

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
August 16, 2021 7:00pm**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:05 pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mr. Jeffrey Hodge**

**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)
Absent	Daley, Kathleen	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Boro Sec.)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Oakes, Alex (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- 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 are less of threat than dogs or cats. Mr. Huntington described that many of the fastest growing cities in America allow chickens and that his petition signatures show that support exists within the Borough of Grove City. He iterated that geese in the park are worse than allowing regulated backyard chickens. He suggested that an ordinance to allow chickens be done on a probationary period of 3 years and that only 10 permits be allowed per year.
- Ms. Sharon Thompson, 419 College Ave, voiced her support for the keeping of backyard chickens. She described how we are living in unprecedented times where federal and state governments are threatening the freedoms of citizens. She said that many citizens feel powerless and that their voices are not being heard. She said that local government is the only place left where citizens can be heard and encouraged Council to listen to the support of the people. She said that when this ordinance was passed, there were not as many local examples of the successful keeping of backyard chickens as there are now. She said that Council should look to those examples and change their ordinance.
- Mr. William Caldwell, 214 Franklin Place, voiced his opposition to the keeping of chickens within the Borough of Grove City. He believes that if chickens are allowed that this could snowball into the keeping of other farm/exotic animals. He expressed his concern of the negative impact that the keeping of chickens would have on the community. He later described how many homeowner associations have much more restrictive rules than banning the keeping of chickens, so this ordinance is not too intrusive.
- Mr. Robert Gropp, 406 W. Washington Blvd, reiterated his opposition to chickens. He claimed that individuals made a free choice when they moved to Grove City and had the opportunity to review the ordinances before they moved here. He said that the supporters for the keeping of chickens have not addressed the health concerns that he has put forth at previous meetings.
- Mr. Jim Smiley, 422 Maple Street, applauded Mr. Huntington’s efforts to get as many petition signatures as he has. He believes that the petition shows that support exists for the keeping of chickens. He understands concerns regarding the keeping of chickens, but believes that if properly regulated that they would not put neighbors at risk. He described that the health risks are only to those who improperly handle chickens and neighbors would not be directly handling chickens. He claimed that neighbors can choose to have a dog or a cat and he doesn’t have any input on the matter and it should be the same for chickens. He further

described that the keeping of chickens would allow for educational opportunities for young people and that young people could also assist in enforcement of the ordinance.

- Mr. Pat Eakin, 147 State Street, expressed his support for the keeping of chickens. He suggested that it seems successful in other municipalities and would be here. He also highlighted fresh eggs as a benefit of allowing the keeping of chickens.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet asked Mr. Huntington some clarification questions regarding the keeping of chickens. In response to questions asked by Councilman Jaillet, Mr. Huntington described that he got his chickens in August of 2020, was reported in May and moved them in July to his son's home in Pine Township. Mr. Huntington further described that he has 7 chickens that were all moved out to Pine Township and that he is currently proposing an ordinance that would allow 8 chickens. Councilman Jaillet applauded Mr. Huntington for standing up and for all of his efforts thus far.
- Mr. Jubal Slivka, 325 McConnell Street, stated that chickens can also help build relationships with neighbors and improve community relations.

#### **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. William Zimmerman moved to approve the 'Bills to be Paid' report. Mr. Vincent DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the Regular Meeting July 19,2021, Work Session July 26, 2021 and Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting July 29,2021

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting July 19,2021, Work Session July 26, 2021 and Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting July 29,2021 with a correction to Parks and Recreation Committee Minutes in the third bulleted item changing May Riddle to Mayor Riddle. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

Ms. Heather reported that the front wall where a car hit the library has been fixed. Full in-person programs will also resume in September with many programs planned for children and adults. Two events are also scheduled for the Fall. The first is a Used Book Sale at Memorial Park on 9/11/21 and a Star Wars Invasion Family Event on 10/16/21 at Memorial Park.

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 2021-08 APPOINTING TAYLOR G. POKRANT AS BOROUGH SECRETARY**

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-08 Appointing Taylor G. Pokrant as Borough Secretary. Mr. Jeffrey Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 2021-09 UPDATING BANK SIGNATORIES**

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-09 Updating Bank Signatories. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE 2021**

To be held on September 24, 2021 from 6:00-6:30PM

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve Event Request: Grove City High School Homecoming Parade 2021. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY STAR WARS INVASION FAMILY EVENT**

To be held on 10/16/21 from 1:00-3:00PM at the Joseph D. Monteleone Shelter at Memorial Park

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve Event Request: Grove City Community Library Star Wars Invasion Family Event. Mr. Jeffrey Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE**

To be held on 9/11/21 from 9AM to 3PM at the Joseph D. Monteleone and the Highland Shelters at Memorial Park

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Event Request: Grove City Community Library Used Book Sale. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion. Ms. Amy Gallagher abstained from the vote due to financial interest in the event and the remaining members approved the request unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: PEO YARD SALE**

To be held on 8/21/21 at the Keystone Shelter at Memorial Park

- Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, described that this group has already rented half of Keystone Shelter and that this request would exempt them from the policy regarding only being able to rent half of the large shelters and allow them to rent the rest of the shelter.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet asked if other shelters were available on that date. Mr. Oakes confirmed that they were.
- **Mr. Jeffrey Hodge moved to approve Event Request: PEO Yard Sale. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER REQUEST FROM GROVE CITY GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL TO UTILIZE FIELDS IN MEMORIAL PARK FOR FALL BALL PRACTICES**

- Mr. Vance Oakes described that this request would be for team practices only and that the Borough of Grove City has insurance on file for this group.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Request from Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball to Utilize Fields in Memorial Park for Fall Ball Practices. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: Keith McFadden to Close Summit Street from the Alley Adjacent To 412 Summit Street to 421 Summit Street on 8/28/21 For A Block Party**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Event Request: Keith McFadden to Close Summit Street from the Alley Adjacent To 412 Summit Street to 421 Summit Street for A Block Party. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **PRESENTATION OF THE 2022 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION TOWARDS THE NON-UNIFORM AND POLICE PENSION PLANS**

Mr. Vance Oakes presented the 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation towards the Non-Uniform and Police Pension Plans as the Pension Plan Administrator. Mr. Oakes described that there would be a slight increase in the Borough's obligations for the Police Pension and a slight decrease for the Non-Uniform Pension. These roughly offset each other for the upcoming budget year.

#### **CONSIDER ADVERTISING AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 151, SECTION 151.12(I) PROHIBITED USES, TO ALLOW THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS**

- Mr. Tim Bonner, Borough Solicitor, instructed Borough Council that if this motion was successful that he would draft an ordinance for Council's review.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Advertising an Ordinance to Amend the Borough of Grove City Code of Ordinances, Chapter 151, Section 151.12(I) Prohibited Uses, to Allow the Keeping of Chickens. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion. Ms. Mary Kay Mattocks requested a roll call vote. Ms. Amy Gallagher, Mr. Shawn Myers and Mr. Vince DiStasi voted for the motion. Mr. Joel Bigley, Mr. James Henry, Mr. Jeffrey Hodge, Mr. Scott Jaillet, Ms. Mary Kay Mattocks and Mr. William Zimmerman voted against the motion. The motion failed 6-3.**

**CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1478 VACATING AN ALLEY BETWEEN 124 S. CENTER STREET AND 128 S. CENTER STREET AND SCHEDULING AND ADVERTISING A PUBLIC HEARING ON 9/20/21 AT 6:30PM**

- Solicitor Bonner recommended that an easement be attached to this ordinance for any and all existing stormwater facilities.
  - Mr. Jeffrey Hodge recommended that a discussion be had with the Fire Chief to ensure that this would not interrupt emergency services. Mr. Vance Oakes said that he would check with the Fire Chief before the next meeting.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Intent to Adopt Ordinance 1478 Vacating an Alley between 124 S. Center Street and 128 S. Center Street and Scheduling and Advertising a Public Hearing on 9/20/21 at 6:30PM with the addition of an easement for any and all existing stormwater facilities. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION AT 323 IRISHTOWN RD, GROVE CITY, PA 16127 OWNED BY DAN MCDOWELL**

- Mr. Daniel Goncz, Borough Engineer, confirmed that the Borough has capacity for this request.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Pine Township's Request for Sanitary Sewer Extension at 323 Irishtown Rd, Grove City, PA 16127 Owned by Dan McDowell. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT,**

Mr. Daniel Goncz presented the following information:

Water Treatment Plant

On July 8, 2021, Gannett Fleming submitted the NPDES permit for stormwater discharges during construction activities to the Mercer County Conservation District. The County determined that this permit was necessary because the construction disturbance would be more than 1 acre. On July 29, 2021 comments were issued on the permit applications. These comments will be addressed by the end of August 2021. They completed the Public Water Supply Permit Application and Design Engineer's report for the new water treatment plant. The permit applications were submitted the week of August 9, 2021. They anticipate the following schedule for project completion:

PaDEP Permit Submission- August 2021

Building Permit Submission- October 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 System Improvements

The new waterline has been installed with the exception of the 12-inch waterline on Harvard Street and some of the final connections. Some additional work was authorized as a result of discovering valves that were not operating when the final connections were being made. Paving remains to be completed. They will be performing a final pavement and restoration walkthrough once the project is completed. We anticipate the walkthrough being performed in early September 2021 so that a punch list can be prepared and completed by the end of October 2021. They are recommending payment of Payment Request No. 3 for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$449,810.75.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Payment Request No. 3 for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$449,810.75. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### Work at Grove City Memorial Park

Through the work on the water system, a badly damaged vault/manhole has been discovered at Memorial Park. This manhole/vault needs to be replaced. Additionally, a force main will need to be run from the new water treatment facility to provide service and this force main will require digging within Memorial Park Drive. Advanced Contracting will be repaving Memorial Park Drive following their water line work in this area. It is suggested that the Borough of Grove City use Advanced Contracting to install the force main and repair the manhole to avoid disturbing fresh pavement. This change would move a cost of \$42,440 from the water treatment project budget to the water system project budget. Mr. Oakes and Mr. Goncz described that the Water System project is so far coming in under budget and that much of the cost of this change would be offset.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Installation of a Forced Main by Advanced Contracting and remove this work from the Water Treatment Project Bid Specifications. Mr. Sean Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Ms. Mary Kay Mattocks offered her praise of Advanced Contracting and their employees for their work thus far. Mr. Joel Bigley stressed the importance of these two projects and stressed his belief that good infrastructure attracts young people to the area. He highlighted that some of the mains that are being replaced are from the 1800's. Mr. Vince DiStasi asked Mr. Goncz if there was a plan in place to address aging water lines in other locations. Mr. Goncz pointed Mr. DiStasi to a 2018 Water System Study that addresses action steps for the aging lines. Mr. Goncz said that the current two projects are a major portion of the action items from that study. Mr. Goncz also described changing EPA requirements that mandate a municipality notify a homeowner if a galvanized steel or lead service line is discovered. Following a question from Mr. DiStasi, Mr. Goncz said that just notification is required and the homeowner would not be required to update this service. Mr. Oakes added that some of these service lines have been voluntarily replaced by homeowners who are in the area where water lines are currently being replaced.

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

- Mr. Oakes described that some 5K events are too large to be accommodated on the current route that does not require any street closures. Race organizers have expressed their willingness to pay a fee if they are allowed to close Greenwood Drive for their race. Some of these events have had upwards of 150-200 people. Mr. Oakes presented a resolution that would include a fee of \$100 and additional fees depending on needs. This resolution was Resolution 2021-10 Establishing a fee for Large 5K Events to be Held on Greenwood Drive, which Mr. Oakes recommended be adopted by Borough Council. Mr. Shawn Myers asked whether 5K events were getting too big and disruptive and questioned the impacts that these events have on the Police Department staffing.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2021-10 Establishing a fee for Large 5K Events to be Held on Greenwood Drive. Mr. Sean Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

- Mr. Oakes noted a copy of an Environmental Remediation Report from work done by Hall Industries that had been included for Council's information. Mr. Oakes noted the continued cleanup work and improvements that Hall Industries has been completing. Additionally, there are some possible grant opportunities through PennDOT that the Borough of Grove City is exploring with Hall Industries for improvements along Lincoln Ave.
- Mr. Oakes updated Council on the current progress with the hiring of a new police officer. Of the 8 applicants, 3 have made it to the oral interviews.
- In regard to small cell towers, the solicitor for PEMA is working on a model ordinance for Borough Council to review. Mr. Oakes will keep Council updated and schedule a work session when the model ordinance is ready for review.
- Mr. Oakes sought input from Borough Council regarding the spending of approximately \$117,000 of the Borough's CDBG allocation for next year. Housing rehabilitation and sidewalk improvements for low/moderate income residents were both discussed. After some discussion, the consensus seemed to favor sidewalk improvements because of the ability to assist a greater number of residents.

#### **JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Mac Messer**

- Mr. Messer interviewed the manager of the Park Pool and provided the following information:
  - The pool is following all CDC guidelines and does not require masks at this time.
  - Attendance at the pool is down this year due to the weather.
  - The pool employs 19 lifeguards. The pool also has 100 families who have season passes and 12 individuals who have season passes.
  - The pool manager feels that the pool needs updated equipment and that the YMCA should be compensated by the Borough of Grove City for losses.

#### **MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle**

- Mayor Riddle detailed that Hall Industries has started work on a new entryway. Additionally, CN Railroad gave them permission to clear brush along the train tracks near their property.
- He met with the Director of AHN Grove City on 7/20.
- He attended the COG Meeting on 7/21.
- He attended an event on 8/9 for the Pine Township Fire Company, where he presented them with a proclamation for their assistance with vaccination efforts at their facility.
- He plans to meet with the Director of Community Affairs at AHN this week to discuss partnership opportunities.
- He described that the Bike Safety Program is expanding due to a donation from a resident. It will now include free helmets for children that need them.
- He urged residents to use caution with continued road work.

#### **REPORT FROM PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE presented by Shawn Myers**

- Mr. Myers detailed that the Parks and Recreation Committee met with GCYSA on 7/29/21 about adding a building at the soccer fields for a concession stand and storage. Mr. Oakes said that since the meeting, the building inspector has provided comments to GCYSA regarding their preliminary plans and a cost estimate has been sent to them for water and sewer service. The Borough is awaiting response on how they wish to proceed. Mr. Myers suggested that another meeting be scheduled once we hear back from them.
- Mr. Myers also updated Council that volleyball courts would be going up at Hunter Farm Park thanks to a donation from a resident.
- Mr. Myers also detailed how the Committee had discussed eliminating the existing curfew in the Borough and eliminating the requirement that the parks are closed at dark. He also suggested that lights be added at the park to allow their use at night. **Mr. Shawn Myers made a motion to eliminate the curfew and to allow the parks to be used at all hours. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion.** Mr. Myers asked for the Police Chief's opinion on this. Mr. Oakes said that the Chief was alright allowing lights to be added to the Basketball Courts at Memorial Park and changing the

hours there, but he was not sure what his opinion was regarding the curfew and opening all parks. Mr. DiStasi questioned the abolishment of a curfew, but supported the idea that adults could be using the park when it was dark. Solicitor Bonner expressed his concern about opening the park up all night and abolishing the curfew. He explained that he has tried cases that involve criminal activity in the park after dark. He also questioned if the lighting should be in place prior to opening the parks. Mr. Scott Jaillet suggested that only the hours be adjusted to accommodate extended use, but not all night. Ms. Mary Kay Mattocks suggested that this be brought to a work session before a vote is taken. **Mr. Shawn Myers and Ms. Amy Gallagher both requested to withdraw their motion and second. Council President Mattocks announced the requests to withdraw the motion and second and no dissent was heard regarding these requests. The motions of Mr. Myers and Ms. Gallagher were thus withdrawn.** Ms. Mary Kay Mattocks said that a work session would be scheduled to discuss this.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Solicitor Bonner announced that a hearing on redistricting will take place on 8/24/21 at Grove City College's Ketler Hall Auditorium at 9AM. If residents would like to sign up to comment, they should contact his State Representative Office directly. Residents must sign up if they would like to make comment at the hearing.

#### **NEWS MEDIA**

No news media was present.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant  
Borough Secretary/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer