

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 20, 2023 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:15 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. William Zimmerman**

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	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	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. John Casteel, 408 N Center Street, expressed his sentiment that the Borough should look within the Police Department for their next Chief of Police. Mr. Casteel mentioned that he has worked with Officer Steese in Boy Scouts and recommends that he be considered. Mr. Casteel further mentioned that he has worked with Officer Alias as well and believes that he should be considered.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

- **Mr. Shawn Myers 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. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the 'Bills to be Paid' report. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 19, 2023

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from January 19, 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 Soup Fundraiser was a success with over \$1,400 raised for the Library. Ms. Baker reported that the next

Soup Fundraiser will be in November. Ms. Baker reported that the Library's adult events have been well-attended and there are numerous children's events upcoming including American Girl tea and lunch with the Easter Bunny.

- ACCEPT THE RETIREMENT OF DEAN OSBORNE AS CHIEF OF POLICE WITH AN EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2/24/23**
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to accept Chief Osborne's retirement. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO BEGIN THE HIRING PROCESS FOR CHIEF OF POLICE

- Mr. Oakes explained that based upon discussion within Council's Executive Session prior to the meeting that it seemed more time and discussion was needed to decide what the hiring process would look like. Solicitor Bonner noted that the Borough Manager should not need specific authorization to begin the process and no motion of the Borough Council is necessary.

CONSIDER APPOINTING AN INTERIM CHIEF OF POLICE

- Mr. Oakes thanked all officers for their service to the department and their assistance during this transition.
- **Ms. Mary K. Mattocks moved to appoint Corporal Chris Taggart as the Interim Chief of Police contingent upon agreement with the Teamsters' Union with his appointment being on an employment at will basis. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

INTRODUCTION OF OFFICER BRIAN RAY

- Mayor Riddle introduced Officer Brian Ray to Council as he started with the Police Department earlier in February. Mayor Riddle detailed Brian's past experience in the private sector as an investigator. Mr. Ray thanked Council for the opportunity. Mayor Riddle recognized other officers in attendance, thanking them for their service.

PSU SHENANGO PRESENTATION

- Mr. Frank Gargiulo was present from PSU Shenango and provided Council with information regarding PSU Shenango and its academic and athletic offerings. Mayor Riddle thanked Mr. Gargiulo and shared that he was an alum of PSU Shenango.

DISCUSS ZONING ORDINANCE HEIGHT CHANGE FOR MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS IN THE RESIDENTIAL LIMITED COMMERCIAL ZONING DISTRICT

- Mr. Oakes reported to Borough Council that on 2/8/2023, Mr. Evan Lowe had been before the Zoning Hearing Board requesting a variance for the construction of a 50ft. tall apartment building on the corner of North Street and N. Broad Street. Mr. Lowe was requesting 15ft of relief from the existing 35ft. maximum height limit in the zoning district. The Zoning Hearing Board rejected Mr. Lowe and Mr. Oakes asked Council to consider modifying the ordinance to accommodate the project. Mr. Oakes then asked Mr. Lowe to provide some additional detail on the project. Mr. Lowe explained that he is looking to construct a senior-friendly living apartment building and would like to include an elevator and covered parking. Mr. Lowe provided architect renderings showing the proposed building in relation to existing buildings and stated that the height would not be obstructive due to topography of the land.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant, who also serves as the Borough Zoning Officer, to provide information regarding alternatives that the Borough could explore to accommodate the project. Mr. Pokrant shared that the height requirement in the RLC District for multi-family housing could be changed to 50ft or alternatively the Zoning District map could be changed to rezone the property as there is an adjacent commercial district that allows construction up to 45ft.

- Ms. Mattocks suggested that the matter be referred to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion.

CONSIDER GRATEFUL GALLOP 5K TO BE HELD ON 11/23/23 FROM 9:00AM-10:15AM ON IDENTIFIED BOROUGH STREETS (WITH CLOSURES)

- Mr. Brandon Wise, Wolf Creek Race Management, was present and discussed his proposed 5K. Mr. Wise detailed that the proposed 5K would include numerous street closures including closures on state highways. Mr. Wise explained that he wants the event to be more visible in the community. Councilwoman Mattocks asked why the race couldn't be in the park as it wouldn't require street closures on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Oakes explained that the identified closures would require significant staff presence on a holiday. Councilwoman Mattocks shared that she felt that it would be better to hold the event in the park.
- **Ms. Mary K. Mattocks asked if there was a motion for approval of Grateful Gallop as proposed, hearing none the motion failed.**

CONSIDER GROVE CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 2023 TRADE SHOW AND WELLNESS EXPO TO BE HELD ON 9/30/23 FROM 10AM-2PM AT MEMORIAL PARK

- Mr. Oakes explained that the event would be the same as last year, just without the 5K race.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce Trade Show. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-4 TCC VOTING DELEGATE APPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes explained that this was for the Mercer County Tax Collection Committee and that Mr. Oakes would serve as the voting delegate and Mr. Pokrant would serve as the alternate.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2023-4. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PENNDOT CUNNINGHAM MILL REQUEST

- Mr. Oakes reported that this item was on the agenda last month and since last month Mr. Oakes had spoken with PennDOT and requested a letter from DCNR be produced prior to the Borough providing the requested Right of Way areas for bridge construction. Mr. Oakes reminded Council that DCNR had sent a letter to the Borough that if Cunningham Mill Park was renovated that it would have to be brought up to current ADA standards since the original project was grant funded. Mr. Oakes explained that he spoke with Solicitor Bonner regarding this and Solicitor Bonner recommended that the Borough approve the Right of Way Acquisitions contingent upon receipt of a letter from DCNR that the work will not trigger ADA upgrades elsewhere in Cunningham Mill Park.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve PennDOT's Cunningham Mill Acquisitions contingent upon receipt of a letter from DCNR that PennDOT's work will not trigger other ADA upgrades. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: SPRING'S END OPEN TO BE HELD AT HUNTER FARM PARK ON 7/15-7/16/23 FROM 8AM-5PM

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Spring's End Open. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: PROMISE OF LIFE NETWORK WALK FOR LIFE TO BE HELD AT MEMORIAL PARK ON 5/20/23 FROM 8:30AM-1:00PM

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Walk for Life. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-05 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION SEEKING FUNDING THROUGH THE US DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS (GRIP) PROGRAM

- Mr. Oakes reported that AMP Ohio would be applying for this grant with several municipalities being a party to the application. The grant will have a 50% local match requirement and is for the installation of smart meters and devices. The meters/devices will allow for advanced monitoring on grid equipment and provide alerts for power outages. Mr. Oakes shared his sentiment that he was hopeful that AMP's multi-municipal approach will be looked upon favorably.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Resolution 2023-5. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-06 AUTHORIZING THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO EXECUTE A TRAFFIC SIGNAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

- Mr. Oakes reported that this was a part of the Green Light Go Application that the Borough had submitted and is a requirement to be eligible for funding. The Traffic Signal Maintenance Agreement requires that the Borough maintain its traffic signal infrastructure as required by PennDOT.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2023-6. Mr. Shawn Morely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

AUTHORIZE THE SOLICITATION OF BIDS FOR A 2008 GMC DUMP TRUCK (UNIT 19)

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the replacement for Unit 19 had been ordered in early 2022 and just now arrived. Mr. Oakes explained that now that the new truck was in service and recommended that Council put the used truck up for sale.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to authorize the solicitation of bids for Unit 19. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

REPORT FROM THE INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

- Mr. Oakes shared with Council that the 2023 Proposed Paving List had been completed and the focus was on streets where the underground infrastructure was newer and did not need to be replaced. Mr. Oakes detailed that due to funding constraints only two streets were proposed to be paved, but the streets were relatively long. Mr. Oakes shared that the calculations for paving were based upon a ten percent cost increase above last year and that the Borough Public Works Department would be milling and hot patching other sections of streets that were in need of repair. Mr. Bigley stated that he knew alleys were always a concern, but the funding was limited. Mr. Oakes shared that the Borough would be patching alleys.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the 2023 Paving List and authorize the solicitation of bids. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

- Mr. Goncz reported that construction is underway for the new water treatment plant and that a safety fence has been installed around the construction site. Mr. Goncz reported that the next job meeting will be 3/2/2023 and that he will monitor the site as events come up in Memorial Park. Mr. Goncz explained that he recommended the approval of all construction related payment requests.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve a payment request from Gannet Fleming for construction supervision activities, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$417,097.17, from McCurley Houston-Electric in the amount of \$38,663.23 and from Renick Brothers in the amount of \$29,745.00. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz reported that he has been in communication with DCED regarding the Borough's H2O Grant application and provided them with additional documentation. He further detailed that the

grant request had to be reduced to 5.4 million due to certain ineligible items. He also reported that he still has not heard back from DCED regarding the Borough's LSA Grant Application.

- Mr. Goncz reported that he met with operations staff regarding a number of issues at the Sewage Treatment Plant and highlighted that several capital improvement projects would need to be completed and that he would have more information in the coming months.
- Mr. Goncz presented the waste flows for 2022 to Council for all municipalities that are connected to the sewer system, noting that Grove City made up a little over 60 percent of the overall flow.
- Mr. Goncz reported that he contacted the Borough's Hydrologist regarding possible impacts from the East Palestine Train Derailment and shared that the Hydrologist did not have any concerns regarding the Borough's water supply. The Hydrologist cited the fact that the aquifers flow in the opposite direction and that the Borough has a deep well system that allows natural filtration of water. Solicitor Bonner stated that this was the same opinion that the Hydrologist had regarding possible contamination from Tri-County and Mr. Goncz confirmed that was the case. Mr. Oakes shared that he spoke with Solicitor Bonner and that Solicitor Bonner shared that the EPA would be taking the lead on any environmental concerns.

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

- Mr. Oakes welcomed Mercer County Commissioner Candidates Trey Wilt, Jim McClusky and Tim McGonigle. The candidates were given an opportunity to address council and the public.
- Mr. Oakes shared that he is aware a Parks and Recreation Meeting is needed to discuss ice skating and that since that request he has received lease renewal requests that also need to be considered. A Parks and Rec Committee will be scheduled.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he received a letter from Jack Cline requesting that a portion of Evergreen Alley be annulled. Mr. Oakes stated that the alley is used and that he recommended it not be annulled. Mr. Bigley shared his concurrence with this statement. Mr. Oakes stated that he would write a letter to Mr. Cline and would also address the allowable uses for the property as Mr. Cline had referenced an apartment building which is not a permitted use in that area.
- Mr. Oakes reminded Council that the Chamber of Commerce Dinner was upcoming and asked that they let him know if they would like to attend.
- Mr. Oakes shared that he will be meeting with Marion Township regarding their sewer connection within the next few weeks and hoped to have the process completed within the next month or two.
- Mr. Oakes shared a letter with Council from Marion Township regarding supplementary EMS Coverage. Solicitor Bonner asked if Mr. Doug Dick, Superior Ambulance Service, had seen the letter. Mr. Oakes stated that he did not share it with him. Solicitor Bonner shared that he is working with Mr. Dick on the EMS Services agreement and that he is still working on a number of positions that Mr. Dick has requested a change to.

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

- Mr. Messer shared that winter sports were wrapping up and that playoffs were beginning for winter sports.
- Mr. Messer provided an updated regarding the walkway project from Memorial Park to the High School, stating that the School was working on soliciting contractor estimates.
- Mr. Messer shared that the sidewalk shoveling project had not worked out, but that he was working on a spring project alternative.
- Mr. Messer shared that the Winterfest Dance was held last weekend and that attendance was high as it was the first time it was held at the school in over 3 years.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mac Messer

- Mayor Riddle shared that he and Councilwoman Mattocks would be speaking as a part of the Shine the Light Speaker Series in August.

- Mayor Riddle asked about the HHW/E-Waste Program information that was to be included in Borough Utility Bills. Mr. Oakes stated that it was going out this month and that Mayor Riddle should be receiving it soon.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
 - 2/8- Swearing in of Officer Brian Ray
 - 2/8- Meeting with Chief Osborne regarding manpower issues
- Mayor Riddle reported that he plans to attend the campus community awards at Grove City College tomorrow evening, a meeting with Troop 76 to discuss local government on Thursday and an Executive Committee Meeting Call with the Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania on 3/21.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Joel Bigley reminded Council Members that an Infrastructure Committee Meeting is scheduled for the 27th at 6PM where the Borough' consultant will present the Ward 4 Stormwater Project and encouraged residents attendance.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the PSAB Conference was coming up in June and encouraged Council Members to attend. Mr. Oakes shared that it was his and Councilwoman Mattocks's pleasure to nominate Mayor Riddle for the position of second vice-president for PSAB. The election for second-vp will occur at the annual conference.

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 8:56PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary