

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
April 17, 2023**

**Public Hearing – 6:00PM**

**CALL TO ORDER by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 6:00PM**

**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	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)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X(by phone)	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	Absent	Riddle, Emmy(Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		

**Hearing of Zoning Ordinance Text Amendment 1490**

- Ms. Mattocks asked Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Borough Secretary/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer to introduce the ordinance amendment. Mr. Pokrant was sworn in and read the public notice for the hearing into the record. Mr. Pokrant highlighted that the two modifications were to allow multiple family dwellings up to a height of 50 feet in the Residential Limited Commercial District and move multiple family dwellings/accessory apartments in the R-2 Residential District from permitted uses to conditional uses.
- Ms. Mattocks asked if there were any public comments. None were heard.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the hearing was adjourned at 6:10PM.

**REGULAR MEETING - 7:00PM**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mayor Randy Riddle**

**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)
X	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Boro Sec.)
X	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X(by phone)	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Messer, Mac (Jr. Council)		

**ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD ON 4/12/23 TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER**

- Ms. Mattocks announced that an executive session was held.

**REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- Ms. Sandy Fischer, 541 Lincoln Ave, introduced Mike Fennell, Candidate for Mercer County Commissioner. Mr. Fennell spoke on his qualifications to be County Commissioner and his plans if elected. Ms. Fischer also spoke for her support for Mr. Tim Callahan, Candidate for Mercer County Sheriff.

**CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA**

- None

**APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT**

- Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the 'Bills Paid' report. Mr. Scott Jaillet 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. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 20, 2023 AND POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 29, 2023**

- Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 20, 2023 and Police and Fire Committee Meeting on March 29, 2023. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT**

- Ms. Heather Baker highlighted that there were a number of fundraisers upcoming, including a fandom fest at the Masonic Hall. Ms. Baker turned over the report to Ms. Amy Gallagher. Ms. Gallagher noted that a letter had been distributed requesting help for the Grove City Library. Ms. Gallagher explained that donations make up about 60% of their income and donations have been down significantly. Ms. Gallagher explained that the library served over 15,000 people last year. She detailed that the Library is more than just books, but provides valuable services such as job search assistance. Ms. Baker explained that the Library offered over 325 children's programs last year and didn't charge for a single one of them. Ms. Mattocks recalled when the Library was started in 1958 and thanked Ms. Baker and Ms. Gallagher for their support of the Library.

**PRESENTATION BY GLEN SANDERS ON GJR ART EXHIBITION**

- Mr. Glen Sanders, George Junior Republic, stated that the last time that he was here that he was discussing the NEA Our Town Grant. Since last being before Council, George Junior has hired a new development director who decided not to wait for grant funding and proceed with establishing a community art center. As a part of this center, George Junior will be hosting an art show from June 1- June 30 with the theme being water. Mr. Sanders explained that he wants to help connect government and art, choosing water to highlight the new water treatment plant that is being built. Mr. Sanders further detailed that the month-long display will be highlighted by an awards show on June 10<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Sanders if the sculptures downtown need maintenance and would be a good project for the United Way. Mr. Sanders informed Mr. Riddle that GCRI is taking care of that.

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE City Community Library Craft Show to be held at Memorial Park on 8/12/23 from 10AM-3PM**

- Ms. Baker explained that she had been contacted by an individual who wanted to organize this show to help raise money for the Library. The event would be in the parking lot adjacent to the swimming pool.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Grove City Library Craft Show. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1490 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT**

- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to explain this amendment. Mr. Pokrant explained that the two modifications were to allow multiple family dwellings up to a height of 50 feet in the Residential Limited Commercial District and move multiple family dwellings/accessory apartments in the R-2 Residential District from permitted uses to conditional uses.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to adopt Ordinance 1490. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-08 UNCLAIMED PROPERTY DONATION**

- Mr. Oakes reported that this donation was for four bikes that had not been claimed.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve Resolution 2023-08. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COLLEGE FIREWORKS TO BE HELD ON 9/23/23**

- Mr. Oakes detailed that these would take place after the home football game.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve GCC Fireworks. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER 2023 STREET PAVING BIDS**

- Mr. Oakes reported that Shields Paving was the low-bidder for the job and that Mr. Oakes recommended that Council approve the bids with the optional work included. Mayor Riddle asked if State Street was on the paving list. Mr. Oakes stated that it was not because although the sewer work was completed that the Borough is also planning on installing a new water line. Mr. Oakes explained that the trenches will be repaired with hot asphalt once the water line work is completed. Mr. Bigley mentioned that he spoke with Mr. Barry Spiker and that alleys will be patched. Mr. Jaillet asked if Elm Street will be patched. Mr. Oakes confirmed that it would. Ms. Gallagher asked if the gas company will be done with the work on Tidball in time for paving. Mr. Oakes confirmed that the Borough has been in touch with them and they will be.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Paving Bids including the optional work, awarding the contract to Shields Paving. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER 2023 ADA RAMP IMPROVEMENT BIDS**

- Mr. Oakes reported that the ADA Ramp Improvement project had been included as a 2020 CDBG Project. The low bidder for the project is Avelli Construction with a low bid of \$68,900. Mr. Oakes explained that the bid amount came in over the budget for the remaining 2020 CDBG funds, but Mr. Oakes has been in touch with the Borough Engineer, who feels that rebidding it would not yield vastly different results. Mr. Oakes recommended that the bids be approved contingent upon DCED approving the transfer of funds from the 2021 CDBG allocation to cover the shortfall.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the ADA Ramp Improvement Bids, awarding the contract to Avelli Construction, contingent upon DCED approval of the use of 2021 CDBG Funds to cover the project shortfall. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER 2023 GROVE CITY AIRPORT CONTRACT NO. 15 RESEAL RUNWAY BIDS**

- Mr. Oakes explained that Hi-Lite Airfield Services is the low-bidder for the project and recommended that Council approve the base work and alternate work. Mr. Oakes reported that the cost for this project is being covered by a PennDOT aviation grant.

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Grove City Airport Contract No. 15 Bids including the alternate work, awarding the contract to Hi-Lite Airfield Services. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER PENNDOT REQUEST FOR DEED OF EASEMENT FOR WALING TRAIL CONSTRUCTION AT GROVE CITY AIRPORT**

- Mr. Oakes reported that Springfield Township had previously submitted this request, but PennDOT has taken over the process on their behalf. Mr. Oakes explained that PennDOT has submitted an offer of \$4,200 for this easement. Mr. Oakes stated that PennDOT has not provided revised documents for this and recommended that Council approve this contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's review.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Deed of Easement Request contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **CONSIDER GROVE CITY MIDGET FOOTBALL LEASE RENEWAL**

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the lease was the same as last year, just with the dates updated. Mr. Oakes also reported that he provided a cost estimate to the other youth football group, the Grove City Little Eagles, regarding the cost to install water service at their field. Mr. Oakes stated that they have a board meeting coming up and will get back to the Borough.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Lease. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **REPORT FROM THE POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE**

- Mr. Oakes stated that following up from the Police and Fire Committee Meeting that he has received a draft copy of the Fire Department Vehicle Use Policy, but has not had a chance to review it since he just received it shortly before the meeting.
- Mr. Jeff Hodge provided Council with a report from the Police and Fire Committee Meeting. Mr. Hodge explained that the Fire Department had purchased a vehicle for use by the Fire Chief and this had prompted a discussion regarding insurance and maintenance costs. The Fire Department also has a vehicle that is being used by the Assistant Chief. Mr. Hodge explained that it was decided at the Committee Meeting that the two trucks could be used by the Chief and Assistant Chief and for other Fire Department use, but a policy would need to be established. Mr. Oakes stated that is the policy that he had referenced. Mr. Oakes also added that at the Committee Meeting that the Borough had committed to covering the cost of gas and maintenance for two trucks.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve payment to the Grove City Fire Department for Insurance Costs related to Fire Department owned vehicles and providing gasoline and maintenance services for the vehicles contingent upon Borough Manager approval of the Vehicle Use Policy. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously with Mr. Jeff Hodge abstaining due membership in the Grove City Fire Department.**

#### **CONSIDER TREE REMOVAL AT OLD PRESBYTERIAN CEMETERY**

- Mr. Oakes reported that during the April 1<sup>st</sup> storm that a tree fell from the Old Presbyterian Cemetery and caused power disruption for a large section of the Borough. Mr. Oakes stated that there is a large tree next to the one that came down that needs to be removed and a large oak tree that also needs to be removed as well as debris from the tree that feel that needs to be removed. Mr. Oakes reminded Council that Tower Church had come to Council and requested assistance for maintaining the cemetery about a year ago and at that time a deed could not be located for the property. Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough had obtained quotes to complete the cemetery work and the total cost is about seven thousand dollars. Mr. Jaillet asked how much equipment damage was done by the tree that fell. Mr. Oakes stated that it had not been determined yet, but much more than seven thousand dollars. Mr. Oakes also detailed that the cemetery may be in Pine Township depending on what map is examined. Ms. Mattocks stated that it is a shame that

the owner is undetermined as the founders of Grove City are buried there. Mayor Riddle expressed his sentiment that the owners need to be determined before the Borough pays for tree work to be done there. Mayor Riddle asked if Public Works could clean up that tree that has fallen. Mr. Oakes stated that they could not because a crane would be required. Mr. Bigley expressed his desire to table this until the owners could be determined. Mr. Oakes asked Solicitor Bonner if he had some advice on how to track down the owners. Solicitor Bonner stated that even if a deed is tracked down that Tower Church may own the property by adverse possession. Solicitor Bonner questioned what the Borough would do if the Church did own it and if knowing the ownership would change their decision. Ms. Mattocks suggested that it be tabled until ownership information could be determined.

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: SATURDAY SCIENCE CLASS OF 1973 TO BE HELD ON 9/30/23 FROM 11AM-5PM AT MEMORIAL PARK**

- Mayor Riddle shared that he attended this event last year and encouraged others to attend this year.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the Saturday Science Class of 1973 Event. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: STRAWBERRY DAYS 5K TO BE HELD AT HUNTER FARM PARK ON 6/21/23**

- Mr. Oakes explained that this event would be the same as last year with no street closures and insurance still needed to be provided.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Strawberry Days 5K contingent upon receipt of insurance. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

**AUTHORIZE THE ORDERING OF A BACKHOE LOADER IN THE AMOUNT OF \$152,800**

**CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-09 FNB LEASE PURCHASE AGREEMENT**

- Mr. Oakes reported that the backhoe had been included in the 2023 Budget and Resolution 2023-09 including financing for the backhoe and the sewer camera that had previously been approved.
- **Ms. Amy Gallagher moved to approve the ordering of a backhoe loader and Resolution 2023-09. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

**AUTHORIZE THE BOROUGH MANAGER TO HIRE DAVID WOGLOM AS A PART-TIME EMPLOYEE TO ASSIST WITH THE RECRUITMENT OF A NEW POLICE CHIEF**

- Mr. Oakes reported that Council had asked for a comparison to other consultants and that the Chiefs of Police Association and the Meyner Center had provided proposals. Mr. Oakes stated that he felt that Mr. Woglom had the most complete proposal and services provided. Ms. Gallagher asked if he would serve as a part-time employee. Mr. Oakes confirmed that would be the case with a cap on the number of hours that he would work.
- Mr. Bigley asked Mr. Oakes to explain how Mr. Woglom would facilitate the process, but the decision-making would left up to Council. Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Woglom would meet with Council first to create the job description, set the salary range and benefits, and set the advertising procedures. After the advertisement period ended, Mr. Woglom would review the candidates and assist with deciding who to interview, with Council deciding how internal candidates would be treated throughout the process. Mr. Woglom would then facilitate a first-round set of interviews before a panel of Police Chiefs. Following these interviews, he would meet with Council to discuss who would be interviewed in the second round. The second round of interviews would be completed with his help and once a candidate is selected, he will assist with negotiations and the background investigation. Mr. Bigley confirmed that Council makes all final decisions. Mr. Oakes confirmed that would be the case.
- Mr. Bigley asked when Council would discuss the procedure for internal candidates. Mr. Oakes confirmed that this would be discussed at the first meeting.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to authorize the Borough Manger to hire David Woglom. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously**

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

- Mr. Goncz reported that due to favorable weather this winter that the Water Treatment Plant Project is about 1-2 weeks ahead of schedule. He detailed that concrete is being poured at the clear wells and that water lines are being installed for wells 8 and 9. Mr. Goncz stated that traffic is being rerouted due to the water line work. Mr. Goncz recommended that payment requests as submitted be approved.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Gannett Fleming's payment requests in the amount of \$22,802.50 and \$21,735.00, payment request by Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$242,461.80, payment request by Renick Brothers in the amount of \$40,275.00 and payment request by McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$3,481.08. Ms. Amy Gallagher seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes expressed his appreciation to all Borough Employees who assisted with storm response on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Oakes also expressed his thanks to Thomas Construction for assisting the Borough after the storm with swamp matting to access a pole that was in a swamp surrounded by water.
- Mr. Oakes reported that on April 11<sup>th</sup> a request had been sent to the CFA requesting that the \$150,000 LSA Grant Award be reallocated to water line replacements related to the Water Treatment Plant Project. The CFA Board is expected to meet in May or June to review this request. Mr. Oakes reminded Council that this change was due to the fact that the Borough could not hold bids for Water Treatment Plant any longer due to the delays in the grant decision.
- Mr. Oakes shared with Council a copy of a letter received from Tri-County that notified Grove City Aviation of commencement of construction of the landfill. Mr. Oakes also shared with Council a copy of a letter from the Liberty Township Solicitor contesting that construction could not begin until a building and zoning permit were obtained. Solicitor Bonner shared that the appeal hearing had started regarding the landfill and was expected to take the entire month of April.
- Mr. Oakes shared with Council a thank you note from Denny Barger regarding the services and condition of the Borough. Ms. Mattocks read the letter to Council and those in attendance.

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

- Mr. Messer shared that the performance of Shrek at the High School had been a success and the performance of a Mid-Summer's Night Dream at the Grove City Christian Academy had also been a success.
- Mr. Messer shared that the Interact Club from the High School would be participating in the United Way Day of Caring. The Club will also be selling food at Strawberry Days to fundraise and sending students to the Rotary Youth Leadership Program.
- Mr. Messer reported that prom is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Ms. Riddle reported that the Trigonometry Club is planting a tree in Memorial Park to offset the amount of paper that is used. The Club had involved the Multi-Media Class at the High School in creating water bottles to sell to help fund the cost of the tree. These water bottles will be sold at the High School by the Special Needs Class that operates the school store.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Mr. Messer had been selected for a scholarship through AMP Ohio and Mr. Messer shared that they would be at the May Meeting to present him with it.

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

- Mayor Riddle reported that Grove City High School Student Caleb Kulp is the recipient of the Minuteman Scholarship in the amount of \$40,000 from the Pennsylvania National Guard. Mayor Riddle wrote a letter of support on behalf of Mr. Kulp and wanted to express his congratulations.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the first hearing for a Hall Industries trespasser had been held last month and asked Interim Chief Taggart to report on this. Chief Taggart explained that the industrial site is an

attractive location for potential trespassers, but the Police Department was able to catch this person with the assistance of the Slippery Borough Police and their Facebook page.

- Mayor Riddle detailed that he did not perform any weddings during the first quarter of 2023
- Mayor Riddle recognized Officer Jason Bennett and shared with Council a report of Officer Bennett's actions to assist a suicidal person.
- Mayor Riddle recognized and expressed his gratitude to Hall Industries for donating \$10,000 to pay for the dock repairs at Memorial Park.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the new sign for Grove City High School Softball has been installed.
- Mayor Riddle shared that he attended the following events over the last month:
  - 3/21- Chamber of Commerce Dinner and the Association of Mayors of the Boroughs of Pennsylvania conference call
  - 3/30- Records Management Software Demonstration at the Police Department and threw out the first pitch at the Grove City High School Boys Baseball game
  - 4/4- Proclamation presented at the United Way Luncheon for Service Award Recipients, with Ms. Mattocks presenting it on his behalf
- Mayor Riddle shared he has the following events upcoming:
  - 4/22- Throwing out the first pitch for Grove City Little League
  - 4/27- Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner
  - 4/30- Grove City High School Wrestling Banquet
- Mayor Riddle shared that the Police Department has started a Facebook page and are finding investigative value in it.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Scott Jaillet expressed his thanks to Mr. Oakes and all Borough Employees for their efforts on April 1<sup>st</sup> to respond to the storm and subsequent electrical outage.
- Officer Bennett expressed his thanks for being recognized and asked that Officer Brian Ray also be recognized as he assisted him with the suicidal person.

#### **NEWS MEDIA**

- Council was available to answer questions from the News Media.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant  
Borough Secretary/Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer