

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
July 17, 2023 6:30PM**

**CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING** by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 6:35pm

**Hearing for Borough of Grove City 2023 Community Development Block Grant**

- Mr. Chris Conti, Mercer County Regional Planning, began the hearing by explaining that the Borough receives this allocation on a yearly basis with the funds earmarked to assist low-moderate income persons through various projects. Mr. Conti detailed some past projects that the Borough has completed and explained that the purpose of this hearing is to solicit comments for the 2023 allocation.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet questioned if these funds could be used for park projects. Mr. Conti stated that they could, but the benefit would have to go to low-moderate income persons and this could be achieved by upgrades to a park in a low-moderate income area or for a project that includes benefit to a group that qualifies as such. Mr. Conti explained that disabled persons are assumed to qualify and do not require an income survey. An example of a project that would assist this group are ADA accessible curb ramps.
- Mr. Todd Burns, Grove City Area Historical Society, questioned if the funds could be used for historic preservation. Mr. Conti explained that this would be difficult, but if an accessibility barrier were removed, such as the installation of an elevator then that would be qualifying project.
- Mr. Conti, hearing no other comments, closed the hearing. Mr. Conti explained that the next hearing would be completed by the Mercer County Commissioners.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Public Hearing stood adjourned at 6:52PM.

**CALL TO ORDER Regular Meeting** by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:08 pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mr. Jim Henry**

**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 (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		
Absent	Gallagher, Amy	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott				

**ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD ON JUNE 27 AND 29, 2023 TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER**

- Councilwoman Mattocks announced that an executive session was held on June 27 and 29, 2023 to discuss a personnel matter.

#### **REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

- Mr. William Bonzer, 419 Memorial Ave, expressed his concern with several trees adjacent to an alley near his home. Mr. Bonzer explained that the trees are causing vehicles to drive into his yard. Ms. Mattocks asked Mr. Pokrant to follow-up on this issue with Mr. Bonzer. Mr. Pokrant confirmed that he would.
- Mr. Troy Cummings, 323 West Main Street, expressed his thanks to the Borough for patching the alley behind his home. Mr. Cummings stated that Public Works did a good job and he was very appreciative.
- Ms. Kathy Jack, Grove City Area Historical Society, provided an update to Borough Council regarding the Historical Society and its upcoming 25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. Ms. Jack requested that the Borough consider making an annual donation to the Historical Society as they are in need of funds and the neighboring townships make an annual donation.
- Mr. Todd Burns, Grove City Area Historical explained that they had made a request several years ago and the Borough was kind enough to donate. Mr. Burns stated that they have several projects that have come up and needed additional funds. Mr. Burns stated that he felt the Borough should make an annual donation given that it is the “Grove City” Historical Society. Mr. Burns explained that they would welcome a Borough Council Member on their Board. Ms. Mattocks thanked Mr. Burns and Ms. Jack for their comments and stated that they would evaluate their requests at budget time.
- Mitch McFeely, Mars Bank, was present and explained that Mars Bank offers numerous public financial services and thanked the Borough for their existing relationship with Mars Bank.

#### **REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA**

- None

#### **CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF MICHAEL ALLIAS AS CHIEF OF POLICE**

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough had gone through an exhaustive process to name their next Chief of Police that included evaluation by a panel of Chiefs of Police. Mr. Oakes thanked Council for their work during this process and Interim Chief Chris Taggart for his efforts during this transition process. Mr. Bigley expressed his appreciation for the work that Interim Chief Taggart had done as well and Ms. Mattocks expressed her thanks to Chrissy Lawson for her work as well. Mr. Jeff Hodge expressed his thanks to all the officers and expressed that the three outside chiefs were very impressed with the Grove City Police Department.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to appoint Michael Allias as the Chief of Police. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- At this time Mayor Riddle swore in Michael Allias as the Chief of Police. Mr. Allias thanked everyone and expressed his eagerness to get started.

#### **APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 19,2023**

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: Fire Department Open house to be held on September 30, 2023**

- Mr. Jared Hoffman, Grove City Volunteer Fire Department, reported on general fire department activities in addition to the event request. Mr. Hoffman reported that the fire department has logged over 1,300 hours thus far this year in training, responding to calls, and administrative functions. Mr. Hoffman shared that response time to calls has been 11% quicker than last year despite a 15% increase in call volume. Mr. Hoffman shared that the department has begun the renovation work for the live-in program that is scheduled to start in the fall.
- Mr. Hoffman explained that the event before Council is a part of the 2023 recruiting initiative by the fire department. As a part of the request, the fire department would like to close East Pine Street from the police station to the intersection with Madison Ave. Mr. Hoffman stated that the goal is to work with Grove City College since they will have their Homecoming that day. Solicitor Bonner asked if Grove City College was preparing a letter of understanding for the Live-in Program and Mr. Hoffman stated that they have a guideline for students that he would send to Solicitor Bonner.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Open House Event with requested street closure. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1491 AMENDING THE FIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE PROTECTION CHAPTER OF THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY CODE OF ORDINANCES**

- Mr. Oakes explained that this ordinance would limit recreational fires to natural firewood, contained within a pit or fire ring that was not bigger than 3' x 2', would prohibit burning from midnight to 11AM and would prohibit burn barrels.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to adopt Ordinance 1491. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER INTENT TO ADVERTISE AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 1492 ESTABLISHING A SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION PROGRAM**

- Mr. Oakes detailed that as discussed at several work session meetings that this ordinance would require sewer lateral inspections that were triggered by the real estate transfer process. Mr. Oakes reminded Council that this was included in the Act 537 Plan Special Study as the Borough was required to address infiltration in the sewer system. Solicitor Bonner questioned how this would apply to an article of agreement. Mr. Oakes stated that it would not be until the deed transferred that the inspection would be required. Solicitor Bonner asked what the inspection fee was and Mr. Oakes stated that it was \$40.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the intent to adopt and advertise Ordinance 1492. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER MUNICIBID ONLINE AUCTION RESULTS**

- Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough had auctioned a CAT Backhoe since it was replaced with a new one. The winning bid was \$26,100 by Gloria Surrena and Mr. Oakes recommend that it be accepted.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the Municibid Auction Results. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GRATEFUL GALLOP 5K TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 23, 2023 ON GREENWOOD DRIVE**

- Mr. Oakes stated that Brandon Wise was here several months ago and made a request for an event with numerous street closures that Council did not approve. This event would just require the closure of Greenwood Drive, which requires payment of a \$100 fee.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the Grateful Gallop 5K contingent upon payment of the required fee and receipt of required insurance. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ**

- Mr. Goncz reported that the concrete work for the tanks is progressing and some of the progress is not directly observable if you pass by the site. Mr. Goncz detailed that final grading for the project is expected in the fall and the cuts in the pavement for the water line work will be milled and overlaid with asphalt. Mr. Goncz recommended that Borough Council approve the payment requests and change order as submitted.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$23,690.00 and \$16,287.50, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$399,186.88, from McCurley Houston-Electric in the amount of \$20,194.67 and change order number one for contract one. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

#### **BOROUGH MANAGER’S REPORT PRESENTED BY BOROUGH MANAGER, VANCE OAKES**

- Mr. Oakes reported that he did not have an update on the EMS Agreement, but hoped to have more information next month.
- Mr. Oakes thanked the Grove City YMCA Middle School Students for their landscaping work around the Borough Building.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the GetGo/WetGo project has received conditional final land development approval with some remaining comments to work out with the Borough Engineer. Mr. Oakes reported that he expected the developer’s agreement within the coming months.
- Mr. Oakes announced that a work session meeting will be held on 7/26 at 6PM to review the 2022 Audit Report and discuss the “Fun Fridays” proposal. Mr. Oakes announced that additionally the Penn-Northwest Economic Summit is scheduled for 7/28 at Grove City College and asked that Council contact him if they would like to attend. Mr. Oakes also announced that a conditional use hearing will be held on 8/21 at 6PM for Montgomery Truss for the former Perkins location as they have proposed to use the site for light industrial manufacturing, which is a conditional use in the zoning district.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that he was informed that on 7/1 that George Parker, a long-time Borough employee, had passed away. Mr. Oakes passed along his condolences.
- Mr. Oakes provided County Commissioner Candidate Jim McClusky an opportunity to speak on his campaign.
- Mr. Oakes welcomed Allied News Reporter, Ty Kohler.
- Mr. Oakes requested that an executive session be held after tonight’s meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

#### **JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, EMMY RIDDLE**

- Ms. Riddle discussed the running community in Grove City and the Twilight Quad Series that occurs every year. Ms. Riddle detailed that since the start of the Twilight Quad Series that over fifty thousand people have finished races in the series. Ms. Riddle highlighted that she has participated in this series herself and reported that the final races in the series were upcoming on 7/26 and 8/16.

#### **MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE**

- Mayor Riddle questioned Mr. Oakes on the status of the dock upgrade that Hall Industries donated towards. Mr. Oakes stated that the work would be starting soon and that he would get together with Mayor Riddle on the signage recognizing Hall Industries.
- Mayor Riddle recognized Paul Hamil, Mayor of Greenville, who was in attendance.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Ellie Myford would be serving as the next Junior Councilperson and would be sworn-in next month.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he attended the following events over the last month:
  - 6/27 and 6/29- Police Chief Interviews
  - 6/28- Meeting with Grove City College, Paul McNulty, to discuss the trespassers at Hall Industries and President McNulty plans to attend next month’s meeting.

- 7/4- July 4<sup>th</sup> event, where he kicked off the event at the Grove City High School Football Field
- 7/13- Met with Mike Allias to discuss his upcoming role as Police Chief.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming on his calendar:
  - 7/19- COG Meeting
  - 7/25- PSAB Executive Director Chris Cap will be in Grove City to meet with Mayor Riddle to discuss his new role as Second Vice-President of PSAB. Mayor Riddle also plans to attend the Mercer County Regional Planning Picnic on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>.
  - 7/31- Plans to attend the Republican Party Picnic in Memorial Park
  - 8/1- Plans to attend the Shine a Light Speaker Series with Mary K. Mattocks.
  - 8/16- Plans to attend the PSAB Trustees meeting
- Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department started an aggressive driving enforcement program on 7/5. Mayor Riddle reported that Interim Chief Taggart read at story time at the Library on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Mayor Riddle detailed that in his meeting with Chief Allias that the testing process for the hiring of a new patrol officer has begun with 4 applications received.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the Second Quarter Weddings Report has been attached in Council's Packet.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Henry reported that he met with Jimmy Richardson this week and they are very appreciative of the donations that were made to the Grange Fair from the former Girl Scout Lodge
- Ms. Mattocks detailed that the July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks were successful and thanked Grove City School District for allowing the use of their facilities and Pine Township for their donation towards the fireworks.
- Mr. Bigley expressed that it was nice to hear that people were pleased with the alley work, especially given the paving budget constraints this year.

#### **NEWS MEDIA**

- There were no questions from any media representatives.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT THAT COUNCIL WOULD ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

- Councilwoman Mattocks announced that Council would hold an executive session following the conclusion of tonight's meeting to discuss a personnel matter and would not return to the public meeting.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary