

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
November 21, 2022 7:00PM**

**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)
Absent	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Secretary)
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	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		

**ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER**

- Councilwoman Mattocks announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- Ms. Jane Cleary, CEASRA, explained that CEASRA and Liberty Township are currently appealing the DEP’s decision to allow Tri-County to reopen a landfill in Pine and Liberty Township. Ms. Cleary thanked Council for allowing her to speak to them this evening. Ms. Cleary explained that CEASRA has been fundraising and obtaining grants to finance their landfill appeal, but they are running out of funds. Ms. Cleary informed Council that over 100 thousand dollars has spent on the appeal thus far. Ms. Cleary explained to Council that last year that Dr. Russ Defusco visited the Borough Airport to complete a bird strike assessment in relation to the construction of the Tri-County landfill. Dr. Defusco has completed the report and intends to be present for the upcoming appeal hearing in the spring to present his findings to the Environmental Hearing Board. However, Dr. Defusco has cost CEASRA six thousand dollars and another six thousand will be incurred for the hearing. Therefore, CEASRA is requesting the Borough contribute twelve thousand dollars to assist CEASRA. Ms. Cleary stressed that the landfill and its related bird hazards could impact the Borough’s eligibility for grant funding due to its non-compliance with FAA standards.
- Mr. Bill Pritchard, CEASRA, provided Council with an update on the lawsuit. Attorney Marc Valentine is no longer representing CEASRA and Liberty Township as he has had health issues. The parties are now being represented by Lisa Johnson. Furthermore, Pine Township has withdrawn from the case completely and is no longer an intervenor as previously was the case. Mr. Pritchard accused Mr. Rich Stachel of Pine Township as being opposed to the litigation and the reason that Pine Township had withdrawn. Mr. Pritchard highlighted that Ms. Johnson has been successful in prohibiting leachate discharge into Wolf Creek already in this suit.
- Mr. Jim Highland, CEASRA, expressed his hope that the legislation proposed by Representative Bonner will be successful, but there is no guarantee. Mr. Highland highlighted the financial need that CEASRA currently has. He reported to Council that as a result of their efforts that the FAA sent a letter to the DEP in July that included the requirement that a 12-month wildlife assessment be

completed in relation to hazards that could impact the airport if the landfill is reopened. Mr. Highland noted that Dr. Defusco detailed that the landfill proximity would not be compliant with current FAA requirements and if constructed, could impact the Airport's eligibility for grant funding. Mr. Highland stated that they are asking the Borough for twelve thousand because they are the owners of the airport. Councilman Bigley asked Representative Bonner what the status of his legislation was. Representative Bonner stated that it was still in committee. Councilwoman Mattocks stated that the twelve thousand was not included in the budget, but Council would discuss this request later in the meeting.

#### **REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

- None

#### **APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT**

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the 'Bills Paid' report. Mr. Vince DiStasi 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. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from the Regular Meeting on October 17,2022, Work Session Meeting on October 24, 2022 and Finance Committee Meeting on October 31, 2022

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Regular Meeting on October 17,2022, Work Session Meeting on October 24, 2022 and Finance Committee Meeting on October 31, 2022. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Ms. Heather Baker reported that the Grove City Library held their soup fundraiser and that it was a success with over one thousand in profits. Ms. Baker detailed that the library had numerous events upcoming including a concert and breakfast with Santa on 12/3 and a New Year's at Noon Party on 12/31. Ms. Baker thanked the Borough for their assistance with the Christmas tree downtown.

#### **CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON 5/13/23 FROM 8AM-6PM**

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Christian Academy planned to hold this disc golf event prior to the picnic shelter season and would be using this as a fundraiser. Mr. Oakes noted that insurance had not yet been received for this event.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the Grove City Christian Academy Disc Golf Tournament pending receipt of insurance. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER DONATION OF \$750 FOR MATERIALS PLUS LABOR FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRIC SERVICE TO AN ELECTRONIC SCOREBOARD FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL BOOSTERS**

- Mr. Oakes reported that this was discussed at the last meeting and that Mr. Jeff Badger had completed a cost estimate for the project. Mr. Badger estimated that it would be \$1500 for the materials, but Pine Township has donated \$750 towards the project, leaving the remaining cost at \$750. Councilwoman Mattocks thanked Mr. Larry Stewart, Pine Township Supervisor, who was present at the meeting for Pine's donation.

- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve a donation of \$750 for materials plus labor for the installation of electric service to an electronic scoreboard for the benefit of the Grove City High School Softball Boosters. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-19 BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY ACT 537 PLAN SPECIAL STUDY ADOPTION**

- Mr. Oakes explained that an open house was held last month to discuss this plan with the impacted residents. Mr. Oakes elaborated that the Borough has selected alternative 1B to address the sewer backups within the Edgewood Ave area.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2022-19. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF LSSE ENGINEERS AND THEIR SUBSIDIARY RABELL SURVEYING TO DESIGN AND BID THE BLACK RUN LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

- Mr. Oakes reported that this would formally hire LSSE and Raball Surveying to complete the design work for the Edgewood Ave project. Mr. Oakes reminded council that in the 2024 Budget that the cost for construction would have to be made up, as the ARPA funds are not sufficient to finance the total project cost.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the appointment of LSSE Engineers and their subsidiary Rabell Surveying to design and bid the Black Run Lift Station Improvements. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER A FIVE-YEAR RECREATIONAL LAND USE LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE GROVE CITY AREA YOUTH SOCCER ASSOCIATION**

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Grove City Area Youth Soccer Association reached out and would like a five-year term for their lease instead of a one-year term as previously approved at the August Council Meeting. Mr. Oakes explained that they would like this extended term due to the investment that they are making in the new concession stand/restrooms.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve a five-year recreational land use lease with the Grove City Area Youth Soccer Association. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER 2023 BUDGET**

- Mr. Oakes stated that the Finance Committee had met on 10/31 and finalized the budget. Mr. Oakes thanked Ms. Gallagher, Finance Committee Chair, for all of her hard work in putting the budget together. Mr. Oakes reported that it was a balanced budget with no tax increase, but there would be rate increases for water and garbage. Mr. Oakes explained that the garbage increase was due to the new contract and that the water rate increase was due to the new water treatment plant. Mr. Oakes explained that the CEASRA request was not currently included.
- Councilwoman Mattocks asked if there was a motion to support a donation of twelve thousand dollars for CEASRA. **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve a donation of twelve thousand dollars to CEASRA, Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion.** Councilman Bigley asked Mr. Oakes if there was a way to find twelve thousand dollars in the current budget to fund this initiative. Mr. Oakes stated that payment for the body cameras, storm sewer work in Ward 4, replacement of the fishing dock, or funding for special events could be redirected to this purpose if Council so desired.
- Councilman DiStasi asked what the grant increases at the Airport would be funding. Mr. Oakes explained that there were three grants this year. One grant would fund an update to the Master Plan, which is needed prior to extending the runway. The second is to seal cracks in the runway and remark it and the third is to complete design work for an addition that will be used for the storing of equipment. Councilman DiStasi questioned if the Borough's investment was at risk. Mr. Oakes stated that in reviewing the letter that was sent to Tri-County that Tri-County is responsible for hiring a wildlife expert to complete a hazard assessment, not the Borough.

- Councilman Bigley asked if there has been an increase in traffic at the airport over the last few years. Mr. Oakes stated that there has been and it has largely been due to Grove City Aviation's own business.
  - Councilman Bigley questioned the need for body cameras for the police department. Councilwoman Gallagher stated that they are not required right now, but that she expected that it would be a requirement soon. Mayor Riddle explained that he does not support cutting out body cameras. Junior Councilman Mac asked if the design and build project could be delayed. Mr. Oakes explained that it couldn't be due to grant deadlines. Councilman Bigley questioned whether we could lose grants due to the landfill or refusing current grants. Mr. Oakes stated that it is not looked upon favorably for future grants if you refuse them. Mr. Oakes reiterated that Tri-County is responsible for paying for the wildlife expert.
  - Councilwoman Mattocks questioned Ms. Cleary what the twelve thousand would be used for. Ms. Cleary stated that half of it would be used as a reimbursement for the cost incurred to have Dr. Defusco complete his study and the other half would fund his attendance at the upcoming trial. Mr. Pritchard stated that Dr. Defusco would not be supervising the wildlife study, but rather would be present at the hearing to discuss his report findings. Councilwoman Gallagher asked when the hearing would be. Ms. Cleary stated that it was slated for Mid-March or April.
  - Mr. Oakes questioned whether Council would be supportive of raising taxes or fees to support this request or they would rather transfer funds from the current budget. Mr. Oakes explained that Council could pass the budget tonight as it is presented and they would have the ability to transfer funds at anytime throughout the year. Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Oakes if the full budget for the airport was made up of grants/local match for these grants. Mr. Oakes explained that they make up a large portion, but general funds are allocated for maintenance and supply type items. Councilman Jaillet asked if the hearing would be delayed due to the fact that the wildlife study wouldn't be completed in time for the hearing. Ms. Cleary stated that it may be. Mr. Oakes stated that the letter that the FAA sent to the DEP stated that they hadn't received a 12-month study and that it was Tri-County's responsibility to conduct one. Mr. Oakes clarified that the letter did not make mention of an impact to grant funding, as that was referenced in Dr. Defusco's report. Councilwoman Gallagher asked if the twelve thousand could be split between fiscal years. Ms. Cleary stated that it could not and that the funding was needed now.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to withdraw his current motion that a donation of twelve thousand dollars be allocated to CESERA. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded this and it was withdrawn.**
    - Mr. Scott Jaillet asked if Pine Township was still a part of the lawsuit. MS. Cleary answered that they had removed themselves from the suit.
  - **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to recommend that the Borough Manager draft proposals for areas within the 2023 Budget that money could be reallocated to fund a donation to CEASRA of twelve thousand dollars, while maintaining a balanced budget. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried by majority with Scott Jaillet opposed.**
  - **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the 2023 Budget. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-18 SETTING THE TAX RATE FOR 2023**

- Mr. Oakes stated that the millage would stay the same for the coming year.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2022-18. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER ADVERTISING INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1488 AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO REFUSE COLLECTION AND RECYCLING**

- Mr. Oakes informed Council that this ordinance would update the Borough Refuse Ordinance to include Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste. Mr. Oakes stated that Solicitor Bonner would need to review this ordinance prior to advertisement.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the advertisement of the Intent to Adopt Ordinance 1488 Amending Chapter 50 of the Borough of Grove City Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Refuse Collection and Recycling pending review by the Borough Solicitor. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER ADVERTISING INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1489 AMENDING WATER RATES FOR 2023**

- Mr. Oakes explained that water rates would increase about \$7 for a typical residential customer.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the advertisement of the Intent to Adopt Ordinance 1489 Amending Water Rates for 2023. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GROVE CITY BOROUGH AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 205**

- Mr. Oakes explained that this MOU would extend the agreement for an additional year as the Borough in 2019 changed the health plan that is specified in the contract and this change is approved on a yearly basis.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the Grove City Borough and the Teamsters Local Union 205. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-16 ADOPTING ACT 57 FAILURE TO RECEIVE TAX NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Commonwealth passed Act 57 that requires all municipalities to pass a resolution or ordinance establishing the Act 57 requirements for failure to receive a tax notice. These requirements exempt a new property owner from paying a penalty if they meet certain conditions and can prove that they didn't receive their tax notice.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2022-16. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL, POWER, BELL & ASSOCIATES, LLP FOR AUDIT OF 2022 FINANCIALS**

**CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL, POWER, BELL & ASSOCIATES, LLP FOR AUDIT OF 2022 DCED FINANCIALS**

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough would be contracting with McGill Power, Bell and Associates for the purpose of auditing the 2022 Financials and 2022 DCED Financials.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the agreements with McGill Power, Bell and Associates for audit of the 2022 Financials and 2022 DCED Financials. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER MUNICIBID ONLINE AUCTION RESULTS FOR SALE OF A 2012 DODGE RAM 3500 UTILITY TRUCK, 2016 FORD EXPLORER POLICE INTERCEPTOR AND A BOBCAT DUST CONTROL WATER KIT ATTACHMENT**

- Mr. Oakes reported the results for the auction that ended today were attached. Mr. Oakes announced that the Dodge 3500 Truck sold for \$11,308, the 2016 Ford Explorer sold for \$8,100 and the water kit sold for \$61. Councilman Bigley asked if these funds were already allocated. Mr. Oakes explained that they were, as the budget includes a line item for sale of equipment, but these did come in a little over what was budgeted.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the sale of a 2012 Dodge Ram 3500 Utility Truck, 2016 Ford Explorer and a Bobcat Dust Contril Water Kit Attachment. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION TO 310 DIAMOND ROAD, GROVE CITY, PA, OWNED BY THOMAS CONSTRUCTION**

- Mr. Goncz confirmed that there was capacity for this request.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Sanitary Sewer Extension Request. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz**

- Mr. Goncz reported that Groundwater Resources had completed the well buildings and had done so under budget. Mr. Goncz recommended that the final invoice in the amount of \$87,517.50 be approved contingent upon a final walk through.
- **Mr. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the invoice for Groundwater Resources in the amount of \$87,517.50 contingent upon a final walk through and approval by the Borough Engineer. Mr. Shawn Myes seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
  - Mr. Goncz reported to Council that the bid award date for the New Water Treatment was due 11/22/22 as the Borough had expected to hear back from DCED by now regarding the Borough's LSA Grant application. Unfortunately, the Borough was informed that grant awards will be moved to January. Mr. Goncz recommended that the Borough proceed with awarding the contract as the Borough would stand to lose a significant amount of money due to cost escalations if the project was rebid. Mr. Goncz informed Council that he would be preparing a grant application for the H2O Grant and would need approval of the attached resolution to apply for the grant. Mr. Goncz stated that construction could begin on the project and the Borough would still be eligible for H2O grant funds. Mr. Goncz stated that the maximum grant amount for this is also much higher. Mr. Oakes stated that Council would have to reject the bids and rebid the contract if they wanted to wait on the LSA Grant. Mr. Goncz advised against this due to contractor and supply cost escalations. Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Goncz if he was aware of any County ARPA funds. Mr. Goncz stated that it was his understanding that these funds had been allocated for a new County Radio System.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve General Contract One to Global Heavy Corporation, Electrical Contract Two to McCurley Houston Electric, Inc. HVAC Contract Number Three to Renick Brothers. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2022-17 Authorizing the Borough of Grove City to submit an H2O Grant Application. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
  - Mr. Goncz reported that there are some sewage treatment plant issues that he is examining with the operations staff and would have more information at subsequent meetings.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that he has submitted all of the required documentation to the consultants hired by Mercer County to create an All-Hazards Plan for each municipality in the county. Mr. Oakes stated that he has a meeting on 12/13 to continue working on plan development.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Emlenton Brew Haus will be opening a new brewery in the former Voodoo space and it will be called Grove City Brew Haus.
- Mr. Oakes shared documents from PennDOT regarding the Route 58 Bridge project that is slated for 2025. Mr. Oakes explained that the construction will take about 7 months and include a truck traffic detour.
- Mr. Oakes shared with Council a letter that was received earlier that day from Superior Ambulance Service. Mr. Oakes summarized that the letter provided the Borough with 15 days to pass a ½ mil of tax or Superior Ambulance Service would begin billing the Borough \$500 per ambulance call and if not paid, Superior would send a 90-day termination notice to the Borough. Councilwoman Mattocks suggested that this matter be referred to a joint meeting of Finance and the Police and Fire Committees. Councilman Bigley stated that the EMS issue was discussed at the COG meeting and the letter was disappointing and seemed like an ultimatum. Mr. Larry Stewart, Pine Township Supervisor,

stated that they had received the same letter and had reached out to their solicitor. Mr. Stewart also stated that he was working on a proposal that he would share regarding a possible solution. Councilman Bigley expressed his frustration with the 15-day timetable.

#### **JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Mac Messer and Ms. Emmy Riddle**

- Mr. Messer reported that the Boys Cross Country Team had won the state championship. Mr. Messer also detailed that the High School Football team had won the District 10 Championship and that winter sports had begun practicing.
- Mr. Messer reported that he was continuing to work on the Junior Council snow shoveling project and that he was hoping to have 2-3 volunteer days over the winter.
- Mr. Messer also reported that his mother had facilitated a fundraiser to put benches in at Hillcrest Circle.
- Ms. Riddle reported that the Puffs play was a success and that Ski Club had begun planning for the upcoming season.

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

- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
  - 11/3 Conference Call with Chris Capp regarding further integration of the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania State Boroughs Association
  - 11/5- Presented Emma Roach a proclamation recognizing her Eagle Scout achievement
  - 11/16- Attended the COG Meeting
  - 11/16- Presented a proclamation to the Grove City High School Boys Cross Country Team for their State Championship
- Mayor Riddle reported that he plans to attend Light-up Night at AHN Grove City on 12/1.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the hiring process for a new police officer continues as the polygraph exam is scheduled for 12/1. Mayor Riddle also shared that the Grove City Police Department had received the AAA Platinum award for their traffic safety efforts.
- Mayor Riddle shared with Council a letter received from the manager of Valvoline Express Care, commending the Borough's Public Works Department on their work to fix a water main break.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Councilman Henry shared with Council a letter from Jimmy Richardson thanking Council for their donations to the Mercer County Grange Fair.
- Councilman Henry reported that he has received numerous complaints regarding the lack of glass recycling and the confusion over whether it is or is not accepted. Mr. Oakes explained that glass was removed from the list of recyclable items about 4 years ago due to a collapse in the secondary market. However, Tri-County has begun accepting glass again because the market has somewhat rebounded. Councilman Henry suggested a flyer be sent to residents explaining what is and what isn't recyclable. Mr. Oakes stated that it would be included within their flyer for HHW/E-Waste that will be going out at the start of the year.

#### **NEWS MEDIA**

- Council was available for questions from the News Media.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant  
Borough Secretary