

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 16, 2022 7:00PM**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES from the Work Session Meeting and Regular Meeting April 18,2022.

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Work Session Meeting and Regular Meeting on April 18,2022. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

Ms. Amy Gallagher detailed that the summer reading program will begin in June. Ms. Gallagher encouraged Council to check the calendar on the Library’s website for upcoming events at the Library. Ms. Gallagher highlighted that the Library will have an American Girl Tea Party this coming Friday.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2022-11 DESIGNATING VANCE OAKES AS AN AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY FOR THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY FOR ALL AGREEMENTS WITH THE PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Vance Oakes explained that this resolution would update the Borough’s records with PennDOT that authorize Mr. Oakes as the authorized signatory. Mr. Oakes is currently the authorized signatory, PennDOT is just requiring that it be updated.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2022-11. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: STRAWBERRY DAYS 5K TO BE HELD ON 6/22/22 AT HUNTER FARM PARK

Mr. Vance Oakes explained that this event will take place on the trails at Hunter Farm Park and will not require any street closures.

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the Strawberry Days 5k. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR DEED OF EASEMENT FOR WALKING TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AT GROVE CITY AIRPORT

Mr. Oakes explained that Springfield Township has received a grant from PennDOT to extend sidewalk from Wendy's to the Township building. Part of this sidewalk project will include sidewalk in front of the Grove City Airport and therefore the Township is requesting an easement from the Borough of Grove City for its construction. Mr. Oakes stated that Solicitor Bonner has reviewed the easement and has a few language modifications. Solicitor Bonner detailed that the proposed easement includes unlimited vertical control over the easement and Solicitor Bonner stated that the Borough should request that portion be removed due to the fact that the property is operated as an airport. Solicitor Bonner further explained that he would request that the easement be conveyed specifically instead of generally. Mr. Oakes highlighted that this sidewalk could be a benefit to the airport as individuals could fly into the airport and then walk to restaurants and shopping areas.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Springfield Township's Request for Deed of Easement with the language changes proposed by Solicitor Bonner. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER REQUEST FROM THE GUTHRIE THEATER LLC TO HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER THE INTER-MUNICIPAL TRANSFER OF A LIQUOR LICENSE

Mr. Pat Artise, 232 S. Broad Street, was present and introduced himself as the new owner of the Guthrie Theater. Mr. Artise explained that he is continuing to work on renovations at the theater and is in the process of purchasing a liquor license from the Golden Apple in Wheatland. Mr. Artise described that he believes that having liquor and food options are key to business success. He is constructing a food hall concept that will include several different food options within the same venue. He concluded by asking that Borough Council schedule a public hearing as required by the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to review his application for an inter-municipal liquor license transfer. Councilman Morley asked Mr. Artise if he will have tables and chairs inside the Guthrie instead of theater style seating. Mr. Artise explained that he has removed several rows of seats and flattened out a portion of the floor to allow tables and chairs and has removed all of the seats in the balcony and installed tables and chairs. Mr. Artise further described that he is working to make both restrooms handicap accessible. Solicitor Bonner asked Mr. Artise what his background was. Mr. Artise explained that he purchased his first bar in 1991 and has owned over 25 bars, restaurants and entertainment venues since then. He detailed that he typically flips the businesses and does not work for very long as an operator. Solicitor Bonner asked Mr. Artise if he has provided an ad to the Borough. Mr. Artise explained that he has followed the example of a previous applicant. Solicitor Bonner asked if he could provide the corporate entities for the license transfer. Mr. Artise explained that The Guthrie Theater, LLC will hold the license and it will be transferred from the Golden Apple, Inc. Mr. Oakes stated that they will need to advertise this hearing for two weeks.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to advertise and hold a public hearing to consider the inter-municipal transfer of a liquor license to the Guthrie Theater, LLC. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LEASE AGREEMENT AMENDMENT WITH THE CENTER FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. Oakes explained that the amendment to the lease before Council would extend the lease for three additional years under the current lease terms. Mr. Oakes stated that STAT MedEvac has been a good tenant and lease partner and that they provide a valuable community service.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the Lease Amendment with the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION AT 1682 W MAIN STREET EXT, GROVE CITY, PA 16127

Borough Engineer, Dan Goncz confirmed that capacity was available for this connection.

- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the sanitary sewer extension at 1682 W. Main Street Ext. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

Mr. Goncz reported that advertisement for bids for the water treatment plant project have gone out and bids are due by June 14th. Mr. Goncz detailed that last week he had a call with Mr. Oakes, Mr. Pokrant and Mr. Anthony Ditka, Bond Counsel, regarding borrowing for the new water treatment plant. Mr. Ditka reported that the bond market is not as good as this time last year due to the current state of the economy. It was decided on this call that the Borough should wait to pursue any additional borrowing and see where the bids come in for the project. There are funds left over from the 2020 bond issue that will pay for the initial stages of the project, so funding from a new bond issue will not be needed right away.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that he does not have an update regarding the Volunteer Fire Department live-in proposal as he has not heard back from Grove City College.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that he has exchanged emails with a representative from DCED who alerted Mr. Oakes that for the LSA Grant that the Borough applied for, they would not be permitted to begin work until after the grant was awarded if they were chosen to receive a grant. Grant awards are scheduled to be announced in the Fall. Mr. Oakes recommended to Council that construction wait until the grants are awarded to avoid the Borough being ineligible. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Goncz if a motion of Council was needed at this time to solidify their intention to wait. Mr. Goncz stated that one was not needed at this time as the application would be left as is. Mr. Goncz stated that Council could discuss this further in June after the bids come in and it is also his understanding that applications will be ranked by DCED in June.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the bid opening for the Airport paving would occur this week and requested that Council hold a special meeting in early June to accept these bid results.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that he has sent out letters to all municipalities who are in the service area of Superior Ambulance and that he has heard back from 8 of the 23 municipalities that he sent letters to. 1 of the 8 that got back to him is interested in the task force, but the supervisors have scheduling conflicts throughout the summer that prevent them from attending a meeting. Mr. Oakes asked Solicitor Bonner if it was time to move forward and schedule an EMS Task Force meeting. Solicitor Bonner indicated that they should at this time and that Thursday evenings worked best for him. Mr. Oakes further explained that he and Solicitor Bonner received an email from Doug Dick, Superior Ambulance, that Doug had met with the County Commissioners and that they had identified the lack of ambulance service as a municipal issue and not a county issue. Solicitor Bonner recommend that a meeting be scheduled as a courtesy to Mr. Dick and see what comes out of it.
- Mr. Oakes informed Council that the Harvard Street underpass is closed due to a truck hitting a steel beam that is connected to the Cooper Bessemer Building, owned by Hall Industries. This beam was for a bridge that no longer exists between the two buildings. Hall Industries has had an engineer at the site to review the damage as the engineer is concerned that the beam is acting as a retaining wall for the structure. They are hopeful that they will have an answer from the engineer this week. Mayor Riddle mentioned that he has observed people moving the street barricades. Mr. Oakes stated that

the street is closed out of an abundance of caution and that the barricades should not be moved. Mayor Riddle asked if the sidewalk should be closed and Councilman Morley questioned if orange construction fencing should be installed. Mr. Oakes stated that he was hopeful that the street would be open soon and that wouldn't be necessary.

- Mr. Oakes expressed his gratitude to George Junior Republic who assisted the Borough of Grove City in planting 15 trees at Hunter Farm Park and 3 on Kocher Drive. Mr. Oakes expressed his thanks to Diane Grundy as well, who donated the funds to purchase the trees at Hunter Farm Park.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Alex Oakes

- Mr. Alex Oakes reported that the High School has completed their state assessment and college board tests.
- The prom at Coolspring Corn Maze was a success.
- Mr. Alex Oakes shared that this will be his last meeting as he will be graduating. He shared that he will be attending Emby-Riddle University on a Navy NROTC National Scholarship and will be majoring in aerospace engineering. He aspires to become a naval aviator after commissioning in the Navy.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle honored Mr. Alex Oakes with the Distinguished Junior Councilperson Award.
- Mayor Riddle reached out to the eagle scout that will be installing horseshoe pits at Memorial Park, but did not receive an update from him prior to the meeting.
- Mayor Riddle spoke with Dave Knopp Jr., who informed him that County Market will not have fireworks this year.
- Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Oakes if he had an update from Tower Church regarding the Old Presbyterian Cemetery. Mr. Oakes stated that he has not. Mayor Riddle reported that no one is presently maintaining it. Solicitor Bonner stated that under state law that operators of cemeteries are required to submit reports in regard to their liabilities to prevent situations where a cemetery is unable to be maintained. Solicitor Bonner suggested that Tower Church be reminded of their obligations under state law.
- Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Oakes if the Borough has heard from Grove City College regarding the Volunteer Fire Department live-in proposal. Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough has not. Mayor Riddle asked if this meant that it would not happen this coming fall. Mr. Oakes confirmed that would most likely be the case.
- Mayor Riddle asked Councilman Morley if the American Legion will be hosting a Memorial Day Event at Crestview Cemetery. Councilman Morley confirmed that they will have an event this year. Mayor Riddle encouraged council members to attend if they could.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he issued two proclamations in April. The first one was to Evelyn Adams on her 105th Birthday and the other was to Grove City Meals on Wheels in celebration of their 50th anniversary.
- Mayor Riddle informed Council that he has been working with Councilman Mattocks and Representative Bonner in support of Representative Bonner's proposed legislation that would prohibit landfills 3 miles from an area with population density of greater than 1,000 people per square mile. Mayor Riddle is scheduled to testify in support of the bill in Harrisburg on May 23rd. Representative Bonner explained that there will be four witnesses present to testify in support of his legislation. Mayor Riddle being one, he will also have an environmentalist, urban planner and a real estate appraiser.
- Mayor Riddle shared some events that he attended over the past month:
 - 4/29- Attended an opening day event for the Hunter Farm Volleyball Courts
 - 5/5- Assisted Grove City High School Math Students who planted a tree in Grove City Memorial Park

- 5/12- Attended a meeting with Glenn Saunders and Brad Landfair regarding a partnership with George Junior Republic for a grant that they will be seeking through the NEA. They plan to be present at the June meeting to present their proposal to Council.
- Mayor Riddle shared some upcoming events that he will be attending:
 - 5/18- plans to attend the COG Meeting
 - 5/20-5/25- plans to attend the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs Conference
 - 5/26- plans to attend the Mercer County Association of Boroughs dinner
 - 5/31- plans to attend the DARE Graduation at Hillview Elementary School
- Mayor Riddle reported that from today to 6/5, the Borough Police Department will be conducting a click it or ticket campaign to encourage seatbelt use.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Oakes shared that Councilman Hodge had reported to him that it was reported to him that people are smoking at Borough Playgrounds near the play equipment and it is his suggestion that Borough Playgrounds be made smoke-free. Councilwoman Mattocks expressed her agreement with this sentiment and referred the matter to the Parks and Recreation Committee for further discussion.
- Councilwoman Mattocks thanked her fellow council members for their civility towards one another. Ms. Mattocks stated that she has read numerous articles regarding local councils that do not treat each other with respect and appreciates that her fellow members can disagree respectfully.
- Councilwoman Mattocks shared that Strawberry Days is scheduled from 6/10-6/12.

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 8:09 pm.

Respectfully,

Vance E. Oakes
Borough Manager