

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2023 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Vince DiStasi**

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Ms. Heather Blanchard, D’Licious Bouquets, stated that the Octoberfest was held in the Downtown area on October 13th and Ms. Blanchard felt that overall, it was a success. Ms. Blanchard shared that there was shopping from 5-6PM at downtown merchants, a high school pep rally at 6PM and Treebeard Brown played from 6-8:30PM. Ms. Mattocks thanked Ms. Blanchard for her time and efforts and stated that she felt it was a very successful event. Ms. Blanchard stated that she is currently planning a Christmas event.

RECOGNITION OF BARRY SPIKER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Mr. Barry Spiker was honored for 48 years of service to the Borough of Grove City. Ms. Shelli Oakes, Representative Tim Bonner’s Office, was present and provided Mr. Spiker with a citation from Representative Bonner.

SWEARING IN OF OFFICER JEFFREY PAROLI

- Mayor Riddle swore in Officer Jeffrey Paroli.

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. William Zimmerman moved to approve the ‘Bills to be Paid’ report. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 18, 2023 AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 2, 2023

- Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Regular Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker reported that the Star Wars Event is this coming Saturday at Memorial Park and that last Friday the Library held a Halloween Party at the Library.
- Ms. Baker reported that there are two fundraisers upcoming, one at Primanti Brothers on November 2nd and a soup fundraiser at the Library on November 10th. Additionally, the Library continues to sell tickets for their raffle baskets and will select the winners on December 14th.
- Ms. Baker thanked the Community Foundation for sponsoring their winter reading program and mentioned that all of their Childrens' programing has been covered by sponsors.
- Ms. Baker updated Council on their overall fundraising since their call to action, noting that they have raised \$75,000 in this five-month period.
- Ms. Baker reported that the year will finish with their New Year's at Noon event at the Library on December 31st.

CONSIDER MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN GROVE CITY BOROUGH AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL UNION 205

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this MOU is required because the Health Insurance Plan named in the Police Contract is no longer offered by UPMC and this MOU allows the Borough to enroll the Police in a different health plan. Mr. Oakes mentioned that this has been done several times during the contract as it is for one year extension each time.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the MOU. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT AND ADVERTISE PURPA ORDINANCE 1493

- Mr. Oakes explained that this ordinance would allow the Borough to negotiate rates with an electric generation facility that was established within the Borough. Mr. Oakes shared that as discussed last month, this model ordinance was presented at the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association Conference.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the intent to adopt and advertise Ordinance 1493. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER SCHEDULING BOROUGH COUNCIL ORGANIZATION MEETING ON JANUARY 3, 2024

- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve scheduling the Reorganization Meeting on January 3, 2024 at 6PM. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER REVISED RESOLUTION 2023-12 AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN LSA GRANT APPLICATION

- Mr. Oakes detailed that he has been in contact with Lennon Smith Souleret Engineering, who is working on the LSA Grant Application on behalf of the Borough, and they had suggested that the Resolution be revised to include more than just stormwater improvements. This is the case because it will include sanitary sewer and water improvements.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the Revised Resolution that included language for the Bessemer Ave Infrastructure Project. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL, POWER, BELL AND ASSOCIATES, LLP FOR AUDIT OF 2023 FINANCIALS CONSIDER AGREEMENT WITH MCGILL, POWER, BELL AND ASSOCIATES, LLP FOR AUDIT OF 2023 DCED Financials

- Mr. Oakes explained that this would be for the audit of the 2023 Financials and preparation of the Borough's required DCED audit report.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the Audits. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT AND ADVERTISE ORDINANCE 1494 INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH MARION TOWNSHIP FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICES

- Mr. Oakes stated that he has been in touch with Solicitor Bonner who has been in contact with Marion Township, and they are now prepared to sign the intermunicipal agreement. The agreement is based upon a draft that Solicitor Bonner had provided to Marion Township.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the intent to advertise and adopt Ordinance 1494. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LIBERTY TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AT 575 NORTH LIBERTY ROAD, GROVE CITY, PA, OWNED BY RYAN AND ALON THOMAS

- Mr. Goncz confirmed that capacity existed for this connection.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the sanitary sewer service extension. Mr. Vince DiStasi 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 concrete work is scheduled to be completed in early November. After this work is completed, they will begin backfilling. Mr. Goncz detailed that a meeting was held with Public Works to review final grading for the site and this work is expected to occur in the spring. Mr. Goncz explained that final block work should be completed at the end of December. Mr. Goncz reported that about \$700,000 remains in the 2020 bond proceeds and after this is depleted the 2022 proceeds will need to be used. Mr. Goncz recommended the payment requests be approved as submitted.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$13,030.00 and \$22,770.00 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$221,481.48. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz detailed that he is working on a rate schedule for water and sewer and that will include the required increases for the bond issuance.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that landscaping work will begin on Blair Street near the railroad tracks next week. This work was made possible through a generous donation by a borough resident and will include the planting of hydrangeas and trees.
- Mr. Oakes reported that on September 27th he attended the Tax Collection Committee meeting. At this meeting, it was decided that Berkheimer would be retained as the local income tax collector through 2035. Mr. Oakes detailed that in exchange for the contract extension Berkheimer slightly reduced the collection rate from 2024-2026 and then from 2027-2035 it will return to the current rate.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Rotary will be completing upgrades at 12 additional disc golf tee pads within Memorial Park. Mr. Oakes thanked the Rotary for this donation.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he attended the Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner on September 28th and that the Borough of Grove City will be next up to host on April 25th of 2024.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELLE MYFORD

- Ms. Myford reported that fall sports were coming to an end, with this coming Friday Night being senior night for the football team.
- Ms. Myford reported that the High School Play, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten, is scheduled for November 9-11th.
- Ms. Myford shared that the Interact Club is having a Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on October 23rd from 5:30-7:00PM at the High School.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 9/21- Mayor’s Roundtable in Camphill, PA
 - 9/22- Mayors Workshop in Zelienople, PA
 - 9/25 and 9/27- PSAB Conference Calls
 - 9/29- Mayor Riddle and Mr. Oakes hosted Tony Kaper and Jonathan Hall from Hall Industries at the Memorial Park Fishing Dock to honor them for Hall’s donation to the Borough. The donation allowed for the upgrade of the Fishing Dock at Memorial Park.
 - 9/29- Participated in the High School Homecoming Parade.
 - 10/11- Third Grade Field Trip with mock Council Sessions with the third grades classes at the Borough Office.
 - 10/13-10/15- Attended the PSAB Fall Conference and presided over several sessions as the Second Vice-President.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 10/18- Additional third grade classes hosted at the Borough Office.
 - 10/31- Interact Club Meeting, the Junior Rotary Club at the High School, to learn more about their club and its activities.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias was able to cover 32 hours of overtime last month. Mayor Riddle also detailed that Officer Bennet is back from his medical leave and that Officer Paroli will start tomorrow.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Corporal Taggart carried the torch for the Special Olympics in Slippery Rock on September 24th and thanked Corporal Taggart for attending this event.
- Mayor Riddle detailed that an aggressive driving enforcement initiative will begin in Mid-October and last one month. Officers will focus on school zones as a part of this initiative.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Mattocks reported that the scarecrows are up in Memorial Park and will remain up until the end of the month.
- Mr. Jared Hoffman, Grove City Fire Department, reported that the Fire Department Open House was a success, and they plan to host it again next year. Furthermore, Mr. Hoffman detailed that they have enrolled nine new members in the last eleven weeks, and they are encouraged by the influx of new members. Mayor Riddle mentioned that this was very encouraging as he heard at the PSAB Fall Conference that many municipalities are struggling with having enough volunteers. Ms. Mattocks thanked Chief Allias for attending the Fire Department Open House.
- Mr. Jaillet mentioned that the Best Robotics event is this coming Friday and Saturday at Grove City College and encouraged attendance and informed Council that they are still looking for people to volunteer as judges. Mr. Jaillet reported that it is a surgical theme this year and that Grove City Middle School will be participating.
- Ms. Mattocks reported that the Grove City College Football Team is undefeated this year.

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 8:05PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary