

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
January 31, 2024 6:00pm**

CALL TO ORDER by Council President Mary K. Mattocks at 6:05 PM

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

CONSIDERATION OF ANY REQUESTS TO ADD ITEMS TO TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- None

CONSIDER APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL MEMBER TO FILL VACANT WARD 3 COUNCIL SEAT

- Three citizens from Ward 3 were present to express their interest in serving on Council. The three candidates were Patrick Eakin of 147 State Street, Nancy Wagner of 149 Edgewood Ave and Amy Foley of 304 State Street. The candidates were interviewed by Council separately.
- Following completion of the interviews, Councilman Henry thanked all three for their time and remarked that all three would make great candidates. Mr. Scott Jaillet and Mayor Riddle expressed their agreement with this sentiment.
- Ms. Mattocks opened the floor for nominations to fill the vacant seat.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi nominated Ms. Amy Foley to fill the vacant seat. Mr. Shawn Morley nominated Mr. Patrick Eakin to fill the vacant seat. Hearing no further nominations, Ms. Mattocks closed nominations. Ms. Mattocks requested a roll call vote. Ms. Amy Foley received votes from Councilman DiStasi and Councilman Jaillet, with the six remaining members voting against. Mr. Patrick Eakin received six votes for with the two votes against being from Councilman DiStasi and Councilman Jaillet. The appointment of Mr. Patrick Eakin was approved by Borough Resolution 2024-01.**
- At this time, Mayor Riddle swore Mr. Eakin into office and Mr. Eakin was seated as a council member.

Consider Event Request: Promise Of Life Network 5k Walk For Life To Be Held On May 18, 2024 At Memorial Park From 8:30am-1pm

- Mr. Pokrant explained that this event request was the same as was requested last year.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet expressed his concern with closing the entire park for the event and suggested that the closure only be to the softball fields.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the event contingent upon Ballpark Drive being open to the Softball Fields. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Jeff Hodge mentioned that two of the Council candidates had discussed the sidewalk condition within the Borough Council Interviews. Mr. Hodge stated that it is the responsibility of the homeowner to maintain these sidewalks. Mr. Oakes stated that in this same vein, that he has received word from Mercer County that DCED has denied the Borough’s application for sidewalk improvements for individual homeowners as the benefit would be born by the public who may not be low income. However, Mr. Oakes detailed that sidewalks within low-income neighborhoods would qualify if they were done in whole block or city street sections. Mr. Oakes asked if Council would like to reallocate funds towards this. Mr. Hodge and Mayor Riddle expressed their concern with a program such as this because it would disincentivize other homeowners from fixing their sidewalks since the Borough had replaced them for some homeowners.
- Mr. Scott Jaillet mentioned that several years ago, he had brought up a sidewalk maintenance program that would include a small fee on Borough bills to cover a portion of the cost of sidewalk replacements. Mr. Jaillet stated that he thought it could be as simple as the homeowner provides the material or demolition work and the Borough provides the rest of the project cost through the sidewalk improvement fund. Mayor Riddle mentioned that it could also be that Public Works removes the old and the homeowner installs the new.
- Mr. Bigley stressed that he felt it was important to address these sidewalks in some way and Ms. Mattocks stated that it should be sent to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion.
- Mr. DiStasi stressed that the Borough needs to do something with alleys and sidewalks. We should be proactive instead of reactive with our approach. Mr. Jaillet mentioned that the cost share from a fund like this could be based upon income.

NEWS MEDIA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

- President Mattocks adjourned the Special Meeting at 8:30PM

Respectfully submitted,

Taylor G. Pokrant
Assistant Borough Manager