

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
January 22, 2025 at 6PM**

CALL TO ORDER WORK SESSION MEETING by Ms. Mary K. Mattocks at 6:00PM

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)
Absent	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Asst. Man)
X	Eakin, Patrick	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	Absent	Myford, Elle (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	Smith, Alex (Jr. Council)		

DISCUSS MELLON FOUNDATION PLANNING GRANT

- Mr. Brian Powell, Grove City College, was present and discussed the grant opportunity with Borough Council. Mr. Powell explained that the grant would be a planning grant to develop a plan to revitalize/redevelop the downtown area. Mr. Powell explained that the College would serve as a passthrough and partner for the grant to the Borough. Mr. Powell stated that Meadville and Allegheny College are currently a recipient of the grant funding and would be a good contact to evaluate their experience. Mr. Powell explained that the next steps will be to wait to hear if the Borough is approved for the grant, begin compiling a list of stakeholders that the Borough will want to involve in the process and meet with Altar Consulting as the Mellon Foundation works closely with their group in association with plan development projects. Borough Council thanked Mr. Powell for bringing this opportunity to the Borough and detailed that they would work on setting up a meeting with Altar.

DISCUSS TAX INCENTIVES FOR ACTIVE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

- Fire Chief Jesse Badger presented a proposed recruitment and retention tax incentive program for the Fire Department. Chief Badger explained that the program would establish a point structure that would reward active volunteer firefighters by reducing their tax burden. Chief Badger detailed that Slippery Rock Borough and Neshannock Township have enacted similar programs. Chief Badger explained that they will be working with the neighboring townships to adopt the same program and suggested that reciprocity be established within the proposed ordinance. Borough Council indicated that a draft of the ordinance would be put together for review at the February meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00PM.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:09 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)
Absent	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Secretary)
X	Eakin, Patrick	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	X	Myford, Elle (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Smith, Alex (Jr. Council)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the ‘Bills Paid’ report. Mr. Jared Hoffman 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. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 16, 2024

- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amon presented the library report. Mr. Amon reported that the Library Casino Night fundraiser was a success with 70 people attending the event. Mr. Amon reported that the Library has a soup fundraiser upcoming on February 7th. Mr. Amon detailed that Ms. Baker was unable to make it tonight and asked that everyone keep Ms. Baker’s husband in their thoughts and prayers.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1503 AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY PARKING REGULATIONS

- Mr. Oakes explained that this would increase parking fines to a minimum of \$20 and that parking fines have not been increased for over 20 years.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to adopt Ordinance 1503. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUESTS: GROVE CITY DISC CLUB TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON MARCH 29, 2025 AT MEMORIAL PARK AND GROVE CITY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON MARCH 30, 2025 AT HUNTER FARM PARK

- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the event request contingent upon receipt of insurance. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: PROMISE OF LIFE NETWORK WALK FOR LIFE 5K TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2025 AT MEMORIAL PARK

- Mr. Oakes reported that this event has been held in the past and suggested that it be approved contingent upon verification with the respective softball and baseball teams that they did not have any games scheduled.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the event request contingent upon confirmation that there were not any scheduling conflicts. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE UNIT FAMILY SPRING PICNIC TO BE HELD ON MAY 17, 2025 AT MEMORIAL PARK

- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the event request. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-01 CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Bestwick has retired at the end of the year and that Mr. Caldwell has expressed interest in serving on the Civil Service Commission.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-02 ADOPTING THE MERCER COUNTY SEAL COAT BID PROGRAM

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Chad Patterson, Public Works Supervisor, had attended an initial meeting regarding the program. Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough would propose to sealcoat Industrial Drive, Breckenridge Street, Barr Ave, Oak Street, Union Street and a section of Gilmore Ave.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-03 VACANCY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Tom Nesbit is willing to accept reappointment to the board. Mr. Oakes explained that the vacancy board assists Borough Council if they are unable to fill a vacancy.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER MAKER CONSTRUCTION PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 1 FOR SUPERIOR STREET CURB RAMP ADA PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes reported that Maker Construction has a few punch list items remaining including topsoil, seeding and pavement restoration, but overall, the Borough is satisfied with the work that has been completed. Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough Engineer has recommended payment of the attached request.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the payment request. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF JIM THOMPSON AS THE EMA COORDINATOR EFFECTIVE JANUARY 31, 2025

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Thompson has moved out of the Borough and has transmitted his resignation letter. Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough has Chase Badger as the Deputy Director but will be looking for a replacement for Mr. Thompson.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to accept the resignation. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER HECKMAN DIVERSIFIED PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 4 FOR THE BLACKRUN SEWER PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes detailed that work is wrapping up on the forcemain portion of the project and the Borough Engineer recommended approval of the payment request.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the payment request. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 CHEVROLET 2500 PICKUP TRUCK FOR \$53,998 FROM DAVE HALLMAN CHEVROLET

- Mr. Oakes explained that this truck is included in the 2025 Budget and will be purchased through the statewide purchasing contract. Mr. Oakes further explained that this truck will be purchased through a 3 year lease purchase with FNB.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to purchase the truck. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER SUBMISSION OF A RAISE GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE FOUNDING TO THE FUTURE PARK AND TRAIL PROJECT

- Mr. Pokrant reported that this grant application will be for a federal infrastructure grant that does not require any local match due to its location in a rural area and within a persistent poverty census tract. Mr. Pokrant explained that the grant proposal is to make ADA improvement at Cunningham Mill Park, pedestrian improvements along Greenwood Drive and facility improvements at Hunter Farm Park. Mr. Pokrant detailed that cost estimates are being finalized, but the grant application should be well over 2 million dollars.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the grant application. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that the Water Treatment Plant is nearing completion. Mr. Goncz stated that the startup schedule for the plant should be finalized at the construction meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow with the anticipated startup occurring in February. Mr. Goncz recommended that the attached payment requests be approved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation , management and design in the amounts of \$5,750, \$9,772.50, and \$10,410, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$84,455 and from McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$108,637.87 and Renick Brothers in the amount of \$10,922.15. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz detailed that he is working on the design of the water treatment plant expansion project and that the permit application has been submitted to DEP. Mr. Goncz also detailed that he is working on the Municipal Wasteload Management Report and that he should have it ready for the February Council meeting.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that he attached correspondence regarding an Armstrong rate increase.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Civil Service process continues and that there are two candidates remaining, with the Chief completing background checks and polygraphs within the next few weeks.
- Mr. Oakes commended Public Works on their efforts to keep the streets clear this winter and assured Council that the Borough has sufficient salt reserves despite reports of other municipalities running out.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that Public Works is still waiting on a dump truck that was ordered in 2023 as the Borough is waiting on the upfit for the truck. Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough is hopeful to receive the truck within the next 30-45 days.
- Mr. Oakes reported that attached in Council's packet is some information regarding a partnership with AMP Ohio regarding transmission. Mr. Oakes stated that it has the possibility to improve reliability and is working with AMP to obtain more information. Mr. Oakes stated that he would report more on this matter in the coming months.
- Mr. Oakes stated that now that the Superior Street project has just about finished up that the Borough will need to redirect CDBG funds to a new project. Mr. Oakes asked Council to consider redirecting these funds to ADA curb ramps on Edgewood Ave, which is scheduled to be paved later this year.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to reallocate the Borough's 2022 CDBG Funds to ADA Curb Ramp Improvements on Edgewood Ave. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELLE MYFORD AND ALEX SMITH

- Ms. Myford reported that Grove City School District had online instruction days yesterday and today due to the cold weather.
- Ms. Myford reported that winter sports are ongoing and Mr. Smith shared that swimming is going well.
- Ms. Myford shared that the Winterfest Dance was held on January 11th.
- Ms. Myford reported that Dr. Finch will be retiring at the end of the school year and that Dr. Weaver will be replacing him.
- Mr. Smith reported that there was a blood drive at the High School and that many students participated in it.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle reported that Grove City High School Graduates Scott Easton and Robert Cummings were recently named to the Mercer County Sports Hall of Fame.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 1/1- Wedding at Cobblehaus Brewery
 - 1/5- Invited to the Pennsylvania Farm Show Elected Officials Lunch but was not able to make it.
 - 1/19- Orchard Manor Ribbon Cutting for newly renovated short term rehabilitation area
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 1/27- Police and Fire Committee Meeting
 - PennNorthwest Sites Committee Meeting, with the date to be determined.
- Mayor Riddle reported that in the fourth quarter of 2024 that he did not conduct any weddings and that he intended to perform weddings in 2025.
- Mayor Riddle reminded residents to shovel their sidewalks. Mr. Oakes detailed that an insert in the utility bills will be going out to remind residents as well.
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias detailed that Officer Bennett would be out another month due to an injury that occurred while apprehending a suspect. Mayor Riddle detailed that the Police Department will soon be installing their speed radar sign on Lincoln Ave.
- Mayor Riddle reminded residents to drive carefully during winter weather events.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Joel Bigley announced that he plans to retire at the end of his term and not seek reelection. Mr. Bigley thanked council and expressed his desire for younger residents to get involved with council. Ms. Mattocks thanked Mr. Bigley for his service to the community for over 20 years.
- Ms. Mattocks shared that she has received multiple compliments regarding Borough staff and thanked them for all the work that they do.
- Ms. Mattocks shared that the Borough will be contracting with Kellner Fireworks Inc. for the 4th of July display again this year.

NEWS MEDIA

- Borough Council was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager