

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 20, 2023, 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:06 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Randy Riddle**

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)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
Absent	Gallagher, Amy	Absent	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Myford, Elle (Jr. Council)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi** 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. Shawn Myers** 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 OCTOBER 16, 2023 AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker reported that things are wrapping up at the Library as the year comes to an end. Ms. Baker detailed that she has been away on leave due to her husband’s illness and thanked the staff for all of their efforts while she has been away. Ms. Baker noted that there will be a spaghetti dinner fundraiser for her husband on December 16th and thanked everyone for their support.

DISCUSS REQUEST TO CHANGE ZONING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW DAYCARES WITHIN THE CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- **Mr. Pokrant** detailed that a request had been received by Ms. Caitlin Robbins, who was present to modify the Borough’s Zoning Ordinance to allow daycares within the C-1 Central Commercial District. **Mr. Pokrant** explained that Daycare Centers are a conditional use within the C-2 Commercial District, the I- Industrial

District and the R-2 Residential District. Mr. Pokrant detailed that Family and Group Day Care Homes were permitted within the various residential districts within the Borough, but required the owner to reside within the home that was being used as a daycare. Ms. Robbins detailed that her goal was to increase access to daycare centers within the Borough as the two existing centers have long waitlists that can often span multiple years. Ms. Robbins mentioned that she would have indoor play space at the center and could accommodate parking within the public lot or within leased parking that is owned by Transformation Church.

- Solicitor Bonner explained that the process to get the Zoning Ordinance change can take up to three months and recommended that this issue be sent to the Planning Commission as a first step as the Planning Commission is required to review any zoning ordinance changes. Ms. Mattocks stated that Council Members could attend that evening to further discuss the zoning ordinance change request.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COLLEGE FROZEN FEST TO BE HELD ON JANUARY 27, 2024 ON THE MEMORIAL PARK POND FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET

- Mr. Jon DiBenedetto, Grove City College, was present and detailed his request. Mr. DiBenedetto explained that he was previously in front of Council to discuss ice skating at the Park and that since that time he had been in touch with Grove City College about sponsoring the event. Grove City College has agreed to sponsor the proposed one day event and the insurance policy for this event has been included with the request. Mr. DiBenedetto explained that the insurance policy required supervision at all times and the he would be responsible for checking the ice depth prior to the event to ensure that it is safe. Solicitor Bonner asked how the ice would be groomed. Mr. DiBenedetto explained that he would groom the ice with a shovel. Solicitor Bonner asked who the event sponsor is and how the insurance is written. Mr. DiBenedetto explained that Grove City College is the sponsor and that Borough of Grove City is included as an additional insured.
- Mr. DiBenedetto requested that two rain dates be included within the request in case the weather did not allow for ice skating, the rain dates are February 3, 2024 and February 10, 2024.
- Mr. Hodge asked how it will be handled if skating occurs after the event since people will take note that ice skating was permitted previously. Mr. DiBenedetto suggested a sign that detailed that there is no ice skating unless as an approved event. Solicitor Bonner stated that after the event that it would be trespassing since the Borough posts the area as no skating and this could be enforced by the Police Department.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the event request with rain dates of February 3, 2024 and February 10, 2024. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously, with Vince DiStasi and Scott Jaillet abstaining due to employment by Grove City College.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: VETERANS DAY PARADE TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 9, 2024

- Mr. Frank Bruno, VFW Auxiliary, presented their request for a Veterans' Day Parade for 2024 and proposed that the parade route would be on Poplar Street, starting at Forker Field and ending at the High School. Mr. Bruno mentioned that Broad Street would be ideal, but Popular Street had been chosen since it required less manpower/traffic control. Mr. Bruno mentioned that it has been about 50 years since they last marched down Broad Street. Ms. Mattocks stated that the Borough has Special Event money budgeted each year and would work with them to help plan a parade that goes down S. Broad Street. Mr. Bigley agreed that it was important to have the parade on Broad Street.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the event request with the change to allow the parade on S. Broad Street. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS PROPOSED MILITARY BANNER PROGRAM

- Mr. Frank Bruno explained that the VFW would like to get a military banner program started and asked Ms. Etta Miller, VFW Auxiliary, to provide the details. Ms. Miller detailed that the request is for the Borough to allow military banners on utility poles throughout the Borough. The VFW would fundraise to help offset some of the cost of the banners, but the families of veterans would have to pay for the majority of the cost

of the banner and bracket. Ms. Miller detailed that they are proposing that the banners be left up all year and that S. Broad Street banners be reserved for MIA/KIA veterans.

- Mr. Oakes mentioned that the Christmas decorations and American flags currently are attached to the poles throughout the year and that in addition the location of the decorations in the downtown area had to be modified due to trucks striking the decorations.
- Ms. Miller shared with Council that the cost for the banners is \$79 and the brackets cost is about \$40. Mr. Morley stated that he had spoken with the same banner company and at the time the cost was about \$70.
- Mr. Bruno stated that the VFW also plans to charge a little bit extra for each banner to help cover replacement costs. Mayor Riddle shared that he is aware of another company that was at a PSAB conference that does banners and will get more information from them.
- Ms. Mattocks suggested that an infrastructure meeting be scheduled to discuss this request further.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: DASHING THROUGH THE GROVE TO BE HELD DECEMBER 3, 2023 FROM 2-4:30PM AT HUNTER FARM PARK

- Mr. Oakes explained that this event is similar to events that have been held in the past and does not require any street closures. The group has also provided proper insurance coverage.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve the event request. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2024 Meeting Schedule (January Meeting Scheduled for January 16, 2024 due to the Martin Luther King Day Holiday)

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the meeting schedule. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1493 PURPA ORDINANCE

- Mr. Oakes reported that as discussed at the last meeting, this ordinance would regulate the purchasing of cogenerated electricity within the Borough. Mr. Oakes mentioned that this ordinance was recommended for adoption by the Pennsylvania Municipal Electric Association.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to adopt Ordinance 1493. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1494 INTERMUNICIPAL WASTEWATER AGREEMENT WITH MARION TOWNSHIP

- Mr. Oakes reported that Solicitor Bonner has been working with the Solicitor for Marion Township on this agreement. Mr. Oakes also reported that the EADS Group has been working on the sewage flow rate amounts that need to be included and now believes that it needs to be increased to twenty thousand per day with a peak of fifty thousand. Solicitor Bonner questioned if this capacity would be coming from the Borough of Harrisville. Mayor Gary Hughes, Borough of Harrisville, indicated that a Memorandum of Understanding had been completed between the Borough of Harrisville and Mercer Township, but it was completed before the flow rates were completed. Solicitor Bonner stated that the Borough of Harrisville will need to amend their inter-municipal agreement to reflect this change. Solicitor Bonner suggested that the Ordinance be approved with the following conditions:
 - Amend the intermunicipal agreement between Marion Township and the Borough of Grove City to include a flow of 20,000 gallons and a peak flow of 50,000 gallons.
 - Amend the existing agreement with the Borough of Harrisville and the Borough of Grove City to reflect the reduction in total capacity that is being provided to Marion Township.
 - Marion Township joining the Pine-Harrisville Sewer Authority
- Mr. Oakes asked the Kozyrest Campground owner to provide Council with some background on his plans for the site since he was in attendance. Mr. Gary Quigley explained that twenty-two million dollars is being invested into the site and the development will include a water park.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to adopt Ordinance 1494 subject to the conditions outlined by Solicitor Bonner. Mr. Shawn Myers seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-14 AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE NPP POWER PARTICIPANT POOL AGREEMENT

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough of Grove City as an AMP Ohio member community belongs to the Northern Power Pool, which is made up of forty-three public power entities. Power for the Borough comes over lines that are owned by PJM, which has modified its charges and rules. As a part of these changes, AMP needs to amend the existing agreement with the Borough to reflect how charges are pooled within the group. Mr. Oakes stated that the Solicitor for PEMA has reviewed the agreement and recommends that it be approved. Councilman Jaillet asked if this will impact cost and Mr. Oakes answered that it will not, it will just codify how costs are currently being allocated.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Resolution 2023-14. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2024 BUDGET

- Mr. Oakes thanked council for a very productive budget meeting earlier this month. Mr. Oakes highlighted that the budget includes no tax increase for Borough residents. The budget includes several capital projects. This includes the water treatment plant, sewer plant upgrades/maintenance items, rehabilitation of the Black Run Lift Station and construction of a new sewer main from this lift station, infrastructure work on Bessemer Ave, air pacs for the Fire Department and several equipment purchases for the Borough. Mr. Oakes explained that these capital items will be funded through approximately 4.1 million in bond financing. Mr. Oakes shared that this debt obligation will be paid by increasing monthly water rates by \$3.08, sewer rates by \$1.87 and electric rates by \$5.00. These increases will amount to approximately \$10 a month for the average residential customer. Mr. Oakes also mentioned that the Borough has committed to providing Superior Ambulance twenty-four thousand dollars in financial assistance.
- Mr. Jaillet thanked Mr. Hodge and Mr. Oakes for their work on the budget. Mr. Hodge mentioned that many of the safety items are past due including air pacs for the Fire Department and cameras for the Police department. Mr. Jaillet also thanked Mr. Oakes for making the Public Works projects possible.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the 2024 Budget. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-15 SETTING THE 2024 TAX RATE

- Mr. Oakes noted that there was no tax change, so this could be approved as a resolution. Mr. Bigley noted that only 42% of the property in the Borough is taxable and due to this fact, utility rate increases are a more equitable way to raise revenue than a tax increase. Mr. Bigley thanked Mr. Oakes for making this fair for the residents of the Borough.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve Resolution 2023-15. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADVERTISE AND ADOPT ORDINANCE 1495 WATER RATE INCREASE, ORDINANCE 1496 SEWER RATE INCREASE, ORDINANCE 1497 ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE

- Mr. Oakes noted that these ordinances would raise the utility rates for 2024 as previously discussed and asked that one motion be made to advertise all three ordinances.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to advertise the intent to adopt Ordinance 1495, Ordinance 1496 and Ordinance 1497. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AT 110 GOLF CLUB LANE, GROVE CITY, PA, OWNED BY ANCO DEVELOPMENT

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AT 340 AIRPORT ROAD, GROVE CITY, PA, OWNED BY RICHARD BEECH

- Mr. Oakes confirmed that capacity existed for these requests and suggested that they be taken together.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the utility extension requests from Pine Township. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes presented the Engineer's Report in Mr. Goncz's absence. Mr. Oakes reported that work continues at the Water Treatment Plant with concrete block work expected next month. Mr. Oakes recommended that the payment requests be approved.
- **Mr. Shawn Myers moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$19,492.50 and \$19,545.00, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$592,084.84 and from McCurley-Houston Electric in the amount of \$22,500.00. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes welcomed Pine Township Supervisor, Larry Stewart and thanked him for attending the meeting. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Stewart to detail development within the Township. Mr. Stewart reported that 50 homes are being planned in the Village Park Development and that Pine Township had also remedied a blighted property.
- Mr. Oakes reminded Council that the upcoming Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner would be in Grove City on April 25, 2024. Mr. Oakes stated that he was considering the Keystone Events Center for the dinner as he had attended a ribbon cutting for it a few weeks prior. However, Mr. Oakes shared that it is \$150 an hour to rent and he has also reached out to Grove City College for pricing on using the Alumni Center. Mayor Riddle stated that Gannett Fleming has offered to sponsor the event and this may help offset this cost and he also wants to discuss the pricing with Keystone Event Center to see if they will reduce it for the event. Mayor Riddle stated that he would get back to Mr. Oakes.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he sent a commitment letter for a grant opportunity through the Pennsylvania Grid Reliance Grants Program that AMP Ohio is applying for. Mr. Oakes shared that this is identical to the proposal that AMP had sent for the Federal Grant Opportunity that they had not received funding for. Mr. Oakes explained that this would be for smart-metering technology.
- Mr. Oakes reported that a handout had been included with the Council Packet that detailed the DEP Lead and Cooper Rule Revision that requires the Borough to inspect every service line within the Borough of Grove City. Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Patterson to speak briefly on this. Mr. Patterson, Public Works Director, explained that the Borough must have an inventory of the material that every service line is made of by October of 2024. Mr. Patterson shared that the Public Works Department has to physically examine the line or review a picture of it. Mr. Myers inquired as to what happens if lead is found. Mr. Patterson explained that the service line would have to be disconnected and the homeowner would have to replace it.
- Mr. Oakes reported that at the COG Meeting it was reported by Pine Township that they have had some issues with hunting on publicly-owned land. Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough has an ordinance that prohibits hunting within parks, but this does not cover the upper dam property that residents may try to hunt on. Mr. Oakes asked about posting this land and Ms. Mattocks suggested that this issued be discussed by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELLE MYFORD

- Ms. Myford reported that fall sports have finished with the Boys Cross Country Team placing second at States.
- Ms. Myford reported that on October 31st that Mayor Riddle attended the Interact Club and presented Ms. Senita with a proclamation, who is also the club advisor. Ms. Myford shared that Ms. Senita received a teaching award from the Pennsylvania Modern Language Association.
- Ms. Myford shared that the Interact Club has organized a lunch with santa event that is upcoming on December 9th that will benefit the Grove City Library. Ms. Myford shared that the Interact Club and Student Council have also planned a benefit concert for December 19th that will benefit the Grove City Food Pantry.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that Ms. Emmy Riddle is not present tonight as she is presenting a proclamation to the Boys Cross Country Team at their banquet. Mayor Riddle shared that Ms. Riddle provided him some details to share that included that the Fall Play was a success, Winter Sports have started and that the Ski Club has a fundraiser upcoming on November 29th to raise money for their club.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 10/18- Third Grade Field Trip, Mock Government Event
 - 10/26- Keystone Event Center Ribbon Cutting
 - 10/31- Interact Club Meeting as detailed by Ms. Myford
 - 11/1- PennNorthwest Member Meeting with Mr. Tony Kaper, Hall Industries.
 - 11/3- PSAB Committee Meeting
 - 11/9- PennNorthwest Sites Meeting to discuss industrial sites throughout the county.
 - 11/15- COG Meeting
 - 11/16- Grove City College Common Good Dinner to discuss issues facing the Borough.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias shared that civil service testing continues for the position of patrolman with only one candidate left. Mayor Riddle also shared that buckle-up enforcement and extra DUI enforcement initiatives have begun.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Mattocks thanked Council for their professional demeanor and the respect that they show each other every meeting.
- Councilman Mattocks thanked the Grove City Police and Fire Departments for the escort that they provided to Grove City College following their playoff victory. Ms. Mattocks shared that the Grove City College Football Team has been invited to Grace Church’s Thanksgiving Dinner as they will be staying on campus to prepare for their next opponent.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet reported that Kiplinger has named Grove City a top ten best place to live in Pennsylvania.
- Ms. Mattocks reported that Christmas in the Park will begin again after Thanksgiving.

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 9:04PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Borough Secretary