

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 21, 2023 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 6:00PM

Conditional Use Hearing for Montgomery Truss and Panel for Light Manufacturing at 915 West Main Street

- Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Zoning Officer, provided proof of publication, posting proof and introduced the applicant. Mr. Pokrant explained that the zoning ordinance required conditional use approval within the Highway Commercial Light Industrial District. Mr. Pokrant also detailed that the Borough Planning Commission had reviewed the application and that they recommend approval with the condition that the existing pole sign be removed and all new signage comply with the Borough of Grove City Zoning Ordinance.
- Mr. J.R. Greer, Montgomery Truss and Panel, provided information to Council regarding the machinery that they would be using within the site and the hours of operation.
- Councilman DiStasi questioned if there would be any excess traffic onto Main Street. Mr. Greer answered that he felt that there would not be. Mr. Greer also detailed that they would connect the site with their existing site and all truck traffic would enter and exit where they do currently.
- Mr. Greer provided some clarification to Solicitor Bonner regarding the number of employees working at the site and the equipment type.

ADJOURNMENT

The Public Hearing stood adjourned at 6:20PM.

CALL TO ORDER Regular Meeting by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:02 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Jeff Hodge**

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Ms. Nancy Wagner, 149 Edgewood Ave, expressed her concerns with modifying the open container ordinance. Ms. Wagner expresses that she understood that Council was trying to spur business downtown, but felt that the consequences of DUIs and drunkenness outweighed the benefits.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi 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. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 17,2023 AND WORK SESSION MEETING ON JULY 26, 2023

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker provided the Library Report. Ms. Baker detailed that the fundraising efforts continue and they are very thankful for the community support. Since April, they have raised approximately \$68,000. Ms. Baker detailed that upcoming fundraising events include a book sale, bake sale and soup/sandwich sale. Ms. Baker included that the last day to buy a raffle ticket for their shed raffle is 8/31.
- Ms. Baker highlighted that for kids programs, they have a Harry Potter event, Star Wars event and Halloween Party upcoming.
- Ms. Baker reported that the summer reading program was a success with over 400 children participating.

CONSIDER CONDITIONAL USE APPROVAL FOR MONTGOMERY TRUSS AND PANEL

- Mr. Pokrant detailed that this hearing occurred prior to the Council Meeting and that light manufacturing was a conditional use within the Highway Commercial Light Industrial District.
- Solicitor Bonner suggested that the following conditions be placed on the site's operation:
- Montgomery Truss may expand to the adjoining site with its existing operations.
- The existing pole sign shall be removed and all new signage shall conform with the Borough's Zoning Ordinance.
- All manufacturing and lumber work shall be preformed indoors as not to create a nuisance.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Conditional Use for Montgomery Truss and Panel with the conditions as detailed by Solicitor Bonner. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PARTNERSHIP WITH GEORGE JUNIOR REPUBLIC IN THEIR APPLICATION FOR A NEA OUR TOWN GRANT

- Mr. Glenn Saunders, George Junior Republic, was present and detailed that George Junior Republic was in the process of applying for a NEA Our Town Grant. Mr. Sanders explained that he was here last year and had made the same request. Mr. Saunders explained that George Junior did not end up applying last year due to some personnel changes, but wanted to apply again this year.
- Mr. Saunders explained that he was seeking 5% of the \$150,000 local match from the Borough in the form of in-kind services. These services would be for labor and material for the art projects that will be determined through the grant process.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the Partnership with George Junior Republic for their NEA Our Town Grant with a commitment of up to 5% of the local match in the form or in-kind services. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1492 ESTABLISHING A SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION PROGRAM RESOLUTION 2023-10 ADOPTING THE GROVE CITY SEWER LATERAL POLICY HANDBOOK

- 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. Mr. Oakes stated that the Resolution that followed was for the handbook that detailed the technical requirements for the plumbers and homeowners.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to adopt Ordinance 1492 and Resolution 2023-10. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY ROTARY ANNUAL DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON 4/27/24 IN MEMORIAL PARK

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Disc Golf Event. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE TO BE HELD ON 9/29/23

- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the Parade. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY VFW CAR SHOW TO BE HELD ON 9/10/23 FROM 12-5PM

- Mr. Oakes explained that the VFW would like to close Blair Street from their property to the intersection with Mill Street. Chief Allias shared that this event has been held before without any issues.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the Car Show Event. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT AND ADVERTISE ORDINANCE 1493 AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY OPEN CONTAINER ORDINANCE AND PROHIBITION ON ALCOHOL IN BOROUGH PARKS

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to table Ordinance 1493. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The Ordinance was tabled.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: SIPPIN ON BROAD COMMITTEE EVENTS TO BE HELD ON 10/13/23 AND 10/27/23 IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to table the event requests. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The requests were tabled.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY JOGATHON TO BE HELD ON 9/8/23 FROM 8:30-11:00AM AT HUNTER FARM PARK

- Mr. Oakes reported that he had reached out to GCYSA and there were not any conflicts with this event.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Jogathon Event. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF 2024 MMO FOR PENSION PLANS

- Mr. Oakes reported the MMO amounts for 2024, which were \$151,464 and \$157,583 for the non-uniform and uniform plans respectively.

CONSIDER POLICE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE CONTRACT WITH CODY SYSTEMS

- Chief Allias explained that the CODY system would replace the existing records management software that is being phased out. Chief explained that the Department has examined several options and decided that CODY was the best option for the best price. Chief highlighted that data transfer from the existing software to CODY is included.
- Mr. DiStasi explained that from a budgeting standpoint that the implementation costs would be split across budgeting years. Furthermore, training and installation were included and the system was cloud-based and for a 3 year contract.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the money that was allocated to pay for the body and vehicle cameras would be reallocated to pay for this year's portion of the implementation costs.

- Chief Allias expressed his thanks to Chris Taggart for his work on this project during his time as Interim Chief.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the contract with CODY Systems. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

DISCUSSION ON A SAFETY CONCERN ABOUT INCREASING NUMBERS OF ELECTRIC SCOOTERS BEING DRIVEN ON PUBLIC STREETS AND SIDEWALKS

- Mr. Jeff Hodge reported that he has been approached by two citizens who have expressed safety concerns with the increasing number of electric scooters on Borough streets and sidewalks.
- Chief Allias explained that technology has really progressed faster than state laws. Chief provided Council with a PennDOT fact sheet that detailed that electric scooters were prohibited under state law on streets and sidewalks. Chief explained that the Police Department would be doing spot enforcement of the issue and educating children who were riding them. Chief also explained that the Department would be focusing on some bike safety initiatives in the Spring as well.
- Mr. Oakes shared with Council that the City of Pittsburgh was part of a pilot study that allowed scooters and that pilot study has since ended since the state legislature did not make the program permanent.
- Mr. DiStasi asked if they were allowed in parks. Chief Allias stated that they would not be allowed on the Park Drives, but could be allowed on the bike trails. Mayor Riddle expressed that he agreed with Chief Allias that education was important in addressing the scooter issue.

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that the concrete pour for the floors at the new water treatment plant began today and expects final grading work at the site to be completed in the spring. Mr. Goncz detailed that he requested the contractor install additional filter socks to address runoff issues at the site. Furthermore, Mr. Goncz reported that the asphalt work has been completed for the park drives that were disturbed and that a full mill and pavement overlay will be completed at the end of the project. Mr. Goncz also explained that the Borough is about halfway through its project budget. Regarding the payment requests before Council, Mr. Goncz recommend their approval.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$9,772.50 and \$17,250.00, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$489,891.24 and from Renick Brothers in the amount of \$4,500.00. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz reported that he met with operation staff and the pond liners for ponds 1 and 2 need to be replaced. Mr. Goncz recommended that the Borough replace them using a vendor that is COSTARS approved. Mr. DiStasi asked how many ponds were at the plant. Mr. Goncz stated that there were 3.

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT PRESENTED BY BOROUGH MANAGER, VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes reported that he spoke with John Bennett, Mercer Township, regarding the Marion Township Sewer Project. Mr. Bennett informed Mr. Oakes that Marion Township was aware of the agreements that needed to be completed with Grove City Borough. Solicitor Bonner shared that Marion Township had reached out to him and wants to modify the agreement to only cover the Kozy Rest Campground since they have a treatment facility in Bowers.
- Mr. Oakes asked Solicitor Bonner to update Council regarding the EMS Agreement. Solicitor Bonner stated that Superior Ambulance has tentatively agreed to the agreement, but is not willing to sign it until additional municipalities agree to it as well, due to staffing requirements within the agreement.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough needed to decide what their 2023 CDBG Allocation would be earmarked for. Mr. Oakes suggested that the application include sidewalk improvements and housing rehabilitation as was the case last year. Council expressed their affirmation for these programs.
- Mr. Oakes announced that the Borough has received notification from the PLCB that Koehler Brewing has transferred their license to a brewery operating as Smiling Moose Brewing.

- Mr. Oakes shared correspondence with Tower Church regarding the upkeep of the Old Presbyterian Cemetery. Tower Church has indicated that they have searched the deeds for the property and cannot locate an owner and as of the end of July will no longer maintain it. Mr. Oakes expressed his disappointment with this decision. Ms. Mattocks stated that she would reach out to the Historical Society to see if they would be willing to maintain it.

SWEARING IN OF JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON ELLE MYFORD

- Mayor Riddle swore-in Junior Councilperson Elle Myford.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Elle Myford

- Ms. Myford reported that Meet the Eagles is scheduled for this coming Wednesday at 5:30PM.
- Ms. Myford shared that the first day of school was upcoming on August 28th.
- Ms. Myford detailed that she is part of the Interact Club at the High School and they are working on planning a spaghetti dinner fundraiser this fall.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle welcomed Grove City College President Paul McNulty and thanked him for attending the meeting. President McNulty provided an update to Borough Council regarding Grove City College events and upcoming projects.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 7/19- Council of Governments Meeting
 - 7/25- Mercer County Regional Planning Picnic
 - 7/27- PSAB Conference Calls as Second Vice-President
 - 8/1- Shine a Light Speaker Series with Mary K. Mattocks
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 8/30- 100th Birthday Proclamation for a Borough Resident
 - 10/13-10/15- PSAB Fall Conference
- Mayor Riddle reported that Officer Bennett has been out on extended sick leave, which has left the Department down 3 officers and that the Department is making all efforts possible to minimize overtime. Chief Allias has been filling in for shifts where he can and projects that the total payroll, even with the additional overtime, will be within budget due to two less full-time salaries.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the hiring process continues for the Police Department, with polygraphs scheduled for next week.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias has met with the Borough Department Heads, Campus Safety and plans to meet with additional community leaders as he adjusts to his new role.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Scott Jaillet reported that John Watson placed second at the National Horseshoe Pitching Competition and shared that Mr. Watson expressed his appreciation for the horseshoe pits at Memorial Park.
- Ms. Mattocks recognized Harrisville Mayor Gary Hughes and Lee Myford were attendance and thanked them for coming to the meeting.

NEWS MEDIA

- There were no questions from any media representatives.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37PM.

Respectfully,
Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary