M. Pollard
Borough Secretary