

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2022 7:00pm**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Shawn Morley**

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Ms. Ligo and Ms. Clouse, Grove City High School students informed Council of a community service project they have been working with Mayor Riddle on. The project involves planting a sunset maple tree in Memorial Park. Council thanked the students for their efforts and asked that the Public Works Department coordinate with the students to assist on the tree planting.
- Dr Jeffrey Finch addressed the Borough Council on behalf of the Grove City Area School Board. The reason for his attendance was a request he received from the Borough Manager asking the school district to exonerate real estate taxes that were assessed against the main hangar at the Grove City Airport in calendar years 1998, 1999 and 2000 that have gone unpaid. The FBO of the airport during that era has not only gone out of business but is deceased, making the collection of these delinquent taxes impossible given that more than 20 years has passed. Dr Finch expressed concerns raised by the district’s solicitor about exonerating taxes and asked for further explanation and guidance for the School Board to consider when they meet again. It is an unusual request and Dr Finch asked for any background information that would be useful for their consideration. Mr. Doug Thomas was present and provided Council and Dr Finch details about the conditions he found at the airport when his company took over the FBO operations in 2001. The previous owner had filed for bankruptcy protection and had his airport equipment seized and sold at a liquidation auction. Doug doesn’t recall the delinquent taxes ever being presented to the bankruptcy court. During Doug’s lease period from 2001 until 2020 he paid the taxes just as the current owner pays the taxes. Curiously, the Borough was never notified by the County of the delinquent taxes from 1998, 1999 or 2000 and it has only come to our attention recently when the County ramped up its delinquent tax collection efforts and has now gone after Grove City Aviation, Inc for these decades’ old delinquencies. Obviously, Grove City Aviation Inc was not in business during the time period in question and should not be responsible. Solicitor Bonner pointed out to Dr Finch that the School and Borough have always worked together cooperatively and while the district may have the right to sue the Borough in court over these delinquent taxes, he was hopeful that our strong interdependent work on various community activities would be reason for the Board to consider exonerating these taxes. Jeff will take the detail back to the Board for their review and consideration.

Request to add items to the agenda

Council President Mattocks asked that an item be added to tonight's agenda to discuss lights on the Timothy Sonntag Softball Field at Memorial Park and the addition of water service to the softball fields in Memorial Park and the approval of two softball tournaments in July 2022. Ms. Mattocks reported that these requests are coming from the work session meeting held this evening prior to the start of the regular monthly meeting.

Vance reported that the material cost to install water to both of the softball fields was approximately \$2,200 with about eight-man hours of labor and equipment time needed.

- **Motion by Councilwoman Amy Gallagher to authorize the Public Works Department to purchase materials and install water service lines to both softball fields in Memorial Park, and to authorize the replacement of the softball field lights under a grant being provided by the Wabtec Corporation to the Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association, and to permit the GCGFPS to conduct two softball tournaments in July 2022. Seconded by Shawn Myers and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

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

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting and the Special Meeting of April 6, 2022.

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2022 Regular Meeting and April 6, 2022 Special Meeting. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. Heather Baker reported on the success of the breakfast with the Easter Bunny event. The library is taking reservations for their American Girl Doll Tea Party event and will be holding a Cinco de Mayo event. Ms. Heather also reported that the library recently received twelve new computers under a state grant.

CONSIDER GROVE CITY LIBRARY EVENT REQUESTS

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the library's event request for the Jungle Terry and Friends animal show on July 20, 2022 in the Highland Picnic Shelter AND the Summer Reading Program Magic Show on June 15, 2022 at the Highland Picnic Shelter. Mr. Vincent DiStasi seconded the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LITTLE EAGLES FOOTBALL CLUB LAND USE AGREEMENT RENEWAL 2022.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the renewal of the field use agreement with the Little Eagles Football Club for 2022. Shawn Meyers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-10 ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR METAL DETECTOR USE IN MEMORIAL PARK.

The resolution will establish a policy whereby metal detectorist may treasurer hunt within a borough park so long as they aren't disturbing borough property or interfering with the enjoyment of the park by others and the metal detectorist are filling any divots or holes created.

- **Mr. Shawn Morley moved to approve Resolution 2022-10. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1484 AMENDING CHAPTER 95 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, STREETS AND SIDEWALKS.

- Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, described that the amendment updates and modernizes the permitting process used to approve work by private utility contractors in a street right of way. Additionally, the ordinance increases the fees for these permits and exempts the Borough from the permitting requirements of the ordinance for work done on the Borough's behalf.
- **Mr. Jeffrey Hodge moved to approve the adoption of Ordinance 1484. Mr. Vince Di Stasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1485 AMENDING CHAPTER 92 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES; NUISANCES.

- Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, described that the amendment clarifies property owners are responsible to mow and trim all areas, including the devil strip location between the curb and sidewalk that abuts their property AND, the amendment more stringently defines what is an abandoned or junked automobile to include those stored at commercial businesses longer than 90 days.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Ordinance 1485. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER MUNICIBID ONLINE AUCTION RESULTS FOR SALE OF EXMARK MOWER, PUSH MOWERS, LEAF BLOWERS, ROTOTILLER, TARP SYSTEM FOR DUMP TRUCKS, WELDING RODS, SHOP SERVICE MANUALS, PRESSURE WASHER, OXYGEN ACETYLENE TORCH AND NEW AND USED TIRES.

- Mr. Vance Oakes, Borough Manager, explained that the results attached were from the auction that ended earlier in the day on April 18, 2022. He recommends that Council accept the winning bid on each item and sell this surplus equipment.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the sale of all items listed on the Municibid Auction to the respective high bidder. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER WASTEWATER TREATMENT SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH MARION TOWNSHIP

- Solicitor Bonner provided details on the draft agreement he has prepared between Grove City Borough and Marion Township. This agreement will allow the Kozy Rest Campground in Marion Township to be connected to the Mercer Township and Harrisville Borough Sewer system that conveys waste to the Grove City treatment plant. Tim explained that Council's action tonight should be to advertise the agreement for public display and provide the agreement to the Solicitor for Marion Twp to review.
- **Motion by Amy Gallagher to advertise the wastewater treatment service agreement between Grove City Borough and Marion Township. Mr. Vince Di Stasi seconded and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LIBERTY TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR WATER AND SEWER EXTENSION AT 314 NICKLAUS COURT.

- Borough Engineer, Dan Goncz confirmed that capacity was available for this new single-family home in the Legends Housing Plan.
- **Motion by Amy Gallagher to approve the water and sewer tap requested at 314 Nicklaus Court. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

Water Treatment Plant

Mr. Goncz reported that the project is ready for advertisement for the receipt of construction bids. He recommends placing the first bid advertisement for May 6, 2022 and setting a bid opening date for June 14, 2022.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mr. Goncz will be meeting with the operations staff about their concerns regarding the condition of the overflow pond liner and the belt filter press reaching the end of its useful life.

Wastewater Treatment Plant NPDES Renewal

Work has been coordinated for the sampling and analytical work and Gannett Fleming will be working on the permit renewal application over the coming months.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher made a motion to advertise the water treatment plant project for construction bids. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Vance reported that Liberty Township verbally reported they could be seeking permission for an area in the Township to be served by the Slippery Rock Borough sewer treatment plant. The location in question is one of the most southerly areas of Liberty Township nearest to Slippery Rock. It would be cost prohibitive for them to transmit their sewer flows to Grove City from this area. Dan Goncz explained that the Township will be responsible to prepare a resolution and amend their Act 537 sewer service area with the PA DEP to allow that area to be moved from the Grove City plant service area. The township and developer are doing their due diligence to determine what options are in the developer and township's best interest. After they explore all the alternatives we will hear back officially on this potential development.
- Vance reported on the results of the Countywide Seal Coat project bids. The successful bidder was Youngblood Paving at \$1.24/SY. The Borough's estimated cost to seal coat Madison Ave and Greenwood Drive will be in the neighborhood of \$25,000
- Update on the soccer field use requested by the Grove City Christian Academy. The Academy has met with the Grove City Youth Soccer Association about shared maintenance costs and they plan to meet again in that regard. The Christian Academy will come back to Council after they have worked out those details between the two organizations.
- Vance reported that he had recently been approached by a trustee with Tower Presbyterian Church asking for the Borough to relieve the church of its maintenance responsibilities at the Old Presbyterian Cemetery located on Greenwood Drive. The trustees have concluded this cemetery doesn't belong to Tower Church and they no longer wish to be responsible for the ongoing cost to mow and trim the cemetery. Vance explained that he doesn't believe this is the Borough's cemetery to maintain as it is most likely in an area within Pine Township and not even in the Borough Limits. The trustee was going to visit the Courthouse to see if he could locate any recorded deeds to the property and may attend a Borough Council meeting asking Council to consider taking over the maintenance of the cemetery.
- Vance congratulated Taylor Pokrant and his wife Carissa on the birth of their daughter Meredith Veronica on April 14th.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Mac Messer

- The high school play was a big success. They had over 1,500 people attend the show over the three nights. Mr. McElroy nominated the cast and crew for Mancini Awards in recognition of their outstanding achievement.
- The cold weather this spring has caused several spring sports to cancel meets including tennis, track and baseball.
- The Boys track team took second place at the West Mifflin Invitationals.
- Final Exams are scheduled as wells as AP Exams as this school year is winding down.

- Prom will be held outdoor at the Coolspring Corn Maze on May 15, 2022.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle is reaching out to the Eagle Scout who is working on the horseshoe pit project in Memorial Park and plans to have an update for Council on the status of this project.
- Mayor Riddle asked Vance to update Council on his request that the employee safety committee develop a plan to address longer duration power outages within the borough.
- Attended the All-Good Things Ribbon Cutting and Open House at their new location near the bowling alley.
- Reported that the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of PA has conducted periodic conference calls.
- Upcoming activities includes a proclamation he will present to the Meals on Wheels organization for their 50th anniversary.
- May 17th will be the Chamber of Commerce dinner meeting
- May 18th will be the COG Meeting
- The PSAB Conference is coming up May 22-25.
- Mayor Riddle reached out to Greenville Borough about the Mercer County Boroughs Association meeting and learned that the dinner meeting will be held on May 26th.
- DARE graduation will be May 31st.
- Mayor Riddle detailed several traffic enforcement details that the police department are focusing on during the month of May.
- With warmer temperatures expected the Mayor and Chief ask that motorists be aware of motorcyclists.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Council President Mattocks recognized councilmember Morley on his sixtieth birthday.
- Mattocks also reported on attending the Mercer County Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting. The MPO discussed the Springfield Twp walking trail project along Route 208. The project is moving to the construction phase.
- Representative Bonner spoke about a bill he is sponsoring in the House of Representatives that would prohibit any landfill from opening, re-opening, or expanding if it is located within three miles of a municipality with a population density greater than 1,000 people per square mile. The bill has been assigned to the House Environmental Committee. Tim was contacted today and asked if he would like to have a hearing on his proposed bill. Tim asked that Mary Kay, Randy and Vance attend a planning meeting at his office to discuss the hearing before the House Environmental Committee.

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,

Vance E. Oakes
Borough Manager