

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 15, 2024 6PM**

**CALL TO ORDER SPECIAL MEETING** by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 6:10PM

**MEETING ATTENDANCE / ROLL CALL**

<b>X if present</b>	<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>X if present</b>	<b>Council Member Name</b>	<b>X if present</b>	<b>Other Name</b>
X	Mattocks, Mary Kay	Absent	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)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	Absent	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	Absent	Myford, Elle		

**DISCUSS CDBG ALLOCATION OPTIONS**

- Mr. Oakes introduced Mr. Chris Conti and Mr. Peter Messina, Mercer County Regional Planning. Mr. Conti discussed the various allocation options that are permitted under the Community Development Block Grant Program. Mr. Conti explained the various programs that other municipalities have done in Mercer County including ADA curb cuts, sidewalks, housing rehabilitation and underground infrastructure. Mr. Conti explained the process for income-qualifying a neighborhood if Council is interested in a project in a specific area. Mr. Conti also discussed some of the populations that automatically qualified, including disabled persons and seniors.

**Hearing for 2021 and 2022 Borough of Grove City CDBG Program Modification and Mercer County CDBG Modification**

- Mr. Conti explained that this would be a joint public hearing for the Borough of Grove City and Mercer County. Mr. Conti explained that the Borough would reallocating approximately one hundred and seventy-seven thousand dollars from its 2021 and 2022 CDBG allocations to complete ADA curb ramps along Superior Street. Furthermore, Mercer County would be reallocating their 2021 CDBG allocation from clearance/demolition to housing rehabilitation.
- Mr. Conti asked if there were any public comments and there were none.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Special Meeting/Public Hearing stood adjourned at 6:50PM.

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING** by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:02 pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**PRAYER:** was offered by **Mr. Patrick Eakin**

**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	Absent	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	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	X	Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Myford, Elle		

### REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Ms. Erin Stoops, Pine Township resident, expressed her concerns regarding bicyclists not announcing their approach to pedestrians and vehicles not sharing the road with pedestrians at the Hunter Farm bike trails. Ms. Stoops requested that the Borough consider putting up signage regarding the duty of bicyclists to warn pedestrians. Chief Allias detailed that the Borough has not received complaints in the past regarding these issues. Chief mentioned that the signage wouldn't hurt, but may not be effective. Mr. Oakes asked about the walking area that connects the parking lot at Hunter Farm Park to the Bike Trails. Mr. Chad Patterson, Public Works Supervisor detailed that this area often lays in water. Mayor Riddle reported that he recalled issues with speeding in the area due to the football practices being held there, but the Police Department had addressed that. Mr. Hodge questioned if Ms. Stoops is more concerned with bikes or vehicles. Ms. Stoops detailed that she is most concerned with bicyclists not announcing. Ms. Stoops did admit that she often wears ear buds, but her husband who accompanies her does not and he has not heard bicyclists announcing. Ms. Mattocks indicated that she would refer this issue to the Parks and Recreation Committee.
- Taryn and Lydia Peterson spoke regarding the Trigonometree Project and indicated that they had selected a red sunset maple tree and will be planting it on May 17, 2024. They have partnered with the Grove City High School Wood Shop Class to make signage for the event. Emmy Riddle is also assisting with the project and stated that the group will be selecting the location for the tree tomorrow.
- Mr. Carl Bubenheim, Troop 76 presented his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Bubenheim's project will consist of building and placing flag recycling boxes at Tower Church, the Post Office, the Borough Office and the American Legion. Mr. Bubenheim detailed that the closest flag recycling location is currently in Hermitage. Council thanked Carl for this important project for the community.

### REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough received an event request from the VFW for a car show event on June 15, 2024 and is requesting that the section of Blair Street adjacent to their property be closed during the car show.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to add the VFW Event Request to the agenda. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the VFW Event Request. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

### APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 18, 2024 AND POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING ON MARCH 25, 2024**

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

**GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT**

- Mr. Scott Amon and Ms. Heather Baker presented the report. Mr. Amon detailed the upcoming Friends of the Library Bingo that is schedule for April 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Amon also reported that the Library will have a fundraising day at Primanti Brothers on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Amon also detailed that after dealing with financial issues for the last year that required the Library to eliminate their Saturday hours, the Library will reopen on Saturdays beginning in June and will do so on a trial basis from June to August.
- Ms. Heather Baker reported that the Library’s Fandom Fest will be coming up on May 11<sup>th</sup> at the Grove city Masonic Hall. Ms. Baker also detailed that the Library’s Bake Sale will be held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, which is also the start of the Summer Reading Program.

**Recognition of New Grove City Volunteer Fire Department Members:**

- Mr. Jared Hoffman recognized new members: Drew Hines, Erien Shwab, Joseph Walker, Ethan Cogley, Maura Hroncich. Mr. Hoffman acknowledged that Mr. Hines and Ms. Hroncich started as Junior Members. Mayor Riddle expressed his appreciation for the Fire Department and its ability to attract new members. Mr. Hoffman detailed that the Junior Membership Program has greatly assisted in recruitment.

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY FARMERS’ MARKET TO BE HELD EVERY THURSDAY AT MEMORIAL PARK FROM JUNE 13, 2024 TO OCTOBER 31, 2024**

- Ms. Mary K. Mattocks reported that that market will be starting in June this year instead of May due to the fact that the farmers don’t have a lot of produce to sell until June. Ms. Mattocks asked about the request for storage space. Mr. Patterson indicated that this could be accommodated within the storage area adjacent to the Monteleone Shelter.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved approve the event request with storage at the Monteleone Picnic Shelter. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE RULE CHANGES**

- Mr. Oakes reported that the rule changes were discussed at the Police and Fire Committee Meeting. Chief Allias detailed that the Civil Service Commission met and recommended the rule changes.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the Civil Service rule changes. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: FELLOWSHIP COMMUNITY CHURCH BLOCK PARTY TO BE HELD ON 6/29/24**

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

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: MIDWESTERN INTERMEDIATE UNIT IV FAMILY PICNIC TO BE HELD ON 5/7/24 AT MEMORIAL PARK FROM 5-7PM**

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

**CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: STRAWBERRY DAYS 5K TO BE HELD ON 6/19/24 AT HUNTER FARM PARK**

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

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1499 AMENDING THE BOROUGH’S ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this Ordinance would bring the Borough's standards in compliance with the National Electrical Code and allow aluminum service entrances.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to adopt Ordinance 1499. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

**CONSIDER MODIFICATION OF THE FY 2021 MERCER COUNTY (OBO GROVE CITY BOROUGH) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM BY TRANSFERRING \$61,695 FROM THE PREVIOUS SIDEWALK LINE ITEMS AND \$35,000 FROM THE HOUSING REHABILITATION LINE ITEM TO THE SIDEWALK (SUPERIOR STREET) LINE ITEM. ADDITIONALLY, MODIFY THE 2022 MERCER COUNTY (OBO GROVE CITY BOROUGH) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM BY TRANSFERRING \$77,840 FROM THE PREVIOUS SIDEWALK LINE ITEM AND \$3,120 FROM THE HOUSING REHABILITATION LINE ITEM TO THE SIDEWALK (SUPERIOR STREET) LINE ITEM**

- Mr. Oakes explained that this was discussed at the public hearing prior to the meeting.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the reallocation as detailed. Mr. Jim Henry 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 been hindered by rain over the last few weeks and that a job meeting is scheduled for 4/18. Mr. Goncz stated that they may look at the site grading during that meeting. Mr. Goncz detailed that a project cost summary had been included with the Engineer's report and Mr. Goncz recommended the approval of the attached payment requests.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$20,700 and \$9,772.50 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$122,075. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz updated Council on the status of the Borough's H2O Grant. Mr. Goncz explained that the grant could not be used for any items currently under contract, but could be used for another aspect of the project. Mr. Goncz explained that the Water Treatment Plant with the addition of an additional filtration unit could expand its production from a 2 MGD plant to a 3 MGD plant and that it is expected that this capacity will be needed by 2035. Mr. Goncz explained that the Borough could make this upgrade now using grant funds and would be positioned to meet future capacity needs. Mr. Goncz explained that the Borough could use approximately 900 thousand in grant funding and match this with 450 thousand in funds from the contingency budget for the project. Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough has had this change reviewed by DCED and that it is acceptable to them.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the H2O Grant Modification as detailed. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to provide detail on the Community Facilities Grant Application that the Borough will be submitting. Mr. Pokrant explained that the grant did not require any local match and had to be used to improve a community building that allowed residents to access the internet. Mr. Pokrant further explained that since the Borough contains the Library that the building qualified and that the Borough is applying for a project that will include ADA improvements, outdoor facility improvements and computer/internet upgrades.
- Mr. Oakes reported that 3 homes in the Edgewood Ave Neighborhood experienced sewer backups during the heavy rains. Mr. Oakes explained that the Black Run Lift Station should be going out for bid in the next ten days or so and will correct the sewer issues within that neighborhood.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that during the high winds over the weekend that a large tree come down in Memorial Park near the Keystone Picnic Shelter and that it had been cleared off the walking trail, but would be some time before it could be cleaned up completely due to the wet conditions around it.
- Mr. Oakes reported that work is progressing on the former Cinema Grille building at 241 S. Broad Street, but the contractor is slightly behind due to weather.

- Ms. Mary K. Mattocks expressed her appreciation for the Borough Public Works Department and Mr. Chad Patterson for their work during the heavy rains.

#### **JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Elle Myford**

- Ms. Myford reported that the Bocce Team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state.
- Ms. Myford reported that the Interact Club had a Blood Drive on April 12<sup>th</sup> and that it was successful.
- Ms. Myford detailed that the Interact Club will be assisting with the Library's Bingo Event on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Myford also reported that the Rotary's upcoming Disc Golf Fundraiser will be allocating their proceeds to Rotary student programs.
- Ms. Myford detailed that in May the Interact Club will be assisting with replanting flowers in the Rotary Gardens at Memorial Park. Ms. Myford reported that there were several other events upcoming in May including Prom on 5/4, Empty Bowls on 5/21 and the Thespian Coffee House at the High School on 5/23.
- Ms. Riddle reported that the High School Track Teams have meets upcoming tomorrow and Wednesday and invited the community to attend.

#### **MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE**

- Mayor Riddle reminded Council that the PSAB Conference is scheduled for June 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> and encouraged attendance.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
  - 3/25- Police and Fire Committee Meeting
  - 3/26- Mayors' of the Borough of Pennsylvania Leadership Event
  - 3/28- PennNorthwest Economic Summit at Grove City College
  - 4/10- Pennsylvania Governor's Awards Ceremony in Harrisburg
  - 4/11- Grove City United Way Luncheon and presented a proclamation to Pam Schnelzer for her work with the Salvation Army.
  - 4/15- attended the Grove City Historical Society 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration and presented them a proclamation.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
  - 4/20- United Way Day of Caring
  - 4/22- Meeting with Grove City AHN President Chris Clark
  - 4/23- PennNorthwest Sites Committee Meeting
  - 4/25- MCBA Dinner
  - 4/27- Mercer County Adult Education Center Ribbon Cutting
  - 5/10- Grove City Walmart Grand Reopening
  - 5/15- COG Meeting
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias reported that the body and vehicle cameras are up and running and have already proved useful for evidentiary purposes. Mayor Riddle also detailed that the Records Management System should be completed in September and that the new roof for the Police Station should be completed within the next few weeks. Mayor Riddle also reported that there were no issues during former Vice-President Mike Pence's visit to Grove City College.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr. Jaillet detailed that the YMCA reported that there were no changes for the upcoming Park Pool season and due to this fact Mr. Jaillet did not feel a meeting was needed at this time. Mr. Jaillet asked if anyone wanted to meet with the YMCA despite this lack of changes and no one indicated that they wanted to meet.

#### **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 8:25PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager