

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
May 20, 2024, at 7PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. James Henry**

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	Absent	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		

ANNOUNCEMENT THAT AN EXECUTIVE SESSION WAS HELD PRIOR TO THE MEETING TO DISCUSS A PERSONNEL MATTER

- Ms. Mary K. Mattocks announced that an executive session was held prior to the meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Mr. Carl Bubenheim, Troop 76, updated Council on his Eagle Scout Project. Mr. Bubenheim detailed that he has started construction on the flag recycling boxes.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF 'BILLS PAID' REPORT

- Mr. Scott Jaillet 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. William Zimmerman 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 AND PUBLIC HEARING ON APRIL 15, 2024

- Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amon presented the report. Mr. Amon detailed that the Bingo and Fandom Fest events were successful. Mr. Amon reported that the Library would be open on Saturdays starting on June 1st from 8AM-12PM and would be open for Saturdays throughout the summer. Mr. Amon reported that the Library has a bake sale and the start of summer reading on June 3rd. Mr. Amon introduced Megan Retiny and AnnMarie

O'Rourke from the Friends of the Library, who detailed their efforts to reorganize this group as a fundraising association for the Library.

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WINE WALK TO BE HELD ON 11/2/2024 IN DOWNTOWN GROVE CITY

- Ms. Beth Black, Grove City Area Chamber of Commerce, was present and explained that the event would be identical to last year.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved approve the event request. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: VALVOLINE OIL CHANGE EVENT WITH DONATION TO THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Mayor Riddle reported that Mr. Ken Frenchak was not able to make it tonight, but that he would like to hold his annual oil change event with the proceeds benefiting the Grove City Fire Department. Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Hoffman to coordinate this with Mr. Frenchak. Mr. Hoffman confirmed that he would do so.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved approve the event request contingent upon confirmation of the date. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION FOR THE POSITION OF SERGEANT

- Chief Allias spoke regarding how difficult it was to make a decision for the position of sergeant, attributing this difficulty to the quality of officers within the Department. Chief stated that Chris Taggart ended up being number one on the list and credited his experience as interim chief as being crucial in his performance evaluation.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to appoint Christopher Taggart to the position of sergeant. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER POLICE DEPARTMENT PROMOTION FOR THE POSITION OF CORPORAL

- Chief Allias spoke again regarding the quality of candidates for this position. Chief stated that Nate Cooke ended up being first on the list and that this speaks to his job performance and leadership ability.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to appoint Nathanael Cooke to the position of corporal. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER SERVICE ORDER AUTHORIZATION WITH RABELL SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING (DIVISION OF LSSE) FOR CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES FOR THE BLACK RUN LIFT STATION PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes explained that this would be the construction phase of the Black Run Project and that bids were expected for the June meeting.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the service order authorization. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ADVERTISEMENT AND INTENT TO ADOPT ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT 1500, PROVIDING FOR DAY CARE CENTERS AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITHIN THE C-1 CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- Mr. Taylor Pokrant, Zoning Officer, explained that this request had been brought before Council in December and then to Planning Commission for review. Planning Commission had recommended approval contingent upon the applicant obtaining an opinion of probable cost from a design professional. Mr. Pokrant stated that this step has now been completed and therefore, the ordinance is back before Council. Mr. Pokrant explained that this would allow daycare centers as a conditional use.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the intent to adopt and to advertise Ordinance 1500. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2024-03 NAMING A PRIVATELY MAINTAINED ROAD

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mercer County 911 had requested this change to name a portion of Campus Drive at Grove City College, North Campus Drive. This change will help emergency personnel when responding to an emergency. Chief Allias also stressed why this is important. Mr. Oakes also confirmed that the College was alright with this change.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve Resolution 2024-03. Mr. Shawn Morely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER 2024 STREET PAVING BIDS

- Mr. Oakes reported that Shields Asphalt Paving was the low-bidder for the project and the he recommended that the bids be approved. Mr. Chad Patterson, Public Works Supervisor, detailed that State Street, Woodland Ave and Lincoln Ave would be paved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the 2024 Street Paving Bids, awarding the contract to Shields Asphalt Paving. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING PARADE TO BE HELD ON 9/20/2024

- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the event request contingent receipt of a certificate of insurance. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COLLEGE HOMECOMING PARADE TO BE HELD ON 10/12/2024

- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the event request contingent receipt of a certificate of insurance. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION FOR 26 ALBION LANE, OWNED BY JOSH APEL

- Mr. Dan Goncz confirmed that capacity existed for this request.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the sewer service extension. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work on the Water Treatment Plant continues with the block work moving slowly. Mr. Goncz confirmed that the project is still set to be completed by October. Mr. Goncz confirmed that a final grading meeting was scheduled for tomorrow. Mr. Goncz stated that a bid package for the existing water treatment demolition should be ready by mid-summer. Mr. Goncz recommended approval of the payment requests.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$14,375 and \$6,515 and from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$123,500. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough had received their contract for the H2O grant that included the modification for the 4th filtration unit and that it had been approved, with the agreement fully executed. Mr. Goncz confirmed that the next step in the process would be to advertise for engineering proposals to complete the design work for the project. Mr. Goncz noted that the funding has to be used by 2026. Mayor Riddle thanked Mr. Goncz for his efforts to secure funding through the H2O grant modification.

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that he had attached a letter of interest regarding a grant application that AMP was applying for metering technology. Mr. Oakes shared that he did not expect to hear anything until early fall regarding this grant, but if awarded it would cover a portion of the cost to update metering/sensor technology within the Borough.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that the pool is still leaking water, but Mr. Patterson had some information on a possible fix for the pool. Mr. Patterson shared that he was able to make contact with the company that installed the trough system for the pool in 1981 and that there is a box within the trough system that may be the source of

the leak. Mr. Patterson stated that he plans to dig this area up in the fall to see if it can be repaired. Mr. Patterson explained that the pool is losing approximately 12,000 gallons per day. Mr. Hodge asked where the water was going and Mr. Patterson stated that it is going into the stormwater system.

- Mr. Oakes shared a letter that he received from the IDC regarding a request for funds. Mr. Oakes stated that this issue was discussed at COG and it was tabled for further discussion. Mr. Oakes suggested that this issue be discussed further at COG first.
- Mr. Oakes shared that Mercer Township is close to working out the final details for their intermunicipal agreement with Marion Township to provide service to Kozyrest Campground.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to speak regarding the Spark Good Grant. Mr. Pokrant thanked Mr. Riddle for bringing this grant opportunity to his attention. Mr. Pokrant explained that the Borough had been awarded \$1,500 from Walmart to replace a slide at the park and thanked Walmart for this donation.
- Mr. Oakes asked Mr. Pokrant to update Council regarding the former Cinema Grille Building and GetGO project. Mr. Pokrant stated that work had been completed on the former Cinema Grille Building and referenced the attached report from a structural engineer asserting that the public areas below the building were now safe for pedestrian access. Mr. Pokrant detailed that a number of violations are still present, but the public hazard had been abated. Mr. Pokrant also informed Council that the GetGo project had been abandoned and that the developer cited costs related to stormwater management.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Elle Myford

- Ms. Myford reported that the Boys Track Team placed first at districts and that the girls team placed third.
- Ms. Myford detailed that the Trigonometree had been planted earlier today.
- Ms. Myford reported that Hillview would be hosting an empty bowls event and that the Interact Club would be hosting a walk for water event.
- Ms. Myford reported that graduation is scheduled for May 30th.
- Mayor Riddle added that it is the third year for the Trigonometree project and that monies have been raised to fund the purchase of a tree for next year to ensure the project continues. Mayor Riddle also detailed that next month would be Ms. Riddle's final meeting.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 4/21- Proclamation to three high school wrestlers for their achievements at the state tournament
 - 4/23- Mercer County Reassessment Meeting in Mercer and asked Mr. Hoffman to summarize the meeting for Council
 - Mr. Hoffman noted that the first year after the assessment took effect had to be revenue neutral for taxing bodies.
 - Mr. Hoffman noted that well in advance of the reassessment taking place, property owners would receive their preliminary assessment and will have the ability to challenge it if they feel it is incorrect.
 - 4/23- PennNorthwest Sites Committee Meeting
 - 4/25- Attended a Kindergarten Class to discuss local government and attended the MCBA Dinner
 - 4/27- Adult Education Center Ribbon Cutting at GJR and Little League First Pitch
 - 4/29- Met with Dr. Chris Clark, CEO AHN Grove City
 - 5/10- Attended Grove City Walmart Ribbon Cutting following their renovation work
 - 5/13- First Pitch for Grove City Baseball Senior Recognition Night
 - 5/14- Conference calls for PSAB
 - 5/16- Attended Mercer County Adult Education Center Graduation Ceremony
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 5/21- PennNorthwest Sites Committee Meeting
 - 5/26- VFW Memorial Day Ceremony at Crestview Cemetery
 - 5/28- Grove City High School Awards Ceremony
 - 5/31- All Good Things Celebration of over one million dollars donated over the last ten years

- 6/2-6/5- PSAB Conference
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias reported that he continues to work through the hiring process for the new officer and that the Police Department will participating in a “click it or ticket” campaign from 5/13 to 6/8. Chief Allias discussed the commendation letter for Officer Bennett, who helped a retired Pennsylvania State Trooper find the grave of a fallen officer in Harrisville.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks reminded everyone that Strawberry Days is coming up and will be from June 7th to the 9th.
- Mayor Riddle detailed that events are being planned to prepare for America250PA, which will be celebrated on 7/4/25.

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 8:13PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager