

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 15, 2023 7:00PM**

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Shawn Morley**

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)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Gallagher, Amy	X	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

- None

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

AMP Ohio Scholarship Presentation

- Mr. Jay Myers presented Junior Councilman Mac Messer with a \$3,000 scholarship on behalf of AMP Ohio. Mr. Myers detailed Mr. Messer’s application and many of the extracurricular activities that he is involved in.

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. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 17, 2023

- Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes from April 17, 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 has raised over thirty thousand dollars since their fundraising campaign to keep the doors open started a little over a month ago. Ms. Baker detailed numerous fundraisers upcoming. Ms. Baker explained that the current programs planned for the library will continue on and will not cost participants or the Library due to generous sponsorships by businesses and community members. Ms. Baker highlighted that she has met with Representative Bonner and Senator Brooks regarding possible state grants that may be available to the Library. Ms. Baker also highlighted that the Library's Fandom Fest was a success this past weekend with about a thousand people attending. Ms. Baker thanked everyone for their support of the Library.

CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE RULE CHANGES

- Mr. Pokrant explained that the Civil Service Rule Changes were primarily based upon the recommendation of former Chief Osborne due to a change in MOPTEC physical fitness standards and a few comments from the Borough's Labor Counsel regarding certain language changes to the rules. Mr. Pokrant explained that it will be important to have these new rules adopted prior to starting the hiring process for a new police officer.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to adopt the Civil Service Rules. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COLLEGE HOMECOMING PARADE TO BE HELD ON 9/30/23

- Mayor Riddle shared that it was the same route as in previous years and Interim Chief Taggart shared that he did not foresee any issues with the parade.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the Grove City College Homecoming Parade. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER DIRECTING THE BOROUGH CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING THE ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR HIRING A NEW POLICE OFFICER

- Mr. Oakes reported that no action had been taken since Officer Krumpak left the department and this would allow the Civil Service Commission to begin the process.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve directing the Civil Service Commission to begin the hiring process. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: RELAY FOR LIFE TO BE HELD IN MEMORIAL PARK ON 7/27/2024

- Mr. Oakes shared that the event would be the same as in previous years.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the 2024 Relay for Life. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY VFW CAR SHOW ON 6/25/23

- Mr. Oakes reported that the request for this event was to block the alley adjacent to the VFW's parking lot. Mayor Riddle questioned if they would have adequate parking for this event. Ms. Mattocks suggested that the Council approve the event and suggest that the VFW work out the parking logistics.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the VFW Car Show. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Discuss Old Presbyterian Cemetery Trees

- Mr. Oakes reported that he has attached information in the board packet regarding the history that he could find regarding the Old Presbyterian Cemetery that had been discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Oakes explained that the earliest graves in the cemetery are from the early 1800's. Mr. Oakes also detailed that the first church in the area was Center Presbyterian Church which dates to the 1790's, with Tower Presbyterian Church splitting and creating their own church in 1842. It is likely that the cemetery was started by one of these churches and it boils down to the

fact that Tower Church has been maintaining it. Mr. Oakes suggested that the Borough take down the oak tree that is in the Borough Right of Way and then send a letter to Tower Church regarding the fallen tree and the other tree that poses a danger to the electrical infrastructure. Mr. Bigley expressed his support for this approach. Mr. Oakes stated that he would work on these items and the oak tree removal would be handled with the Borough's tree removal money already budgeted.

CONSIDER SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AT 2058 LEESBURG-GROVE CITY ROAD, MERCER, PA 16137 OWNED BY TIMOTHY MATHEWS

- Mr. Goncz confirmed that there was capacity for this request.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the sanitary sewer service extension request. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEERS REPORT, presented by Daniel Goncz

- Mr. Goncz reported that construction of the water treatment plant is on schedule. The water lines between the plant and the wells have been completed and the street will be paved later this year after the stone has compacted. Mr. Goncz recommend the payment of all construction payment requests.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management activities in the amount of \$22,080.00 and \$9,772.50 respectively, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$400,851.00, from McCurley Houston-Electric in the amount of \$18,372.94 and from Renick Brothers in the amount of \$50,687.10. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
 - Mr. Goncz reported that he expects that the funds from the 2022 Bond Issue will be needed around November and will review this with Mr. Oakes.
 - Ms. Mattocks asked when the project was expected to be completed. Mr. Goncz answered that it should be completed in June or July of 2024 and then there will be 1-3 months of water testing and wasting until it is online.

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

- Mr. Oakes thanked Mr. Goncz for providing renderings of the water treatment plant for the GJR Art Show and asked if he could also provide some narrative descriptions. Mr. Goncz confirmed that he would.
- Mr. Oakes expressed his gratitude to George Junior for assistance in planting 13 trees, the American Legion for donating 44 American flags for downtown and the VFW for donating a POW flag for Memorial Park.
- Mr. Oakes reported that hydrant flushing would begin the week of 5/21.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Gordon McClearn retired on 5/10 and at this time there are no plans to replace his position as meter reader. Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Jeff Badger also plans to retire at the end of the year and a lineman may be hired later in the year.
- Mr. Oakes reported that a Police and Fire Committee Meeting has been scheduled for 5/31 at 6PM. This meeting will be to discuss the Live-in Program with Grove City College and Mr. Oakes and Mr. Pokrant would like to discuss changes to the Borough's Buring Ordinance.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to provide an updated on the GetGo gas station and car wash development. Mr. Pokrant detailed that the project has received preliminary approval from Planning Commission contingent upon GetGo addressing comments by the Borough Engineer, a traffic study and the evaluation of an access point off Breckenridge Street to alleviate possible traffic issues during shift change at Wabtec.
- Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Oakes why his name was on a letter that was attached to the board packet detailing a response to Solicitor Ray Bogaty for Liberty Township. Mr. Oakes explained that he shared the letter to keep Council informed and stated that the original letter from Solicitor Bogaty on behalf

of Liberty Township written to Tri County had included Mr. Riddle. Mr. Oakes assumed this was why the Mayor was copied on the response addressed to Liberty Township.

- Mayor Riddle questioned if the GCYSA had raised enough funds for their concession stand/restroom project. Mr. Oakes stated that he was unsure.

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

- Ms. Riddle shared that the Trigonometry Club had planted a tree in Memorial Park last Thursday near the Highland Shelter. Ms. Riddle detailed that water bottles had been used to fundraise the purchase of the tree. She shared that there were between 40-50 attendees at the event with the Consumer Science Class providing refreshments. Ms. Riddle also reported that the Allied News was present at the event.
- Mr. Messer shared that this would be his last Council meeting as he would be graduating next month and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as a junior councilperson.

MAYORS REPORT presented by Mayor Randy Riddle

- Mayor Riddle reported that former mayor and councilman Bruce Bennett had passed away last week and asked that a moment of silence be observed in his honor.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
 - 4/25- PSAB Conference Call
 - 4/27- Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner
 - 4/30- Presented Proclamations to three Grove City High School Wrestlers
- Mayor Riddle reported that he was unable to attend a conference call on 5/12 regarding a new records management software for the police department and asked how it went. Mr. Oakes shared that he felt that it went well and that he was impressed with the software. Interim Chief Taggart shared that the software provider, CODY, is a Pennsylvania based company and significantly less expensive than the Motorola software that was previously demoed. Interim Chief Taggart expressed that the software is very modern and user-friendly. He further detailed that the estimated roll-out is one year and that over 100 departments that are using the Police Department's current software have switched to this provider. Mr. DiStasi, who was present for the conference call as well, shared that the Borough is waiting to hear back on a proposal for a five-year contract instead of the three that had been originally proposed. Mr. DiStasi stated that he expected that they would have something for Council's approval next month. Mr. Oakes shared that the deposit for the software would fit within the money that was allocated for body cameras as this was a priority. Solicitor Bonner suggested that the Borough contact other departments that are using the software and get their thoughts.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 5/16- Election Day
 - 5/20- Wedding for a member of Mr. Riddle's family
 - 5/25- Serving as a judge for the Scouts' Bake-off
 - 5/28- American Legion Memorial Day Program at Crestview Cemetery, Mayor Riddle encouraged those that are able to attend
 - 5/30- Presenting a proclamation to a middle school student
 - 6/4-6/7- PSAB Conference, where Mayor Riddle will be campaigning for the position of Second Vice-President
- Mayor Riddle reported that the "Click it or Ticket it" seatbelt initiative has started and encouraged drivers to wear their seatbelts.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the Police Department has received 3 AEDs from the Buhl Regional Health Foundation, saving the department over \$5,100. Mayor Riddle thanked the foundation for their donation.
- Mayor Riddle asked Interim Chief Taggart to discuss the Police Department's Facebook page. Interim Chief Taggart shared that they have received positive feedback regarding the Facebook page and it has been useful from an investigative standpoint. Interim Chief Taggart also provided Council with a survey that was conducted to gauge community opinion of the Police Department. The Police

Department received 152 responses, with the overall sentiment being positive. Interim Chief Taggart provided the full results to each councilperson. Ms. Mattocks expressed that she has received positive feedback on the Facebook page as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks announced that Strawberry Days would be June 9, 10 and 11.
- Mr. Oakes announced that there would be a conference call tomorrow at 2PM with the Borough's Airport Consultant to kickoff the Master Plan Process and invited Council to attend if they were interested.

NEWS MEDIA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:18M.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary