

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 19, 2024, 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER Regular Meeting by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks 7:05PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Ms. Mary K. Mattocks**

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	Eakin, Patrick	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	X	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	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

- Ms. Mattocks detailed that she had two items to add to the agenda. Ms. Mattocks explained that the first item was a request to use the Monteleone Picnic Shelter for a Sunrise Service for Grace United Methodist Church for March 31, 2024 at Memorial Park. The second item was a request for the Camp Maxwell Spring Drill for the WPA Civil War Re-enactors on May 4, 2024 at Memorial Park to prepare for the reenactment event later this fall.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to add the Grace Church Sunrise Service Event and Camp Maxwell Spring Drill Events to the agenda and to approve them. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the 'Bills to be Paid' report. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 16, 2024 AND SPECIAL MEETING ON JANUARY 31, 2024

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker presented the Library report and introduced the Library's new Director, Mr. Scott Amon. Mr. Amon introduced himself to Council. Ms. Baker detailed that the Library has their soup and

sandwich fundraiser coming up on March 8th, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny on March 29th, a bingo fundraiser on April 20th and the Library's Fan Fest on May 11th.

GROVE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

- Mr. Jesse Badger presented the year-end report to Borough Council. Mr. Badger explained that the Fire Department responded to 196 incidents last year, the most ever and averaged approximately ten firefighters per call. Mr. Badger highlighted that the Fire Department purchased software to assist in identifying information regarding structures when responding to calls and encouraged residents to complete the survey to update the information for their property.
- Mr. Jared Hoffman detailed that he wanted to express his thanks to Jeff Badger and Kirk McClure for their assistance during the leadership transition at the Fire Department. Mr. Hoffman noted that without their assistance that the transition would not have been as smooth or seamless.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST TRADE SHOW AND WELLNESS EXPO AT MEMORIAL PARK ON 9/28/24 FROM 10AM-2PM

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

CONSIDER GROVE CITY GIRLS MIDGET FOOTBALL CLUB LEASE RENEWAL

- Mr. Oakes reported that there were no requested changes to the lease and recommended that it be approved contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to renew the lease contingent upon Solicitor Bonner's approval. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD AT MEMORIAL PARK ON 5/11/24 FROM 8AM-3PM

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

CONSIDER PROMOTION OF OFFICER BRIAN RAY FROM PROBATIONARY FULL-TIME STATUS TO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STATUS

- Chief Allias expressed his satisfaction with the performance of Officer Brian Ray and provided his recommendation that he be promoted. Mayor Riddle expressed his satisfaction with Officer Ray's job performance as well.
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to promote Officer Brian Ray to permanent full-time status. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER LIBERTY TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR WATER AND SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION AT 555 RYDER COURT, GROVE CITY, PA OWNED BY LEGENDS CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC (12 UNITS)

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this request was for an additional 12-unit apartment building and Mr. Goncz confirmed that there was capacity for this request.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the utility service extension requests. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work on the Water Treatment plant is approximately two to three months behind and should be completed by September. Mr. Goncz also detailed that once the block work is completed that work should pick up. 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 \$11,040 and \$6,515 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$147,392.50. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

- Mr. Goncz reported that work on the Municipal Wasteload Reports is ongoing as he is currently waiting on two municipalities to provide their data and expects to have the full report ready for next month's meeting.

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

- Mr. Oakes detailed that as Council is aware the CDBG funds for sidewalk improvements for homeowners had been rejected by DCED and Mr. Oakes questioned if Council would like to reallocate these funds to ADA curb ramps. Council expressed their agreeance with this and Mr. Oakes stated that he would work with Chris Conti from Mercer County Regional Planning to begin the process of reallocating these funds.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the he received correspondence from DCED that the Water Treatment Plant Project was no longer eligible for the H2O Grant since work had been started prior to the grant award. Mr. Oakes stated that he is in contact with Senator Brooks' office to see if there are alternative items within the project that may be eligible and will report back to Council.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to provide an update on the building at 241 S. Broad Street. Mr. Pokrant detailed to Council that the Borough continues to work with the owner to secure a contractor to complete the façade work. Mr. Pokrant stated that the Borough has put them in touch with three contractors who are capable of completing the work.
- Mr. Oakes reminded Council that the Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner is coming up on 4/25 and asked for Council's assistance/recommendations on businesses that could be solicited for door prizes.
- Mr. Oakes also reminded Council that the Chamber Dinner is upcoming on March 12th and asked that Council send their RSVP to Mr. Oakes or Mr. Pokrant.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough received notice of a rate increase for Armstrong and that this detail was included within the Board Packet.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Jaillet and Mayor Riddle to discuss the donation that All Good Things made to the Borough for the Memorial Park Walking Trail. Mr. Jaillet detailed that twenty thousand dollars had been donated to the project to celebrate All Good Things' tenth anniversary. Mr. Jaillet reported that All Good Things has approximately 50 volunteers that work at their location. Mr. Jaillet expressed his thanks for their donation and explained that in his conversations with Mr. Oakes that the Borough would be able to supplement the donation to complete the entire trail.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Elle Myford

- Ms. Myford reported that the High School Boys Basketball Team placed second in the region and the Girls High School Basketball Team tied for first in the region.
- Ms. Myford reported that the Winterfest dance was held on February 10th.
- Ms. Myford reported that the High School Play is the Adams Family and will be held from April 4th to the 6th. Ms. Myford also detailed that an ABBA Tribute Band will be performing at the High School on March 7th.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 1/17- COG Meeting at which Larry Stewart was elected as the new COG President.
 - 1/26- Ribbon Cutting for Berkshire Hathaway
 - 1/27- PSAB Newly Elected Officials Bootcamp in Crawford County
 - 1/27- Proclamation for Dean Kildoo on his 100th birthday
 - 1/31- Attended the Special Meeting of Borough Council to fill the council vacancy.
 - 2/8 and 2/13- Conference calls with PSAB
 - 2/16- Attended the PSAB Newly Elected Officials Bootcamp in Butler County. Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Eakin to discuss their experience attending the training. Mr. Hoffman expressed that he felt it was very valuable and appreciated the opportunity to attend. Mr. Eakin agreed with the sentiment and also expressed that it was a good networking opportunity.

- 2/20- PSAB conference call, attended the Penn Northwest Sites Committee meeting and attended a meeting with Chief Allias and Sherif Callahan regarding starting a neighborhood watch program.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the PSAB Annual Conference is scheduled for June 2nd to the 5th and encouraged attendance.
- Mayor Riddle also noted that March 4th is Pennsylvania's 343rd birthday.
- Mayor Riddle asked Chief Allias to speak a little bit about the letters of commendation that were included in the Board Packet. Chief Allias reported that the letters were written by Corporal Taggart in recognition of Officer Phipps and Officer Ray. Chief Allias explained that the two officers performed excellently in their handling of a suicidal male that ultimately led to him being transported safely to a hospital.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the police car cameras and body cameras are scheduled to be installed on February 27th, Chief Allias is working on the Lexipol system and once completed will have a comprehensive policy manual and that testing for the open position will be completed in April.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Councilwoman Mattocks highlighted a letter from the Grove City School District commending the Grove City Police Department for their work and relationship with the School District.
- Solicitor Bonner reported that he has been contacted by CESERA in his role as the chair of the Grove City Health Foundation soliciting funds to assist with their continuing legal battle with Tri-County. Solicitor Bonner explained that the Health Foundation received approximately thirty million dollars, which were the reserves of Grove City Hospital when it was sold to AHN. Solicitor Bonner explained that the goal of the foundation is to support initiatives that benefit the health of the community and that the Health Foundation had previously provided CESERA twenty-five thousand dollars to support their initial case. CESERA has since lost their case in front of the Environmental Hearing Board and has appealed to Commonwealth Court. Solicitor Bonner explained that in his experience these boards are often fair in their interpretation of the law. Solicitor Bonner also explained that in addition to the appeal, CESERA is bringing a case regarding the issuance of the discharge permit that Tri-County has been issued. Solicitor Bonner stated that the Health Foundation Board has requested to meet with the legal counsel for CESERA and would like to see if Council would be interested in attending the meeting. Councilman Bigley asked Solicitor Bonner if he felt that the case would be successful. Solicitor Bonner stated that it would be an uphill battle, but the airport seems to be a mitigating factor. Councilman Bigley further questioned the claims that CESERA is making regarding the Borough's water supply. Solicitor Bonner stated that a professor from Duquesne University has provided credence to these claims, while the Borough's hydrologist has not found any evidence that the landfill would impact the Borough's water supply. Mr. DiStasi stated the he felt that there wouldn't be any harm in at least talking with them. Mr. Morley expressed that he felt that they should also speak with them since it is so close to the Borough. Solicitor Bonner stated that he would work on getting a meeting scheduled.

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 8:07PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager