

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
January 9, 2023 6:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President Mary K. Mattocks at 6:04 PM

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	Absent	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
X	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Boro Sec.)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)	X	Osborne, Dean (Police Chief)
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
Absent	Gallagher, Amy	Absent	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	Riddle, Emmy		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- No citizens requested to be heard.

CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO TONIGHT’S AGENDA

- None

CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION’S ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR THE POSITION OF PATROLMAN

1. BRIAN RAY

- Mr. Oakes informed Council that Mr. Brian Ray was the only person to make it through the process and that they were fortunate to have someone who is eligible, given the small applicant pool. Chief Osborne shared with Council that he is confident that Mr. Ray will make a good officer. Mr. Osborne recommended that an offer of employment be extended to Mr. Ray contingent upon successful completion of a physical exam, drug screen and psychological exam.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Civil Service Commission’s Eligibility List and make an offer of employment to Mr. Brian Ray contingent upon completion of a physical exam, psychological exam and drug screen. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER Resolution 2023-1 Appointing Michael Coulter to the Planning Commission for the Term 01/2023-12/2026

- Mr. Oakes reported that Mr. Coulter had volunteered and had previously served on Planning Commission.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2023-1. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2021 CDBG REALLOCATION FOR MEMORIAL PARK WALKING PATHS

- Mr. Oakes provided Council with a report of the current CDBG allocation for 2021 which is currently split between homeowner sidewalk replacements and housing rehabilitation. Mr. Oakes explained that the walking trails were an eligible use of these funds because they would improve handicap accessibility within Memorial Park. Mr. Oakes stated that he is looking for guidance on Council’s interest in reallocating these funds. Mr. Oakes further explained that the cost for sidewalks was about \$100 a linear foot and the Borough has not actively advertised the program yet. Mr. Morley shared his sentiment that the park paths are badly in need of repair. Chief Osborne shared that he completed a sidewalk survey last year and there are

significant number of homeowner sidewalks in poor condition. Mr. Oakes explained that not all of those properties would be eligible as only low-income homeowners would qualify for CDBG grant assistance. Mr. Myers shared his concern that the Borough has direct liability with poor walking paths in the park. Mr. Bigley and Mr. DiStasi asked if anyone had applied for sidewalk improvements. Mr. Oakes shared that they hadn't, but it had also not been advertised. Mr. Henry questioned if the homeowner could pay towards the cost of sidewalks. Mr. Oakes shared that they could, but the CDBG requirements inflate the cost of the project due to federal regulations and it may still be cost prohibitive for homeowners. Mr. Hodge shared that he likes the idea of doing the walking paths in the park and then just chipping away at a few sidewalks a year. Mr. Oakes highlighted that it would cost about fifty thousand to restore the existing paths. Mr. Jaillet shared that he would like to see a Borough Sidewalk Program started that charges a \$1 fee each month on utility bills to fund the program. Mr. Oakes explained that this program could be designed in any way the Borough saw fit because it did not include the use of CDBG funds. Mr. DiStasi asked if the work in the park would qualify and Mr. Oakes stated that it would because handicap accessibility improvements is a qualified use.

- **Mr. Jeff Hodge made a motion to reallocate up to \$50,000 of the 2021 CDBG Funds to improve the handicap accessibility of the walking paths in Memorial Park with the remaining funds being allocated to homeowner sidewalk improvements and housing rehabilitation. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Council Members briefly discussed the EMS Crisis and funding request made by Superior Ambulance.

NEWS MEDIA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- President Mattocks adjourned the Special Meeting at 6:58PM

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor G. Pokrant
Borough Secretary