

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 18, 2023 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER WORK SESSION by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks at 6:08PM

DISCUSS OPEN CONTAINER ORDINANCE CHANGES

- Ms. Kayleen Hillyard, Transformation Church, was present and voiced her concerns regarding parking and liability if the downtown area allows open containers for events.
- Ms. Laura Paxton, Findley Township, shared her sentiment that there are a lot of young families in the area and the focus of events should be family friendly and open containers should not be allowed.
- Ms. Hillyard mentioned that Transformation Church is interested in having the foot bridge replaced downtown. Mayor Riddle shared that he was on Council when it was removed previously and Council decided to have it removed due to the cost to make it handicap accessible and issues with the former property owner on the South Broad Street side of the bridge. Ms. Mattocks shared that there was a save the bridge campaign at the time, but it was ended after it was clear that the right of way for the bridge would not be granted.
- Mr. Oakes stated that this meeting was called because Solicitor Bonner had some questions and issues that needed to be worked out if Council wanted to modify the Open Container Ordinance. Solicitor Bonner posed questions to Council. He asked who would be the applicant, if requests would be limited, what area downtown will permit alcohol, what will be the consequences of allowing alcohol downtown, who has the right to sell alcohol, will people be permitted to bring their own, will the Borough require an approved container and will other businesses not in the downtown area be permitted to dispense alcohol downtown.
- Councilman Zimmerman reported that he spoke with the Mayor of Zelienople regarding their events that allow open containers. The Mayor of Zelienople shared that it has been successful and there have not been any issues.
- Mr. Oakes questioned if these events were on private property, did Council need to change the ordinance. Ms. Beth Black, Grove City Chamber of Commerce, shared that this is what the Chamber does for their Wine Walk and they can just obtain a special event permit from the LCB. Solicitor Bonner stated that this would not require an ordinance change. Councilman Myers asked about open containers during the Wine Walk. Ms. Black shared that they enforce no open containers during the event. Ms. Mattocks asked where people park for the Wine Walk. Ms. Black shared that they park on their own. Solicitor Bonner asked if the Chamber was supporting the ordinance change and the planned Octoberfest. Ms. Black shared that they are not against it, but do not have the resources to plan another event. Ms. Black also shared that their membership is greater than just the downtown area, but applauded the effort to bring business downtown. Mr. Oakes asked if an open container change and subsequent events would detract from the Wine Walk. Ms. Black shared that it might, but her event is more of a sampling event.
- Ms. Mattocks stated that without the applicant present for the proposed ordinance change that Council could not make a decision at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Work Session Meeting stood adjourned at 6:36PM.

CALL TO ORDER Regular Meeting by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:12 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Scott Jaillet**

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)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
Absent	Gallagher, Amy	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Myford, Elle		

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD

- Councilwoman Mattocks announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a matter of possible litigation.

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PUBLIC HEARING AND REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 21, 2023

- **Mr. Shawn Morley moved to approve the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker reported that the book sale was not as profitable as in previous years with only about half as much raised as what is typical.
- Ms. Baker highlighted that the Library has several fundraisers ongoing including raffle baskets and a meat raffle.
- Ms. Baker reported that on 11/2 the Library will have a fundraiser at Primanti’s and a Soup Sale on 11/10.
- Ms. Baker reported that they have raised almost seventy-five thousand dollars since their call for funds began in the spring, but more is still needed to cover the deficit.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY YMCA OIL CHANGE EVENT TO BE HELD ON 9/23/23 FROM 7:30AM TO 4PM

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this event was held last year without any issues. Chief Allias expressed the same sentiment.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the event request. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: ALL GOOD THINGS TOUCH A TRUCK EVENT TO BE HELD ON 10/7/23 FROM 12-2PM

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the event request pending receipt of insurance. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK EVENT REQUEST FROM GROVE CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

- Mr. Oakes reported that this is the 16th year for Christmas in the Park and it will be the same as in previous years.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the event request. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2024 GASOLINE AND FUEL OIL PRODUCTS BIDS

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this bid was for fuel for the fuel tanks at the Borough Garage. Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough only received one bid from Reed Oil Company and the cost per gallon to transport the fuel is going up half a cent per gallon from this year.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Gasoline and Fuel Oil Products Bids. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2024 WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL BIDS

- Mr. Oakes reported that overall the cost for the chemicals was slightly down from this year and recommended that the bids be approved.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the Water Treatment Chemical Bids. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: SIPPIN ON BROAD OCTOBERFEST TO BE HELD ON 10/13/23 FROM 5-8:30PM (WITHOUT OPEN CONTAINERS)

- Mr. Oakes stated that this approval would be without open containers since Council has not modified the current ordinance. Mr. Oakes stated that this approval would allow the requested street closures and use of Monteleone Park to host a band. Chief Allias shared that he believed that the closure of Pine Street between Center and Broad would not be a problem.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the event. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR HIRING OF PATROLMAN

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough had one candidate make it through the process, Jeff Paroli. Mr. Oakes shared that the Borough will have to restart the process since the Borough is in need of two officers. Chief Allias shared that he felt that Mr. Paroli will be a good candidate and has prior law enforcement experience.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to hire Jeff Paroli for the position of patrolman conditional on passing a psychological exam, physical exam, and a drug screen. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SUPERIOR AMBULANCE SERVICE, INC.

- Solicitor Bonner reported that over the last year that the Borough has been working with Superior Ambulance on an agreement to formalize the relationship that the Borough has with Superior for ambulance services. Solicitor Bonner stated that the Superior and the Borough have reached an agreement and the Borough is ready to sign the agreement, but Superior is not ready to sign and commit to the required staffing levels until other municipalities are willing to sign on.

CONSIDER 2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ITEMS:

- **CONSIDER DCED LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN CERTIFICATION**

- **CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-11 AUTHORIZING CDBG APPLICATION**
- **CONSIDER CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN**
- **CONSIDER AGREEMENT “B” WITH MERCER COUNTY FOR CDBG GRANT ADMINISTRATION**
- Mr. Oakes detailed that all of the items that were included were for the Borough’s CDBG Grant Application and were required to be approved each year. Mr. Oakes asked that all items be considered in one motion.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve all Community Development Block Grant items. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-12 AUTHORIZING LSA GRANT APPLICATION

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough will be making application to the LSA Grant program for stormwater work on Bessemer Ave. The Borough will be requesting 1 million in grant funds.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Resolution 2023-12. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-13 DISPOSITION OF SPECIFIC RECORDS

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough will be disposing of 31 boxes of records and referenced the list of items that were to be destroyed within the resolution.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve Resolution 2023-13. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER’S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work on the Water Treatment plant continues and that the plan is to meet with Borough Staff at the October Job Meeting to review final grading for the site. Mr. Goncz also reminded Council that the Borough will need to bid out demolition of the old water plant and will have one hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the LSA Grant that the Borough received for this project. Mr. Goncz recommended that the payment requests before Council for the Water Treatment Plant Project be approved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$9,772.50 and \$17,250.00 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$552,182.70. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz reported that there would be a minor permit amendment that he is working on for the Water Treatment Plant to match the equipment that will be used at the plant.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that AMP Ohio is working on submitting a grant application for a solar farm and Mr. Oakes attached a letter of interest that he submitted on behalf of the Borough to purchase energy from this project if it is funded.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that he attended the PEMA conference earlier this month and that a PURPA model ordinance and resolution had been attached. Mr. Oakes explained that this ordinance addresses a federal law that requires the Borough to purchase power that is generated within its municipal boundaries. The PURPA ordinance addresses this requirement by allowing Boroughs to require rate negotiation. Mr. Oakes explained that this is important because the Borough is under a long-term contract to purchase power and this could create issues with the existing contract if the Borough is required to purchase additional power. Mr. Oakes suggested that Council consider adopting the model ordinance at a future meeting.
- Mr. Oakes reported that at the PEMA Conference a Pennsylvania Borough electric rate survey was completed and the results were shared. The results showed the average residential electric customer in the Borough is paying about \$30 a month less than a Penn Power customer and Grove City Borough has one of the lower rates among member Boroughs.
- Mr. Oakes reported that upcoming there will be a finance committee meeting on October 2nd. Mr. Oakes also reminded Council that RSVPs are due tomorrow for the Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner.

- Mayor Riddle recognized the work that Mr. Oakes does for PEMA and stated that he attended the annual conference and business meeting this year and noted Mr. Oakes is well respected among the other Boroughs.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Emmy Riddle

- Ms. Riddle reported that Student Council hosted a sunrise event on the first Friday of school for seniors to mark the start of their last year. They will also have a sunset event at the end of the school year.
- Ms. Riddle reported that Student Council held a tailgate for the first football game of the year.
- Ms. Riddle reported that the Homecoming Dance is coming up on September 30th.
- Ms. Riddle asked Ms. Myford to speak on how the golf team is doing this year. Ms. Myford reported that the golf team is doing well and next week will be the last week of the season
- Ms. Riddle detailed that the cross-country team is doing well and has had mostly dual meets so far. She reported that the football team is 2-2 so far.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle recognized that Ms. Riddle is on the homecoming court this year.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 8/24- Tour of Hall Industries with Representative Bonner and Doug Thomas
 - 8/26- Recognized West Mayfield Borough on their 100th anniversary
 - 8/30- Proclamation for Homer Christie on his 100th birthday
 - 9/8-9/10- Attended the PMEA Conference with Mr. Oakes
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 9/21- Mayors Roundtable in Camphill, PA
 - 9/22- Mayors Workshop in Zelienople, PA
 - 9/28- Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner, Mayor Riddle detailed that he has discussed with Mr. Goncz a possible sponsorship opportunity for Gannet Fleming
 - 9/29- GCHS Homecoming Parade
 - 10/13-10/15- PSAB Fall Conference
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias continues to learn and grow in his new position, including preparing for his first budget. Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department has started the hiring process again as discussed earlier in the meeting. Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias has filled 32 hours of overtime in last month to help offset staffing shortages.
- Mayor Riddle provided Jared Hoffman, Grove City Volunteer Fire Department, an opportunity to detail the upcoming VFD Open House event. Mr. Hoffman reported that it will be on September 30th from 11-6 with food trucks, inflatables and various equipment on display.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Mattocks reported that there would be scarecrows in Memorial Park again this year. Ms. Mattocks also shared that she received a phone call from a Third Ward resident complementing the Borough Public Works Department. Ms. Mattocks also stated that she appreciates seeing the police out and active in the community.

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 8:06PM.

Respectfully,
Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary