

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 15, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER** by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:08 pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mr. Vince DiStasi**

**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	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	Absent	Oakes, Alex (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		

**NOTIFICATION THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION MEETING WAS HELD ON 11/15/21 TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER**

President Mattocks made an announcement that an executive session meeting was held at 6PM on 11/15/21 to discuss a personnel matter regarding an application for disability pension benefits by a former employee.

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- None

**CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

- Mr. Vance Oakes informed Council that two events had come up since the agenda was published. The first event was a request to hold a Walk-a-Thon by Phi Theta Phi from Theil College. This Walk-a-Thon is scheduled to be held on 12/3/21 from 1-3PM on S. Broad Street and W Main Street. The Borough has received insurance for this event and has informed the fraternity that they will need to apply with PennDOT as well due to the walk being on a state route. The second event was a request by East Main Church to hold an outreach event on 12/11/21 from 3:30-6:30PM that will include a partial closure of Walnut Street in front of the Church.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to amend the agenda to add Consider Event Request: Phi Theta Phi Walk-a-Thon and Consider Event Request: East Main Church Community Outreach Event Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: PHI THETA PHI WALK-A-THON**

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Phi Theta Phi Walk-a-Thon. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: EAST MAIN CHURCH COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENT**

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve East Main Church Community Outreach Event. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the ‘Bills Paid’ report. Mr. William Zimmerman 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. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 18, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING/FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2021 AND WORK SESSION MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Minutes from Regular Meeting October 18, 2021, Special Meeting/Finance Committee Meeting November 3, 2021 and Work Session Meeting November 8, 2021. Ms. Kathleen Daley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

Ms. Heather Baker announced that the Soup Fundraiser held on 11/12/21 was a success and over one thousand dollars was raised for the Library. Due to this success, the Library is planning another Soup Fundraiser for 2/18/22. The Library is continuing with its adult and child programming throughout the winter.

#### **CONSIDER INTENT TO DRAFT AND ADVERTISE AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 1419 AND SCHEDULE AND ADVERTISE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHANGING ELECTRONIC SIGN PROVISIONS AND AMENDING THE ZONING MAP**

Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Borough Secretary/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer, explained that the proposed amendment would rezone the properties in the 200 block of Blair Street from C-1-Central Commercial to RLC-Residential Limited Commercial. It would also modify the electronic sign regulations to allow monument style electronic signs in the RLC district by conditional use. These were the results of discussions at the 11/8 Work Session meeting as the members present wanted to accommodate the VFW, but did not want to allow electronic signs in the Downtown Area.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Intent to Draft and Advertise an Amendment to Ordinance 1419 and Schedule and Advertise a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Changing Electronic Sign Provisions and Amending the Zoning Map. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: EAST MAIN CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE TO BE HELD ON 12/24/21 FROM 4:00-5:15PM AT THE KEYSTONE SHELTER**

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Event Request: East Main Christmas Eve Service. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER 2022 BUDGET**

Ms. Amy Gallagher explained that the 2022 Budget would not include a tax hike or a change in electrical rates, but it would include a water and sewer base rate increase. The average residential customer will see a \$3.94 increase a month for water service and a \$1.96 increase for sewer service. Ms. Gallagher also explained that based on recommendations by Chief Osborne and discussions during the Budget Meeting, this budget includes funding to hire two new police officers instead of one and adjustments have been made to the Budget to reflect that.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the 2022 Budget. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-13 FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE YEAR 2022**

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2021-13 Fixing the Tax Rate for the Year 2022. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

**Consider Advertising Intent to Adopt Ordinance 1481 Increasing Charges for Water Services  
Consider Advertising Intent to Adopt Ordinance 1482 Increasing Charges for Sewer Services**

Mr. Vance Oakes asked that the intent to adopt Ordinance 1481 and 1482 be considered together as they had already been discussed within the discussion regarding the 2022 Budget.

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Intent to Advertise Ordinance 1481 and 1482. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1480 SETTING PARK HOURS BY RESOLUTION**

Mr. Shawn Myers explained that there has been some discussion at the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting and Council's intent is to open all Municipal Parks from 5AM to 11PM instead of dawn to dusk.

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to adopt Ordinance 1480. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-14 SETTING MUNICIPAL PARK HOURS**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2021-14 Setting Municipal Park Hours. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2021-15 AUTHORIZING COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO SIGN A PENNDOT AGILITY AGREEMENT**

Mr. Vance Oakes explained that due to a language issue that the Borough had to wait to hear back from PennDOT regarding, more than 60 days had passed since the previous resolution was approved and therefore it had to be reapproved and the agreement had to be resigned.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2021-15 Authorizing Council President to Sign a PennDOT Agility Agreement. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT WITH FORMER EMPLOYEE LESLIE EDWARD CRAIG**

Mr. Vance Oakes explained that this settlement agreement had been the topic of executive session. Mr. Craig was a former employee of the Borough that resigned in December of 2020 and stated that his reason for resignation was due to a disability. Following Mr. Craig's resignation, he applied for a disability pension under the Borough of Grove City's plan. Mr. Oakes denied the request for a disability pension under the plan due to the fact that the plan requires that individuals must qualify for Social Security disability benefits to qualify for a disability pension. At the time, Mr. Craig had been denied Social Security disability benefits. Mr. Craig appealed his Social Security benefit determination and was granted Social Security benefits in September of 2021. Due to this change, Mr. Oakes recommended that Borough Council approve the settlement agreement with Mr. Craig granting his disability pension.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Settlement Agreement with Former Employee Leslie Edward Craig. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**PRESENTATION OF THE REVISED 2022 MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION TOWARDS THE NON-UNIFORM PENSION PLAN**

Mr. Oakes presented the Revised 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation towards the Non-Uniform Pension Plan that showed a significant decrease from the original presentation. This decrease was due to investment performance over the last two years and this performance has greatly reduced the Borough's required contributions for 2022.

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the Revised 2022 Minimum Municipal Obligation towards the Non-Uniform Pension Plan. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER GROVE CITY GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEASE RENEWAL AND STORAGE SHED INSTALLATION**

Mr. Oakes explained that the Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball League needs to renew their lease and they have proposed the installation of a new storage shed on the property. Mr. Oakes explained that a depiction of the shed location has been included with the Board Packet. Mr. Oakes also explained that Mr. Bonner would have to draft the new lease to include the shed installation and updated dates.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the drafting and approval of an updated lease with Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball that includes the proposed shed. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER LIBERTY TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR WATER AND SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION AT 316 NICKLAUS CT, GROVE CITY, PA 16127 OWNED BY CRISPIN ANDERSON**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Liberty Township's Request for Water and Sanitary Sewer Extension. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT, by Daniel Goncz**

Water System

- The Water System project has wrapped up with only concrete repair remaining in a few locations. As discussed previously, Advanced Contracting completed additional work in Memorial Park to avoid asphalt restoration along Memorial Park Drive during the Water Treatment Plant project. Advanced Contracting also completed some sewer work on Stewart Ave that was not in the project budget. Due to these changes, Advanced Contracting is requesting approval for the Final Change Order in the amount of \$49,918.00
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Final Change Order for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$49,918.00. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
  - Due to the expected completion of the Water System project, Mr. Goncz recommend that Borough Council approve the Final Payment Request for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$153,255.85 contingent on receipt of acceptable contract close-out documents.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Final Payment Request for Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$153,255.85 Contingent upon Receipt of Acceptable Contract Close-out Documents. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
  - Mr. Goncz detailed that Advanced Contracting has leftover material from the project that it has offered to the Borough of Grove City. The sale price for this leftover material is significantly less than the current market price due to the recent increases. Mr. Goncz recommended that Borough Council approve this purchase.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the purchase of Waterline Material from Advanced Contracting in the amount of \$38,800. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes informed Council that Representative Tim Bonner will be holding a Concealed Carry Seminar on November 18<sup>th</sup> and a flyer had been included with their Board Packet.
- Mr. Oakes also informed Council that a flyer would be included in the upcoming utility bills regarding a DEP (Department of Environmental Protection) monitoring violation that occurred on 11/2/21. A piece of equipment malfunctioned on 11/2/21 and an exact chlorine residual was not recorded for that day. This malfunction was found on 11/3/21 and corrected. The water is safe to drink and no further action by Council is required, but, by law, the Borough is required to send a notification letter.

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

- Mr. Mac Messer informed Council that he, Mayor Riddle and Alex Oakes gave a presentation to the Boy Scouts regarding local government and the Junior Council Program
- Mr. Mac Messer also informed Council that the High School Play has been rescheduled due to a Covid-19 outbreak.

**MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle**

- Mayor Riddle commended Mr. Mac Messer and Mr. Alex Oakes for their work as Junior Council Members.
- Mayor Riddle also reported that CN Railroad has repaired fencing near the old Machine Shop that was badly damaged.
- On 11/2/21, Borough Employees completed installation of volleyball nets at Hunter Farm Park.
- On 11/11/21, Mayor Riddle attended an event hosted by George Junior Republic at Memorial Park honoring veterans.
- Mayor Riddle informed Council that the Council of Governments dinner meeting is scheduled for 11/17/21 and that a conditional use hearing is scheduled for 11/29/21 for Grove City Area School District.
- Mayor Riddle updated Council that the Police Department is working on the onboarding of the two new officers and is waiting for both officers to receive their MOPEC numbers. After they have received their numbers, a start date will be set for each officer.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Council President Mattocks shared that the Grove City Area High School Football Team will play for the District 10 Championship on Saturday at 1PM.
- Ms. Heather Baker informed Council that she and Ms. Amy Gallagher have arranged for a Christmas tree to be put up downtown on 11/28/21.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet shared that Grove City College had a successful Best Robotics event.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet shared that he had concerns regarding the new walking trail that is adjacent to Memorial Park Drive. He stated that he has heard from several people that they have almost been hit by motorists on the trail and he experienced it himself over the weekend. He suggested that some kind of barrier be put up between the trail and the roadway. Mr. Oakes stated that he would discuss this matter with Mr. Barry Spiker, Public Works Supervisor, and come up with a solution.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Grove City Boys Cross Country Team had also placed second in the state of Pennsylvania and that the Grove City Boys Soccer team placed second in District 10.

**NEWS MEDIA**

- None present

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06M

Respectfully,

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