

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING AND REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 16, 2024 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING by Council Member, Shawn Morley at 6:00PM

DISCUSS THE REPLACEMENT OF BLUEBIRD HOUSES WITHIN BOROUGH PARKS

- Mr. Mike Dubinsky, 715 Lincoln Ave, presented his proposal to install bluebird houses at Hunter Farm Park. Mr. Dubinsky detailed that he would place the bird houses on metal poles in the Spring and remove them in the Fall to refurbish them for the next season. Council members provided their support of the program and asked Mr. Dubinsky to coordinate the project with Mr. Oakes.

DISCUSS GROVE CITY GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEASE RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Mr. Larry Stewart was present on behalf of the Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball team. Mr. Stewart discussed his proposal to move the bleachers further away from the dugout area. Borough Council agreed to have Public Works assist with moving the concrete pad to accommodate this request.
- Mr. Stewart also discussed the girls batting cages and that the baseball team has been using them as well since they removed theirs due to its condition. Mr. Oakes mentioned that the baseball team had received a quote to replace theirs and Mr. Stewart indicated that he would speak with them. Mr. Stewart mentioned that some the Grove City College players have also been using these cages and Councilman DiStasi mentioned he would inquire as to why this was the case since they have their own.
- Mr. Stewart mentioned that the electric bill for the High School Scoreboard had been put in their name and needs to be transferred to the High School. Mr. Oakes stated that he would take care of that.
- Mr. Stewart stated that all existing elements of the lease were satisfactory.

DISCUSS GROVE CITY LITTLE EAGLES LEASE RENEWAL AND IMPROVEMENTS

- Mr. Jason Patterson and Mr. Richard Graham were present on behalf of the Little Eagles. Mr. Patterson discussed the need to replace the existing shed at the property since it was in a state of disrepair. Mr. Patterson inquired if Council would be alright if it was replaced with a shipping container. Council expressed their approval with this request and discussed possibly painting a mural on the container or locating it in area that would be out of the way.
- Mr. Patterson further discussed the need for water at the Hunter Farm Field. Mr. Oakes stated that he had asked Public Works to determine the material cost to install this water line and it was estimated at \$1,100 with the labor being donated by the Borough. Mr. Patterson stated that he would take that back to his board for review.
- Mr. Patterson also discussed the need for lighting at the site and Mr. Oakes stated that he could ask the electric department to work on pricing for this.
- Mr. Patterson also informed Council that the club was satisfied with the terms of the current lease, but just requested that they be permitted to mow the grass in April and May to prepare for the season.

DISCUSS POSTING UPPER DAM PROPERTY

- Mr. Oakes stated that this issue had been briefly discussed at a Council Meeting. He stated that Mr. Larry Stewart is also a Pine Township Supervisor and they have had issues with individuals hunting on public property. Mr. Oakes stated that there is a Borough Ordinance against hunting in parks, but the Upper Dam property is not a park under ordinance. Mayor Riddle expressed his desire to see the

property posted due to liability concerns. The rest of Borough Council expressed their agreement with this sentiment and Mr. Oakes stated that the Borough would proceed with posting it.

DISCUSS TEARING DOWN OPTIMIST PICNIC SHELTER

- Mr. Chad Patterson, Public Works Supervisor discussed the report that he had submitted to Borough Council regarding the condition of the Optimist Picnic Shelter. Mr. Patterson expressed his recommendation that the shelter be torn down due to the cost of replacement exceeding \$10,000. This removal would still leave a concrete pad with picnic tables. Borough Council agreed with this recommendation and instructed Mr. Patterson to proceed with removing it.

ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Committee Meeting stood adjourned at 6:56PM.

CALL TO ORDER Regular Meeting by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:14 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. William Zimmerman**

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)
Absent	Myers, Shawn	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Gonc, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
Absent	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 personnel matter.

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. William Zimmerman 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 REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 18, 2023 AND REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ON JANUARY 3, 2024

- **Mr. Shawn Morley moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER MOTION TO DECLARE THE BOROUGH COUNCIL SEAT OCCUPIED BY SHAWN P. MYERS VACANT DUE TO FAILURE TO QUALIFY UNDER THE PENNSYLVANIA BOROUGH CODE

- Solicitor Bonner reported that the Pennsylvania Borough Code requires newly elected officials to be sworn-in within ten days of the Reorganizational meeting. Solicitor Bonner noted that this meeting occurred on January 3rd and Mr. Myers has not been sworn-in as of tonight's meeting.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley resolved to declare the seat vacant. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT OF A BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY

- Mr. Oakes stated that under the Pennsylvania Borough Code that a vacancy has to be filled within 30 days and unfortunately the next regular meeting would be beyond the 30 day threshold. Mr. Oakes stated that he would reach out to schedule a special meeting. Furthermore, Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough would advertise the vacancy in the newspaper and on the Borough website as had been done in the past.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to authorize the advertisement. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY DEBT ORDINANCE 1498

- Mr. Anthony Ditka of Dinsmore & Shohl was present and discussed the ordinance. Mr. Ditka explained that the Borough would be going through the borrowing process for approximately four million dollars in sewer and general fund projects. Mr. Ditka explained that US Bank would serve as the depositor and his firm would take care of all filing and required paperwork with DCED.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to adopt Ordinance 1498. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER GROVE CITY GIRLS FAST PITCH SOFTBALL LEASE RENEWAL

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee had met with the Grove City Girls Fast Pitch Softball Association prior to the meeting and had recommended that the lease be renewed contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to renew the lease contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER GROVE CITY LITTLE EAGLES LEASE RENEWAL

- Mr. Oakes stated that this had also been discussed at the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting and had been recommended for renewal contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to renew the lease contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE RULE CHANGES

- Mr. Oakes stated that the funds for the police sergeant promotion had been allocated during the 2024 budget process and these rule changes would require that applicants for the position have four years experience as a corporal and currently hold said rank. Chief Allias stated that once this rule change goes into effect that the position will be posted.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the rule change. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COMMUNITY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE TO BE HELD ON 9/14/24 FROM 9AM-3PM AT MEMORIAL PARK

- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the event. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER AMBULANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH SUPERIOR AMBULANCE SERVICE, INC.

- Mr. Oakes asked Solicitor Bonner to provide an update on the EMS agreement to Borough Council. Solicitor Bonner advised that Doug Dick, Superior Ambulance, has several municipalities that have signed on to an agreement that did not mandate that three ambulances be maintained for exclusive 911 coverage. Mr. Dick has indicated that he will work towards this goal, but is not willing to sign an agreement that mandates it. Solicitor Bonner stated that Grove City Borough will maintain all elements of the agreement except for the three ambulance requirement as detailed. Solicitor Bonner highlighted that this includes a twenty-four-thousand-dollar contribution from the Borough and in exchange Borough residents will be guaranteed coverage and receive a one-half reduction in their copay. Furthermore, The Borough will sit down with Superior Ambulance on a regular basis to review performance under this contract, including verifying the number of calls that Superior Ambulance responds to.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the agreement. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER AMENDMENT TO THE WASTEWATER AGREEMENT WITH THE BOROUGH OF HARRISVILLE

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this agreement would reduce the total flows for the Borough of Harrisville to make up for the capacity that has been allocated to Marion Township. Solicitor Bonner stated that Marion Township needs to join the Pine Harrisville Sewer Authority and Harrisville Borough needs to adopt the same agreement to finalize this process. Solicitor Bonner asked Gary Quigley, Kozyrest Campground to detail the development that will be occurring. Mr. Gary Quigley explained that twenty-two million dollars is being invested into the site and the development will include a water park.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the agreement. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work on the Water Treatment plant has slowed down due to the weather. Mr. Goncz also reported that the CFA has announced the award of a two-million-dollar grant to the Borough from the H2O program. The Borough is working on the specifics of the grant award and requirements. Mr. Oakes thanked Representative Bonner for any assistance that he provided. Mr. Goncz recommended approval of the attached payment requests.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$14,145 and \$9,772.50 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$116,470. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz reported that he is working on the industrial and municipal wasteload management reports.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that last month PennDOT held a meeting at the Borough office to discuss the Main Street Bridge replacement project. Mr. Oakes stated that PennDOT has proposed a full closure for a period of three months instead of a single lane closure that would require eight months. The project is slated to occur from 5/19/25-8/23/25 to accommodate Grove City College and Grove City Area School District to the best extent possible. Ms. Mattocks added that she was present at the meeting and felt that this was the best option.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he had submitted a letter of interest for the Filer Alley Underground Electrical Upgrade Project to the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program that AMP Ohio is working on. Mr. Oakes explained that if selected, the Borough will be invited to formally apply.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough is still waiting on Ms. Caitlin Robbins to produce an opinion of probable cost before proceeding with any consideration of a zoning ordinance change.

- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to provide an update on the building at 241 S. Broad Street and its current status. Mr. Pokrant detailed that the building after several years of code enforcement actions, including a judgement against the structure in court, was sold at sheriff sale to the bank. Mr. Pokrant explained that since the sale, the Borough has been working with the bank to address the property. Mr. Pokrant further reported that on January 9th that a piece of metal covering the front façade became detached and fell to the sidewalk. The debris did not cause any harm to property or pedestrians. Following this, the street was closed, and the fire department removed the rest of the metal piece and other accessible loose materials. Due to the condition of the remaining façade at the top of the structure, the sidewalk and parking stalls immediately adjacent to the building remained closed even after the street was reopened. Since 1/10/24, the Borough has been in touch with the bank and stressed the importance of securing this façade. The bank sent out one contractor for an estimate and is waiting on another. The Borough will require that the repairs are made, and a structural engineer provide a signed and stamped statement that the sidewalk/parking areas are free from hazards from this structure before it will be reopened.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Emmy Riddle

- Ms. Riddle reported that Winter Sports are ongoing and encouraged Council Members to check Instagram for updates.
- Ms. Riddle reported that Winterfest is coming up on January 20th and that the High School is hosting theme days this week prior to the dance.
- Ms. Riddle discussed conversations that she had with a school employee from Zelienople regarding open containers for events. Ms. Riddle noted that these events were community events that allowed local businesses to participate and brought people into the community. Ms. Riddle mentioned that it may be something for the Borough to consider.
- Ms. Riddle also detailed that the Interact Club had a Blood Drive on January 8th and would hold another one on April 12th.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle reported that he did not perform any weddings in the fourth quarter of 2023.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 12/19- Shop with a Cop at Grove City Walmart
 - 1/2- Attended Shine a Light Speaker Series at which Chief Allias spoke
 - 1/10- Attempted to attend the Elected Officials Lunch at the Pennsylvania Farm Show, but was prevented by weather conditions.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 1/17- COG Meeting
 - 1/23- Penn Northwest Sites Committee
 - Mayor Riddle announced that PSAB will be hosting Newly Elected Officials Bootcamp sessions on 1/26 and 1/27 in Crawford County and 2/16 and 2/17 in Butler County.
 - 2/8- PSAB Conference Call with the MRT Committee
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias reported that the Police Department has to restart the hiring process since the last applicant has withdrawn. Furthermore, the Police Department is working to implement the new Lexipol software for policies and procedures and in March should have the new police cruiser and be completing the promotions for corporal and sergeant.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Mattocks detailed that the Committee Assignments for Council were distributed at their desks. Ms. Mattocks also reminded Council Members to complete their required Ethics Forms and turn them in.

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 8:22PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager