

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2022 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:10 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Randy Riddle**

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	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Secretary)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	Absent	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

- Mr. Willie Caldwell, 214 Franklin Place, was present and discussed his opinion on the state of EMS in the area. Mr. Caldwell described that EMS service has greatly expanded over the years, with a greater ability to treat. Mr. Caldwell discussed the increased costs and time requirements involved in becoming an EMT. Mr. Caldwell voiced his support for providing financial assistance to Superior Ambulance as they have requested. Mr. Caldwell explained that the Borough supports and buys from private companies all the time and this shouldn't be any different.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the agenda needed to be amended to remove Resolution 2022-25 as Amy Gallagher was not able to be reappointed as she was an employee of the Library. Ms. Gallagher would meet with Mr. Oakes for next month's meeting to find a replacement appointee. Mr. Oakes instructed that the resolutions that followed be renumbered to reflect this change. Mr. Oakes furthermore, explained that he had attached a resolution that would need to be added to the agenda to authorize the depositing of 2022 General Obligation Bonds funds with Mars Bank.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to amend the agenda, removing Resolution 2022-25 and renumbering the subsequent resolutions, and adding and approving Resolution 2022-26 Designating Mars Bank as the Depository of 2022 GO Bonds. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 2022

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from November 21, 2022. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker presented the Library Report. Ms. Baker detailed that the Library was looking forward to 2023 and the events/programs that they had planned. Ms. Baker explained that the Library would be holding their New Year's at Noon Event on the 31st and would be holding their soup fundraiser on February 10th.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 2022-21 SUPPORTING THE PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION FOR THE UNITED STATES SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL

- Ms. Ann Coleman was present and explained the proposed resolution. Ms. Coleman stated that she had been appointed by the Mercer County Commissioners to coordinate Mercer County celebrations for the 250th anniversary of America's founding, which will be in 2026. Ms. Coleman explained that support for the resolution would not cost the Borough any money, just provide acknowledgment of the Borough's support of these efforts. Ms. Coleman further described that she would be doing a podcast focusing on Mercer County's history and would be setting up informational booths at local events. Councilwoman Mattocks mentioned that Grove City would be 225 years old next year and Ms. Coleman acknowledged that may be a good starting point for her podcast.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2022-21. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2023 BUDGET REALLOCATION TO SUPPORT A DONATION TO CEASRA

- Mr. Oakes explained that the cost to support the twelve-thousand-dollar donation would be split between fiscal years.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve a donation of \$12,000 to CEASRA. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1488 AMENDING CHAPTER 50 OF THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO REFUSE AND RECYCLING

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-20 SETTING REFUSE AND RECYCLING FEES

- Mr. Oakes explained that these changes would allow the Borough to charge for the newly created Household Hazardous Waste and Electronic Waste Program. Mr. Oakes also stated that Resolution 2022-20 was included and would set the fees for the ordinance and asked that they be taken together
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Ordinance 1488 and Resolution 2022-20. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1489 AMENDING WATER SERVICE RATES

- Mr. Oakes reminded Council that this ordinance would increase water service base rates by approximately \$7 a month for the typical residential customer and would increase accordingly for larger customers.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Ordinance 1489. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Reconfirming 511 Taxes

- Mr. Oakes explained that there would be no change to the 511 Taxes, they just needed to be reconfirmed for the coming year.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to reconfirm the 511 Taxes for 2023. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER THREE (3) YEAR NON-UNIFORM UNION MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE UNION CONTRACT BEGINNING 01/01/23

- Mr. Oakes thanked the negotiating committee for all of their work in obtaining a contract. Mr. Oakes highlighted that the contract would include a 4%, 3% and 2% pay raise in the three respective contract years. Additionally, employee health insurance cost share would increase by about \$5 for a family plan and employees would be responsible for 25% of all health insurance premium increases. Also, the boot allowance would increase \$150 over the contract term, the Borough would pay the difference in license costs between a Class C License and a Class A license, the Borough agreed to compensate the ELDT Trainer \$1,000 for each year that he/she is actively teaching in, added the day after Thanksgiving as a holiday and starting in year 2024, increased the ICMA contribution by \$50. Mr. Oakes expressed his sentiment that this was a fair deal for all parties involved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Non-Uniform Municipal Employee Union Contract. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-22 Setting the Meeting Schedule

- Mr. Oakes noted that the January Council Meeting would be on a Thursday due to the MLK Day Holiday.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve Resolution 2022-22. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-23 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENT

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2022-23. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-24 VACANCY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2022-24. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADVERTISE A VACANCY ON THE PLANNING COMMISSION

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Gabe Gordon did not wish to serve another term and therefore, there was a vacancy.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the advertisement of a vacancy on the Planning Commission. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2022-25 DISPOSITION OF SPECIFIC RECORDS

- Mr. Oakes explained that 37 boxes of records were to be shredded, containing utility billing, cash receipts, payment stubs, time sheets, accounts payable, work orders, solicitation permits, burning permits, employment applications for employees not hired and other administrative notes/notices.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2022-25. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PROMOTION OF OFFICER STEPHEN "ROSS" PHIPPS FROM PROBATIONARY FULL-TIME STATUS TO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STATUS

- Mr. Oakes reported that included with the Council packet was a letter from Chief Osborne recommending his promotion to full-time status. Chief Osborne expressed his satisfaction with Officer Phipps.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the promotion of Officer Stephen “Ross” Phipps to permanent full-time status. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST APPROVAL REVISION FOR GROVE CITY AREA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON MAY 13, 2023 FROM 8AM-6PM TO INCLUDE HUNTER FARM PARK IN ADDITION TO MEMORIAL PARK

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Christian Academy had received prior approval for this event, but wanted to include Hunter Farm Park as well.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the event revision. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LIBERTY TOWNSHIP SEWER EXTENSION FOR THE AMSTERDAM BUTLER PIKE SEWER PROJECT (32 EDUs)

- Mr. Oakes explained that the list of connections had been included. Mr. Oakes highlighted that this project was a part of Keystone Safari Park’s sewer line extension. Mayor Riddle questioned whether there would be capacity for all of these connections. Mr. Goncz confirmed that there was adequate capacity for these connections.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Sanitary Sewer Extension for the Amsterdam Butler Pike Sewer Project. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

- Mr. Goncz reported that the pre-construction meeting for the new Water Treatment Plant had been held on 12/14. Mr. Goncz explained that the notice to proceed had been issued on 12/19. Mr. Goncz also reported that the H2O Grant application had been submitted. The grant application request is for 6.125 million dollars. Mr. Goncz explained that he would expect contractor payment requests for the next meeting.
- Mr. Goncz reported that the floor in the Solids Handling Building that is a part of the original plant construction that was completed in the 1930s has been settling. Mr. Goncz explained that his recommendation was to monitor it for further settling and not take any further action at this time.
- Mr. Goncz stated that the 2023 agreement for Consulting Engineering Services for 2023 was attached. These services include the preparation of the Municipal Wasteload Management Report to DEP.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the 2023 Proposal for Consulting Engineering Services with Gannet Fleming. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Pine Township Fire Department and Jimmy Richardson from the Mercer County Grange Fair would be working together to remove windows and doors from the Girl Scout Lodge that the Grange Fair and Fire Department can use.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he had provided each Council Member with the updated glass recycling requirements. Glass is being accepted by Tri-County, but is being repurposed, not recycled.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Modwash has withdrawn their Land Development application and the former Perkins property is back on the market.
- Mr. Oakes shared with Council a thank you card from the Grove City High School Softball Boosters for the Borough’s utility connections that were provided this year.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the baseball fields had been vandalized by an unknown individual who drove their vehicle through the field. Mr. Oakes valued the damage at over six thousand dollars.

- Mr. Oakes reported that the 2021 CDBG funds had been previously allocated to sidewalk replacements and housing rehabilitation. However, one of the projects that had not been funded in the 2023 Budget that would be eligible for these CDBG funds is the paving of walking paths in Memorial Park. Mr. Oakes shared that the split for the 2021 CDBG funds was \$77,480 for sidewalks and \$35,000 for housing rehabilitation. Mr. Oakes shared that the paths were asphalt and in need of replacement throughout. Ms. Mattocks asked if the cost was known for the walking paths. Mr. Oakes stated that he did not have one, but could prepare one if there was interest in reallocating these funds. Ms. Mattocks requested that Mr. Oakes prepare a cost estimate for these paths for further discussion.
- Mr. Oakes wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

JUNIOR COUNCIL REPORT – Junior Council Member, Ms. Emmy Riddle

- Ms. Riddle shared that the Bocce Team at Grove City High School had won states last year and she interviewed the coaches. Ms. Riddle stated that the coaches shared that the team had started in 2015 and currently there were two teams, each team includes 4 special education students and 4 general education students. The coaches shared that their favorite part of coaching the teams is watching the interactions between the teammates. The coaches shared that they have high hopes for the coming year after winning states last year.
- Ms. Riddle wished everyone Happy Holidays.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle shared with Council that Wabtec had provided 15 thousand dollars in funding to light the Softball Field at Memorial Park. Mr. Riddle expressed his thanks to Wabtec for this donation
- Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Oakes if there had been anything else regarding the Old Presbyterian Cemetery. Mr. Oakes shared that he had not heard anything further.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
 - 12/1- Light-up Night at AHN Grove City
 - 12/18- Ian McCreary's Eagle Scout Presentation
- Mayor Riddle reported that he plans to attend a Grove City Troop 76 Scouts meeting to discuss local government.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Grove City High School will be on Hometown High Q on 1/7 and 1/14.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Chief Osborne is wrapping up his background investigation of the remaining police candidate and expects to have a recommendation shortly.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the DARE Program will begin on 1/17 with the Grove City 5th Graders.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks thanked Nels Mattson for his service as a crossing guard.

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 8:14 pm.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary