

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 19, 2023 7:00PM**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Joel Bigley**

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)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	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 MATTER OF POTENTIAL LITIGATION

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Mr. Jonathan DiBenedetto, 707 Ridgeway Ave, was present and requested that ice skating be allowed on the Memorial Park Pond. Mr. DiBenedetto explained that he has been running an ice rink at his home and there has been a lot of community interest. Mr. DiBenedetto stated that he knows of other municipalities that allow ice skating and appreciates that there are insurance related issues, but is hopeful that they can be overcome. Mr. DiBenedetto also suggested that if the pond was too much of a liability that a portable rink could be installed. Mr. DiBenedetto shared that a petition had been circulated and he had received over two hundred signatures in favor of allowing ice skating. Councilwoman Mattocks shared that she remembers ice skating on the pond as a kid and that it used to be the place to be. Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough had looked at ice skating on the pond several years ago and the Borough's insurance carrier didn't want skating at the pond. Mr. Oakes further explained that the Borough's insurance carrier found a portable rink to be acceptable, but it previously died due to a lack of funding. Ms. Mattocks suggested that the issue be referred to the Parks and Recreation Committee for further discussion. Ms. Mattocks also shared that the basketball courts had originally been designed with a lip to allow installation of an ice rink in the 1960's, but one was never installed. The lip has since deteriorated and is no longer usable. Mr. DiBenedetto shared that he would be willing to help with the rink in any way that he could. Mayor Riddle commented that he would like to see an ice rink in Memorial Park. Ms. Mattocks thanked Mr. DiBenedetto for coming and stated that he would be invited to the Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting.
- Mr. Brian Hroncich, 901 Lincoln Ave, was present and shared his thoughts on the EMS issue. Mr. Hroncich explained that he had attended the EMS Meeting at Grove City High School and shared his sentiment that a solution to the crisis should be locally driven. Mr. Hroncich suggested that a line item be placed on utility bills to allow residents to donate to support EMS services. Mr. Hroncich explained that this would not cost any additional money to try and would be a good option as opposed to raising taxes. He shared that Cranberry Township has a community chest that they use

to fundraise in the same fashion and it has been successful, allowing them to pursue many recreational upgrades. He further explained that he learned of the EMS Crisis firsthand as his daughter is working in the field. Solicitor Bonner thanked Mr. Hroncich for coming and shared that the Borough is working on a solution to this issue. Solicitor Bonner explained that the Borough has been working since August through an EMS Task Force that was established to study this issue and work on possible solutions. He explained that the Borough is optimistic that an agreement will be reached to solve this issue directly with Superior Ambulance. Mr. Bigley thanked Mr. Hroncich for coming and stated that he remembers him coming several years ago to discuss the community chest idea.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

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

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

- Mr. Oakes requested that a payment to AMP Ohio be added to the report in the amount of \$418,004.05.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the 'Bills to be Paid' report with the AMP Ohio Payment. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 19,2022 AND SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 9, 2023

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from December 19, 2022 and Special Meeting on January 9, 2023. 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's New Years at Noon event had over 125 attendees and made the Allied News. Ms. Baker shared that the Library is holding their soup fundraiser on 2/17 from 10AM-2PM. Ms. Baker reported that the Library has numerous upcoming children and adult events including a comic event upcoming on 5/13/23 at the Masonic Hall.

CONSIDER RESOLUTION NO. 2023-2 LIBRARY BOARD APPOINTMENT

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2023-2 Library Board Appointment. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion. Ms. Amy Gallagher abstained from the vote as she is a library employee. The motion carried unanimously.**

AUTHORIZE THE ORDERING OF A SEWER CAMERA, TRAILER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-3 FNB PURCHASE AGREEMENT

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Sewer Camera had been included in the 2023 budget. Mr. Oakes detailed that the existing camera was over 15 years old and repairs were becoming costly with parts difficult to obtain. Mr. Oakes stated that in addition to ordering the camera that there was a resolution to approve a lease-purchase agreement with FNB bank to finance the cost. Councilman Myers asked if the camera was within budget. Mr. Oakes confirmed that it was.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to authorize the ordering of a sewer camera, trailer and related equipment and approve Resolution 2023-3. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PROMOTION OF OFFICER NATHANAEEL COOKE FROM PROBATIONARY FULL-TIME STATUS TO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STATUS

- Mr. Oakes reported that Officer Cooke has been a good addition to the force and that a recommendation letter had been included with Council's Board Packet from Chief Osborne. Chief Osborne concurred with this sentiment and shared that Officer Cooke has worked out very well.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to promote Officer Cooke. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Consider Grant Application Requesting Funds towards the Replacement/Installation of Detection Cameras at Five Intersections along Main Street to the PennDOT Green Light Go Grant Program

- Mr. Oakes reported that several months ago the Borough had applied for an ARLE Grant to upgrade school zone flashing signals and was unsuccessful. Mr. Oakes shared that Springfield Township had received ARLE funding. Mr. Oakes explained that the current grant request would be to replace cameras at five intersections along Main Street. Councilman Myers asked why the Borough had to replace these on a state highway. Mr. Oakes explained that once the traffic signals are installed, they are the Borough's to maintain.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Green Light Go Grant Application. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PENNDOT CUNNINGHAM MILL ACQUISITION REQUEST

- Mr. Oakes reported that PennDOT is planning to replace the East Main Street Bridge adjacent to Cunningham Mill Park. Mr. Oakes detailed that an acquisition request had been sent to the Borough with an offer for financial compensation for a permanent land acquisition and temporary construction easement due to the bridge work. Mr. Oakes also shared that attached in Council's Board Packet was a letter from DCNR that the Borough had received regarding Cunningham Mill Park and its ADA accessibility. Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough in 1981 received a DCNR grant for the park and the letter that was attached indicated that ADA accessibility regulations have changed and the Borough is responsible for updating its facilities if any construction activities occur at the park. Mr. Oakes stated that it is his opinion that the Borough send PennDOT a letter confirming that their work at the Park will address the accessibility issues identified by DCNR. Councilwoman Mattocks expressed her desire to have this letter drafted and table the acquisition request until PennDOT responds. Hearing no objection, the request was tabled.

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

- Mr. Goncz reported that the demolition of the Girl Scout Lodge had been completed and site preparation work had begun. Mr. Goncz reported that due to the new Treatment Plant and the construction that two disc golf tees had to be relocated. Mr. Goncz also expressed his thanks to Mr. Spiker for relocating several trees for the project.
 - Mr. Goncz reported that a payment request was on the agenda for Global Heavy Corporation for approval and Mr. Goncz recommended that it be approved. Mayor Riddle asked if Global Heavy Corporation was the company that demolished the Girl Scout Lodge and Mr. Goncz confirmed that they were.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Payment Request Number One from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$393,900.93. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz also reported that the Wasteload Management Report should be ready in February.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that individuals painted graffiti on the new well house at Memorial Park. The graffiti has been removed, but the siding is stained from its removal. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Goncz if this siding is the same as the siding that will be going on the Treatment Plant. Mr. Goncz confirmed that it was and that this would be replaced when the Water Treatment Plant is sided. Mr. Goncz also shared

that two other pieces of siding on another of the well houses was damaged by disc golf discs and would be replaced. Mr. Goncz stated that the tees were too close to the well houses and he believes that the damage was accidental and the tees as previously discussed had been moved, which should prevent further damage.

- Mr. Oakes shared that right before Christmas the All Good Things non-profit group had provided a donation to the Borough in the amount of six thousand dollars. Five Thousand of the donation is to go to an adaptative piece of playground equipment at Memorial Park and one thousand is for the damage that was done to the Memorial Park Baseball Fields. In addition to these donations, All Good Things provided a donation to the Police Department for equipment and gift cards for all of the officers individually. Mr. Oakes thanked All Good Things for their generosity.

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

- Ms. Riddle reported that the Global Scholars program at the High School is teaching children at the YMCA Daycare Spanish and French during their enrichment period.
- Ms. Riddle reported that the Winterfest Dance is scheduled for 2/11 and the theme will be Summer Days and Nights.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle reported that he did not conduct any fourth quarter weddings.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
 - EMS Discussions throughout the month
 - 1/3- Shine a Light Speaker Series, where Officer Alias spoke about a day in the life of a Grove City Police Officer
 - 1/9- Special Meeting to hire Brian Ray as a police officer
 - 1/18- COG Meeting, where Slippery Rock Borough was accepted into the COG
- Mayor Riddle reported that he plans to attend the Grove City Troop 76 Scouts meeting on 2/16 to discuss local government.
- Mayor Riddle reported Brian Ray has completed his testing and all paperwork has been submitted to MPOETC for certification. Mr. Ray is expected to start on 2/6. Mayor Riddle shared that he and Chief Osborne expect to have him come to the February Council Meeting.
- Mayor Riddle detailed that the DARE Program has started and will finish in March. He further reported that the Police Department is catching up on training that was deferred last year.

OTHER BUSINESS

- None

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 8:02pm.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary