

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 19, 2021 7:00pm**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mr. James Henry**

**MEETING ATTENDANCE / ROLL CALL**

<b>X if present</b>	<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>X if present</b>	<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>X if present</b>	<b>Other Name</b>
X	Mattocks, Mary Kay	X	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
X	Daley, Kathleen	X	DiStasi, Vincent	Absent	Pollard, Tanya (Boro Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Zoning)
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Oakes, Alex (Jr. Council)		
Absent	Jaillet, Scott				

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- Mr. Tony Kaper, Hall Industries, 180-186 Lincoln Ave, thanked Council, Borough Officials and the County Commissioners for their coordination in providing for the bridge repairs along Lincoln Ave. Provided an update regarding the progress at Hall Industries. This included the demolition of the cooling tower and further yard area cleanups. Mayor Riddle inquired regarding progress with Canadian National Railways on fence improvements and Mr. Kaper responded that this process is still on-going.
- Mr. Scott Boyd, Mercer County Commissioner, thanked Council for their coordination with the Lincoln Ave bridge. Provided an update regarding the schedule for the Lincoln Ave Bridge Work. DEP has granted an emergency permit for the work to begin on the bridge and a bid has been accepted by Mercer County for the work. Additionally, sidewalk and curb improvements have been planned to address the stormwater problem that caused the bridge damage. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, thanked Commissioner Boyd for his help with the bridge and detailed that the Borough has had materials delivered and plans to start some stormwater upgrades near the bridge in the coming days. Mr. Oakes thanked Commissioner Boyd for the County’s willingness to reimburse the property owner for the sidewalk improvements.
- Mr. Don Huntington, 315 Lincoln Ave, reiterated his support for a change to the Borough’s existing ordinance prohibiting the keeping of chickens. Mr. Huntington claimed that chickens present less of a problem than dogs or cats. He detailed his support for the keeping of chickens via his previously submitted petition and his support on social media. He expressed that he wants to be involved in enforcement should the ordinance change. He explained that urban chickens are much different than the keeping of chickens on a farm. He also argued that government should restrict his liberties as little as possible and should not ban chickens.

**APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT**

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the ‘Bills Paid’ report. Mrs. Amy Gallagher 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. Mr. Vincent DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the June 21, 2021 Regular Meeting**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the minutes from the June 21, 2021 Regular Meeting. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT**

Ms. Amy Gallagher reported that the library is looking forward to being back open for in-person programs. The full slate of in-person programs is scheduled to start back up in September. The Book Sale is scheduled for the second Saturday in September and she encourages everyone to attend.

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: TOWER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT IN MEMORIAL PARK**

To be held on Saturday, August 21, 2021 in Memorial Park from 9:00 pm to 11:00 pm

- Ms. Lisa Flick, 604 Highland, explained that the event would be the same as the one that was held in 2019. The event would be free to the community and they did not have any parking issues previously.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Event Request: Tower Presbyterian Church Family Movie Night in Memorial Park. Mr. Vincent DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: DONNIE MURDOCK'S 1ST ANNUAL MEMORIAL - FUNDRAISER WALK**

To be held on Sunday, October 10, 2021 in Memorial Park in the short loop from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

- Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, detailed that this event was to raise money in honor of a family member that died from MS. The Park was chosen by the family due to its visibility and this event would be after park rental season has ended. Finally, no street closures would be required.
- Some discussion was had regarding the standard route that was established for 5k events at Hunter Farm Park, but there were concerns that this walk if forced to Hunter Farm Park could interfere from soccer games.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Event Request: Donnie Murdock's 1st Annual Memorial - Fundraiser Walk. Ms. Kathleen Daley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF FIREWORKS DISPLAY ON GROVE CITY COLLEGE CAMPUS**

Scheduled for Saturday, September 18, 2021 at 9:30 PM

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Fireworks Display on Grove City College Campus. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF BOROUGH SOLICITOR TIMOTHY BONNER TO ACT AS COUNCIL'S HEARING OFFICER IN THE PENDING REQUEST FOR REVIEW OF LESLIE EDWARD CRAIG, JR.'S DISABILITY PENSION BENEFIT APPLICATION.**

- Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, described that a hearing is needed because Mr. Craig is disputing his decision as the pension plan administrator denying an application for a disability pension. Solicitor Bonner explained that if Council approves he will conduct the hearing, where he will serve as the Hearing Officer. Mr. Bonner will hear arguments from both sides and prepare a findings of fact and conclusions of law. Council members will be notified of the hearing date and are welcome to attend if they choose. If councilmembers do not attend they will be provided a copy of the hearing transcript and the findings of fact and conclusions of law. Council will then be asked to deliberate on the matter and issue a decision either affirming management's decision or finding in favor of Mr Craig and awarding his claim for a disability pension. Both sides will have the right to appeal the decision to court should they so choose.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Appointment of Borough Solicitor Timothy Bonner to Act as Council's Hearing Officer in the Pending Request for Review of Leslie Edward Craig, Jr.'s Disability Pension Benefit Application. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER AWARD OF CDBG CARES SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

-Recommend Award to Rich Marshall, Grove City Dry Cleaners in the amount of \$25,000

-Recommend Award to Anna Sprando, Designs by Anna in the amount of \$19,432

- Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, explained that after the second advertisement of CDBG funds that there were not any further applicants due to the restrictions attached to the grant. Mr. Oakes explained that Mercer County Regional Planning has not submitted its approval of these two awards, but had previously approved both for \$10,000 in the initial round. Mr. Oakes recommended that these awards be made contingent on approval by Mercer County Regional Planning
- **Mr. Vincent DiStasi moved to approve the award of CDBG Small Business Assistance Grants in the amount of \$25,000 to Rich Marshall, Grove City Dry Cleaners and in the amount of \$19,432 to Anna Sprando, Designs by Anna subject to approval by Mercer County Regional Planning. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEY BETWEEN 124-127 S. CENTER STREET**

- Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, explained that Ms. Sprando who owns the properties on either side of this alley would like to inquire whether Council would support this vacation and whether she should start the formal process to vacate it.
- Solicitor Bonner explained that since she owns the properties on both sides, that no other property owners would have to be notified. Ms. Sprando would have to make a formal petition to Council and pay the costs for advertising this vacation.
- **Council could not take any formal action due to a formal petition and advertising not being completed, but there were no objections noted to this proposed action.**

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-06 AUTHORIZED PRIMARY SIGNATORIES**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2021-06 Authorized Primary Signatories. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-07 AUTHORIZING COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN A PENNDOT AGILITY AGREEMENT**

- Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, described that this agreement was a renewal of past agreements with PENNDOT. In exchange for the Borough of Grove City providing winter maintenance on state owned roads, PENNDOT would provide in-kind services to the Borough of Grove City.
- Solicitor Bonner asked that the approval of this agreement be made subject to approval by the Borough Solicitor as there were some language issues that he wanted to work out with PENNDOT.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2021-07 Authorizing Council President to Sign a PennDOT Agility Agreement subject to approval by the Borough Solicitor. Ms. Kathleen Daley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER MOU BETWEEN MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE IV AND GROVE CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

- Solicitor Bonner mentioned that he would like to review this MOU with Chief Osborne prior to full approval and suggested that it be approved subject to approval by the Borough Solicitor. Solicitor Bonner also mentioned that this would need to be sent to the District Attorney, but that he would handle that.
- Mayor Riddle said that he spoke with Chief Osborne and that he is agreeable to all elements of this MOU

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve MOU Between Midwestern Intermediate IV and Grove City Police Department subject to approval by the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER HARRISVILLE BOROUGH'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION AT 129 HEMLOCK COURT, HARRISVILLE, PA 16038, OWNED BY MARK CRITCHLOW.**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Harrisville Borough's Request for Sanitary Sewer Extension at 129 Hemlock Court, Harrisville, PA 16038, owned by Mark Critchlow. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz**

##### **Water Treatment Plant**

Mr. Goncz anticipates that all of the permit applications for DEP will be ready for approval by the August meeting. Mr. Goncz showed conceptual images of what the new water treatment plant will look like.

##### **Water Distribution System Improvements**

The water system work is proceeding on-schedule. Advance Contracting has work on Pine Street and Harvard yet to complete and service tie-ins where they have placed the new water service lines. They anticipate that this work will be done in September. Paving restoration work on Main Street and S. Center Street will take place in the evenings to avoid traffic disruptions. Council President Mattocks inquired about the parking lot near Grace Church where some boring had taken place and the parking lot seems to have collapsed. Mr. Goncz said that he would look in to it and get back to her. Mayor Riddle inquired about paving and Mr. Goncz explained that just the trench would be restored on Borough streets and that the full lane would be repaved on state routes.

Mr. Goncz requested that Payment Request #2 in the amount of \$633,299.92 to Advance Contracting Inc. be approved.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Payment Request #2 in the amount of \$633,299.92 to Advance Contracting Inc. Mr. James Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT presented by Borough Manager, Vance Oakes**

- The Borough has received 8 applications for the vacancy at the Police Department. The Civil Service Commission will begin testing on 7/27.
- At the Work Session scheduled for 7/27, Mr. Oakes requested that Council review Act 50 of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding small cell towers and consider adopting an ordinance as allowed by the law to regulate these towers.
- Provided information regarding Act 65 that was passed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. This act requires that an agenda be posted 24 hours prior to a meeting on the Borough's website and provides a means for taking action on items if they did not appear on that posted agenda.
- Met with Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering on 6/28 to review stormwater plans for the Fourth Ward. The administrative staff is currently reviewing these preliminary plans and making note of any utility conflicts.
- Asked the Borough of Grove City's Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, Taylor Pokrant, to provide an update on the demolitions. Mr. Pokrant described that Hometown Community Rentals has completed their demolitions and is now in full compliance with the Consent Order.

#### **JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Alex Oakes**

- Sports teams have begun their summer conditioning to prepare for the fall sports season.
- Band Camp is scheduled to begin on 8/1 and the community is invited to stop and listen to them play.

- Junior Council in conjunction with Mayor Riddle are working on a location and securing funding for two new volleyball courts, possibly at Hunter Farm Park.

**MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle**

- Mayor Riddle swore in Junior Council Member Colin “Mac” Messer of 328 State Street.
- Provided his second quarter weddings report.
- Plans to reschedule a visit with the Executive Director of the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs.
- On 7/8, met with real estate investors interested in property within the Borough.
- Plans to meet with the Director of Grove City Hospital on 7/20.
- Plans to attend the Council of Governments meeting on 7/21.
- Plans to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Awards Committee meeting on 7/22.
- Discussed that there were 8 applicants for the Police Department vacancy and that this was encouraging in light of the nationwide worker shortage.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Amy Gallagher noted that the fireworks display this year was very visible throughout the Borough and Pine Township. She commended the work that Mary Kay Mattocks put in to make it happen.

**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 8:45 pm.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant  
Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer