

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
October 21, 2024 at 7PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:03 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Vince DiStasi**

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	Myford, Elle (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Smith, Alex (Jr. Council)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Mr. Stephen Sherman, Mercer County Controller, discussed Mercer County’s fraud prevention initiatives and passed out literature on how to detect and prevent fraud.

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

- Mr. Vince DiStasi 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. 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 POLICE AND FIRE COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 16, 2024, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2024, AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 14, 2024

- Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the minutes. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amon and Ms. Heather Baker presented the library report. Mr. Amon detailed that the Library is still working on fundraising efforts, with their annual donor letter campaign starting to have an impact on donations. Mr. Amon expressed his thanks to the community for their support. Ms. Baker reported that the library has several fundraisers upcoming including their soup and sandwich fundraiser on November 8th, bingo on November 9th and a cookie walk on December 7th. In addition to these events, the library has raffle baskets that they are currently selling tickets for.

RECOGNITION OF ROBERT STEESE FOR 25 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Chief Allias and Mayor Riddle honored Mr. Steese and thanked him for his years of service. Ms. Shelli Oakes presented Mr. Steese with a citation from Representative Tim Bonner.

CONSIDER GROVE CITY ROTARY REQUEST FOR A PEACE POLE IN MEMORIAL PARK

- Ms. Lee Myford, Grove City Rotary, discussed her proposal for the installation of a peace pole in the Rotary Gardens at Memorial Park. Ms. Myford explained that this is an initiative of the Rotary worldwide to promote peace. Ms. Myford requested that the Rotary be given permission to place one in Memorial Park.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the peace pole installation. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: GROVE CITY ROTARY DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON APRIL 26, 2025 AT MEMORIAL PARK

- Ms. Myford shared that this would be the same as last year and has served as a good fundraiser for the Rotary, which has used the funds for improvements in Memorial Park. Ms. Myford requested that the park bathrooms be open for the event. Mr. Oakes stated that he was hopeful that the weather would be mild and this could be accommodated.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the event request. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PROMOTION OF JEFFREY PAROLI FROM PROBATIONARY FULL-TIME STATUS TO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STATUS

- Mayor Riddle shared a letter from Chief Allias with Council that commended Mr. Paroli and recommended that he be promoted. Chief Allias reiterated this and stated that Mr. Paroli has been a good officer and very reliable.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the promotion of Jeffrey Paroli. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER MOU BETWEEN THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY AND TEAMSTER LOCAL UNION 205

- Mr. Oakes explained that the current Police Union contract names a specific health insurance plan that is no longer available and that this allows the Borough to transition to the current plan that officers have, but a MOU is required each year because the existing plan is not in the contract.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve the MOU. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER CHANGE ORDER FOR FORCE MAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH HECKMAN DIVERSIFIED

- Mr. Oakes reported that Heckman has submitted a change order to directionally drill the sanitary sewer force main in several areas where the plans called for open trenching. Heckman has proposed to do this work at the open trench price. Mr. Oakes recommended that Council approve this change as directional drilling will cause less disturbance and the pipe will be the same or better quality. Mr. Oakes highlighted that this is a no cost change order.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the change order. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER HECKMAN DIVERSIFIED PAYMENT REQUEST NUMBER 1 FOR FORCEMAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,077.50

- Mr. Oakes reported that this is for the work that has already been completed on State Street and that Lennon Smith Souleret has recommend approval of the request.
- **Mr. Patrick Eakin moved to approve the payment request. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: ZETA ZETA ZETA TRICK OR TROT 5K TO BE HELD AT HUNTER FARM PARK ON 10/27/24

- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the event. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2024-06 GROVE CITY COLLEGE PRIVATE ROADWAY NAMES

- Chief Allias explained that currently all buildings at Grove City College share a 100 Campus Drive address. Chief explained that this can be very confusing for EMS personal, especially those unfamiliar with the campus. Chief detailed that the resolution would provide private roadways that will be addressed within campus. Chief reported that upon approval that Grove City College will be putting up the proper signage.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST GROVE CITY LIBRARY USED BOOK SALE TO BE HELD ON 9/13/2025 AT MEMORIAL PARK

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

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH OCTOBERFEST BLOCK PARTY TO BE HELD ON 10/26/24 AT HILLCREST CIRCLE PARK

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

CONSIDER PEOPLES GAS PIPELINE EASEMENT FOR GAS LINE RELOCATION DUE TO THE ROUTE 58 BRIDGE PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes detailed that Peoples Gas is required to move their line due to the Route 58 Bridge replacement project that is set to start next year. Mr. Oakes explained that Peoples Gas would be obtaining an easement from Grove City Borough and Grove City College as they will have to pass through property owned by both parties.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the easement. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP'S REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION TO 537 GEORGE JUNIOR ROAD, OWNED BY TOM WISE

- Mr. Oakes stated that he knew that capacity exists for this connection, but asked Mr. Goncz how Pine Township was getting sewer to this property. Mr. Goncz explained that Pine Township has been granted an easement to get sewer service to this property.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the sewer service. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work continues to progress at the Water Treatment plant and it is still on schedule for a January 2025 completion. Mr. Goncz detailed that design work has started on the water treatment plant expansion project that will expand the capacity of the new plant from a two million gallon per day capacity to a three million gallon per day capacity. Mr. Goncz reminded Council that grant funds have been awarded to help fund this project and these funds are required to be spent by September of 2026. Mr. Goncz detailed that he hopes to have expansion project out to bid in May. He further detailed that the existing plant will need demolished and that he expected to have that out to bid for a December bid opening. Mr. Goncz recommended that the attached payment request be approved.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation, management and design work in the amounts of \$8,625, \$9,772.50 and \$3,470, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$150,100, from McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$53,241.80 and from Renick Brothers in the amount of \$122,798.20. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes shared with Council that East Pine Street will be closed this week at the railroad crossing due to crossing replacement work.
- Mr. Oakes shared that the Infrastructure Committee met with Norm Baron, Utility Engineers, and Tony DeFuria, NextEra Energy, to discuss the PJM capacity cost increase and a possible electric rate increase due to these costs. Mr. Oakes reported that Penn Power’s rate is scheduled to increase on January 1st as well.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Public Works is still working to identify the leak at Memorial Park Pool and that they are hopeful that further excavation may reveal the source.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough leaf schedule is on the website and was sent out with the utility bills.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough’s Community Facilities Grant Application has not been selected for funding and that only one project in Mercer County was selected.
- Mr. Oakes shared that a pre-construction meeting with Maker Construction had been completed earlier this month and that work was scheduled to start in mid-November on the Superior Street project.
- Mr. Oakes shared that the low-moderate Income census tracts have changed for the Borough and that the neighborhood that qualifies as a low-moderate income neighborhood is the College Ave area. Mr. Oakes recommended that the 2024 CDBG application be changed to sidewalk work on College Ave and Elm street.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Borough’s 2024 CDBG Application including sidewalk improvements along College Ave and Elm Street. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Oakes reported that he is working on a grant for landscaping improvements around the Borough Office.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, Alex Smith

- Mr. Smith reported that the High School and College homecomings were both held in the last month.
- Mr. Smith detailed that fall sports are coming to an end, noting that two high school golfers are state qualifiers and that the Boys Cross Country team is undefeated.
- Mr. Smith detailed that he and Ms. Myford met with Mayor Riddle and the third graders at Hillview to discuss local government on October 8th.
- Ms. Myford reported that Grove City High School Student Council and the Interact Club will be having a benefit concert on December 13th that will benefit the Grove City Food Pantry.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 9/18- COG meeting
 - 9/20- GCHS Homecoming Parade
 - 9/23 Finance Committee Meeting
 - 9/24- Meeting to discuss the PJM capacity cost increase
 - 9/26- PSAB Trustees Call
 - 9/26- MCBA Dinner- Mayor Riddle detailed that at the dinner, the MCBA passed a resolution supporting property tax relief for senior citizens by expanding the LOOP program statewide.
 - 10/8- Meeting with Hillview third graders to discuss local government with Mr. Smith and Ms. Myford
 - 10/10-10/13- PSAB Fall Conference- Mayor Riddle attended the conference and reported that Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Eakin also attended. Mayor Riddle asked that they both speak about their experience.
 - Mr. Hoffman shared that he enjoyed the smaller size of the fall conference compared to the annual conference. He also shared that he found the keynote speaker very insightful, and he

appreciated her discussion regarding leadership. He also shared that he enjoyed hearing Mayor Riddle speak about the Junior Council program.

- Mr. Eakin shared that he found it very useful to network with other boroughs and also to talk with the vendors that were present. He also found the discussion on acts that impact boroughs very useful.
 - 10/16- Attended 50th anniversary event for Armstrong Utilities
 - 10/16 Attended Mercer County town hall meeting at Grove City College
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 10/26- Trick or Treat from 4-6PM
 - 11/5- Election Day
 - 11/9- Veterans Day parade
- Mayor Riddle introduced Mr. Conner Rodgers, a councilman at Jim Thorpe Borough and Grove City College senior. Mr. Rodgers thanked Mayor Riddle for the invitation and opportunity to attend a meeting.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he did not complete any weddings in the third quarter of 2024.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the records management implementation at the police department continues. Mayor Riddle reported that Officer Bennett is off work due to an injury that he sustained while restraining a subject. Mayor Riddle stated that he is expected back next month.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Chief Allias reported that the College homecoming went well and that he wanted to express his thanks to the Mercer County Fire Police for their assistance with traffic control.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department will be starting a seat belt buckle up campaign and an aggressive driving enforcement campaign in November.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks recognized Mr. Carl Bubenheim, for his eagle scout project which included the installation of a flag recycling box at the Borough Office.
- Ms. Mattocks reported that Octoberfest was successful this year and will be an annual event.
- Mr. Jaillet asked Mr. Hoffman how the touch a truck event went. Mr. Hoffman mentioned that it went very well and thanked All Good Things for their donation to the Police and Fire Departments.

NEWS MEDIA

- Borough Council was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager