

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
June 17, 2024 at 6PM**

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

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

HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 1500 A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR DAY CARE CENTERS AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITHIN THE C-1 CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- Mr. Pokrant provide some background information regarding the ordinance that would provide for daycare centers within the C-1 Central Commercial District, including reading the required public notice into the record.
- Ms. Caitlin Robbins, 112 S. Broad Street, was present and had presented the initial request for the ordinance change. Mr. Bigley questioned Ms. Robbins regarding the number of children that she planned for her facility if the ordinance is approved. Ms. Robbins stated that she will have between 15 and 20 children at her center. Mr. Eakin questioned Ms. Robbins regarding parking and she stated that it would be provided for within the Transformation Church Parking Lot. Mr. Pokrant also reminded Council that this ordinance is for the whole district and that as a conditional use would require an additional hearing and the ability to add further conditions to the specific site.
- Ms. Mattocks questioned the drop off and pick up of children for Ms. Robbins. Mr. Evan Lowe, building owner of 112 S. Broad Street, indicated that it is still being decided.

ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Mattocks asked if there was any additional comment, hearing none, the public hearing stood adjourned at 6:20PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Randy Riddle**

- Mayor Riddle asked for a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Gary Hughes, Mayor of Harrisville Borough. Ms. Mattocks also asked that the community lift up the family of Gary Hughes in their thoughts and prayers.

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

- Ms. Linda Dalessandri, Springfield Township Fire Police, was present and discussed a meeting that she had with Representative Tim Bonner regarding the need to have a meeting with Borough Council to allow Fire Police to operate within the Borough. Ms. Mattocks referred the request to the Police and Fire Committee for a meeting.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 20, 2024

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amon presented the Library Report. Mr. Amon noted that the Bake Sale was a success with the Library selling out a few days after the official sale on June 3rd. Mr. Amon reported that 325 children are signed up for the Summer Reading Program and this is reflective of where they were last year in terms of enrollment. Mr. Amon noted that the Saturday hours have been well received. Mr. Amon mentioned that on June 28th that the Library has a character event that they will be hosting as well.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1500 A ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT PROVIDING FOR DAY CARE CENTERS AS A CONDITIONAL USE WITHIN THE C-1 CENTRAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

- Mr. Scott Jaillet stated that he was not comfortable approving this ordinance change until the Borough received additional information regarding the parking and pick up/drop off plans for Ms. Robbins’ development. Ms. Robbins responded to this comment and offered that parking would be provided in the Transformation Church Parking Lot. Mr. Jaillet stated that he would prefer to see a plan in writing prior to passing the ordinance to ensure that it will be safe. Chief Allias was asked to provide his opinion regarding the proposed daycare and stated that he felt that if the rear of the building was used as a pick up and drop off space that it could be done safely.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to table Ordinance 1500 until a parking and traffic plan was received in writing. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

Proclamation for Doyle Whenry

- Mayor Riddle stated that Mr. Whenry was unable to make it to the meeting, but he wanted to recognize his actions on May 17th at Country Fair that led to recitation of a customer in cardiac arrest. Chief Allias reflected his appreciation for Mr. Whenry and recognized Sergeant Taggart, Corporal Ran and Patrolman Paroli who worked to assist the customer in distress in conjunction with Mr. Whenry.

CONSIDER CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION'S ELIGIBILITY LIST FOR HIRING FOR THE POSITION OF PATROLMAN AND HIRE NEVAN VODZAK

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Civil Service Commission has completed the testing process and that one candidate remains, Nevan Vodzak. Mr. Oakes reported that Mr. Vodzak is currently finishing up at the Mercyhurst Police Academy and is scheduled to take his MPOETC exam on July 9th. Chief Allias stated that he felt that Mr. Vodzak is a good hire, just new, and if approved is hoping to have him on the road by mid-July.
- Mr. Oakes mentioned that a reimbursement bonus had been advertised with the job posting and that the Borough would be applying for a grant to cover part of the cost of the reimbursement bonus. Mr. Oakes asked that this agreement also be approved by Council.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the hiring of Nevan Vodzak conditional on his MPOETC certification and to approve the Borough of Grove City Reimbursement Agreement with Nevan Vodzak. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY COLLEGE ANNUAL NIGHT GAME FIREWORKS TO BE HELD ON 9/28/24 AT 9:30PM

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

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT AND ADVERTISE ORDINANCE 1501 AMENDING EXCAVATION PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

- Mr. Oakes explained that this would require resident notification for work performed and increase the paving requirements for streets that have been paved within the last two years.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to advertise the intent to adopt Ordinance 1501. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that the block work at the Water Treatment Plant should be completed by July 4th. Mr. Goncz also reported that all of the underground piping has been completed and that the plant is slated to be completed in November. Mayor Riddle asked if it would be live in November and Mr. Goncz explained that there would be a period of water wasting as all elements of the plant were properly calibrated and staff learned the new system.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$16,847.50 and \$3,257.50, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$122,075 and from McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$51,394.50. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that the bid opening for the Black Run Lift Station Project has been delayed until July 9th due to contractors having difficulty obtaining equipment pricing in time to submit a bid. Mr. Oakes stated that bids would be on the agenda for the July meeting.
- Mr. Oakes recognized Mr. Matt Fischer for his work to raise money to care for the Old Presbyterian Cemetery and for his work to personally mow the cemetery.
- Mr. Oakes reminded Council that GCRI's project will be beginning downtown soon and it includes tree removals and re-plantings, with 12 trees being removed permanently and not replaced. Mr. Oakes stated that

Husband Construction has been contracted to brick over these 12 locations. Mr. Oakes mentioned that the large pine tree near the welcome sign at the intersection of S. Broad and Main Street will be removed, but trees will be replanted in this area as well.

- Mr. Oakes thanked Mr. DiStasi for his assistance with negotiating a reduced rate for the Borough's internet service due to the upgrade that was needed to accommodate the Police Department's body cameras. Chief Allias noted that the upgrade has been a significant improvement.
- Ms. Mattocks asked Mr. Oakes about the sculptures downtown that Glen Saunders has been refurbishing. Mr. Oakes stated that Mr. Sanders is donating his time to refurbish the sculptures and that GCRI has received donations for supplies with each sculpture costing about \$600 in needed materials.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Emmy Riddle

- Ms. Riddle reported that this would be her last meeting as she graduated from Grove City High School and thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve. Ms. Riddle stated that it helped open her eyes to the possibility of a career in politics in the future. Ms. Riddle also thanked Mayor Riddle and Council for the award that she received at the Grove City High School Senior Awards.
- Ms. Riddle shared that she will be attending Penn State Shenango in the fall and will be the third generation to attend the campus. Ms. Riddle plans to major in criminology with a minor in psychology and possibly transfer to Penn State main campus after two years. Ms. Riddle plans to attend law school after her undergraduate studies are completed. Ms. Riddle also reported that she will be joining the cross country team at Penn State Shenango.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Ms. Riddle is great example of what the Junior Council Program is all about and thanked her for participating in it.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that at the PSAB Conference earlier this month that he was appointed to First Vice-President of Association and looks forward to serving in that capacity. Mayor Riddle asked each of the other attendees to share what they thought of the conference.
 - Councilman Hoffman shared that he felt that it was a great opportunity to learn and felt that the Borough of Grove City is overall doing things very well. He noted that the topics that he found most interesting were the basics of the right to know law and a presentation on the recruiting and retention crisis that is plaguing volunteer fire departments. Mr. Hoffman thanked the Borough for the opportunity to attend.
 - Councilman Zimmerman shared that he thought it was a great conference. He noted several code enforcement and blight remediation presentations were of interest to him. He also noted that a bill to allow municipal police departments to have speed radar equipment is in committee.
 - Councilman Jaillet reported that he was able to connect with Rick Vilello from DCED regarding a sidewalk program that Mr. Vilello had started in Lockhaven. Mr. Jaillet shared that he will be scheduling a meeting with him to discuss this issue further. Mr. Jaillet also learned that when PennDOT is repaving a road that the Borough can make a request to have the sidewalks replaced. Mr. Jaillet also noted some funding opportunities for parks that he is going to explore further. Mr. Jaillet also noted that it was a good networking opportunity as well.
- Mayor Riddle asked Mr. Hoffman to report on the Valvoline Fundraising event. Mr. Hoffman reported that the Grove City Volunteer Fire Department will be the beneficiary of an oil change fundraiser on July 27th with Valvoline. Mr. Hoffman detailed that this will be the kick-off to highlight the Fire Department's 120th anniversary.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 5/24- Ribbon Cutting for new mural at the Grove City Area Historical Society
 - 5/28- Senior Awards at Grove City High School
 - 5/31-6/5- PSAB Trustees meeting, PSAB Board of Directors Meeting and PSAB Conference
 - 6/8- Daughters of the American Revolution event recognizing Hall Industries for the flag that they placed on the corner of Lincoln Ave and N. Broad Street

- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 6/18- America 250 Presentation at the Grove City Area Historical Society
 - 7/6 Eagle Scout Ceremony for Kaelyn Cozad
- Mayor Riddle reported that Chief Allias reported that the Bike Rodeo was a success and commended Sergeant Taggart on organizing the event. Mayor Riddle also detailed that the roof on the Police Department has been completed.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Bigley thanked Representative Bonner for speaking at the Memorial Day Service at Woodland Cemetery.
- Ms. Mattocks noted that the July 4th fireworks will be set off at 9:30PM and that the Harrisville Band will be playing at the High School Football Field starting at 8PM. Ms. Mattocks also noted that the Market in the Park started this past Thursday and will continue every Thursday until October.
- Mr. Evan Lowe questioned Solicitor Bonner regarding the process for approving the Zoning Ordinance Amendment that was tabled earlier. Solicitor Bonner stated that Borough Council can require any information that they see fit when considering an ordinance. Ms. Robbins encouraged Council to approve the ordinance due to the need for daycare centers in Grove City.

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 8:30PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager