

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2024 at 7PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:04 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by **Mr. Joel Bigley**

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)
X	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)	X	Graham, William (Engineer)
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	X	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	X	Myford, Elle (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott	X	Smith, Alex (Jr. Council)		

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Ms. Ann Coleman, Mercer County Commissioner, provided a brief update regarding Mercer County. Ms. Coleman detailed that Commissioner meetings will be held on the first and third Thursday in 2025. Ms. Coleman detailed that the America 250 Celebration project continues, with Ms. Deb McEwen working with local schools. Ms. Coleman reported that the County budget has been completed. Ms. Coleman also reported that the County Commissioners will host town hall meetings quarterly in 2025. Ms. Coleman reported that the County has a potential developer for the “gravel pit” property near Interstate 80 in Mercer. Mr. Bigley asked about the pending closure of Sharon Regional Hospital. Ms. Coleman stated that it is her understanding that the Buhl Foundation is working on the terms of a grant to keep the hospital open.
- Mr. Brian Powell, Grove City College, reported that he has been working with the Grove City Foundation and Mellon Foundation on a planning grant that would be for the benefit of the Borough. Mr. Powell stated that the planning grant would be to conduct a study of the downtown area and potential ways that it can be redeveloped. Mr. Powell stated that the planning grant would not commit the Borough to anything beyond the plan. Mr. Oakes asked if the College would act as a passthrough for the grant and if any local match would be required. Mr. Powell stated that the College would serve as a passthrough and that there are not any match requirements. Ms. Mattocks thanked Mr. Powell for bringing this to the Borough and referred the matter to the Infrastructure Committee for further discussion.

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 18, 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 and Ms. Heather Baker presented the library report. Mr. Amon detailed that the Friends of the Library will be hosting a casino night fundraiser on January 18th. Mr. Amon also reported that the Library Board will be hosting an open house event on January 25th. Ms. Baker detailed that the Cookie Walk Fundraiser was a success with over 400 dozen cookies sold. Ms. Baker reported that they have a soup fundraiser upcoming on February 7th. Mr. Amon further detailed that the Library has sufficient funds to make it through May.

CONSIDER GROVE CITY AIRPORT SNOW REMOVAL EQUIPMENT BIDS

CONSIDER GROVE CITY AIRPORT BUILDING CONTRACT CHANGE ORDER

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the Borough has bid out the construction of a snow removal equipment building for the Airport. Mr. Oakes stated that the engineer has worked with the contractor to reduce costs due to the bids coming in higher than expected. Mr. Oakes detailed that the building will be changed to an asphalt roof, changed to non-colored cinder blocks and eliminating insulation in some locations. Mr. Oakes stated that with these changes the total for the project will be \$516,800, with about \$11,000 of that being local match. Mr. Jaillet asked about the timeframe for completing the project. Mr. Oakes stated that it should be early in 2025. Mr. Oakes asked that the bid be approved and the change order, awarding the contract to Penn State Construction.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the bids and change order, awarding the contract to Penn State Construction. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1502 ELECTRICAL RATE INCREASES

- Mr. Oakes explained that this Ordinance would increase the electrical rates as discussed last month when the 2025 budget was approved.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to adopt Ordinance 1502. Mr. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

RECONFIRMING ACT 511 TAXES

- Mr. Oakes confirmed that the Act 511 taxes would remain unchanged for 2025.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to reconfirm the Act 511 Taxes. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2024-08 AMP PA RICE PEAKING PROJECT SHARE

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough is an owner of an electrical generation project through AMP Ohio that provides generation during electrical peaks in usage. Mr. Oakes explained that the engineers have determined that they are able to generate more power than the project was previously rated for. This resolution would adjust the Borough's allotment to allow for an increase due to the increased capacity.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER HECKMAN DIVERSIFIED PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NUMBER 3 FOR THE FORCEMAIN CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT

- Mr. Graham stated that work continues on the Forcemain Project with Heckman and that he recommends that the Borough approve the attached pay request. Mr. Graham stated that since the last meeting, the Borough has received a quote for lining of the sewer interceptor and that is approximately one thousand dollars more than Heckman's revised quote, Heckman changed his fill specification, which helped reduce his quote. Mr. Graham stated that he believes that replacing the line would be the better option. Mr.

Oakes stated that Council provided authorization for this at the last meeting, but Mr. Graham is just keeping Council updated regarding the status.

- **Mr. Pat Eakin moved to approve the payment request. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUEST NO. 1 FROM RIGHT ELECTRIC INC. ON THE BLACKRUN LIFT STATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Mr. Graham detailed that this is for stored material and submittals that are allowable under the contract and the Mr. Graham recommended that this request be approved.
- **Mr. Pat Eakin moved to approve the payment request. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2024-09 PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes reported that Mr. Todd Wood, who currently serves, would like to be reappointed.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the resolution. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2024-10 ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- Mr. Oakes detailed that Mr. David Gills is interested in being reappointed and that Ms. Sandra Fischer is interested in serving on the board.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Joel Bigley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER INTENT TO ADOPT AND ADVERTISE ORDINANCE 1503 AMENDING THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY PARKING REGULATIONS

- Mr. Oakes explained that he is working with Chief Allias on an update to the Borough's parking fines as they have not been updated in 20 years. Mr. Oakes explained that this ordinance would increase tickets to a range of \$20 to \$40. Chief Allias detailed that many of the Borough's neighbors charge this much or more.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to advertise the intent to adopt Ordinance 1503. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR WATER SERVICE EXTENSION TO 12 INDIAN PATH, GROVE CITY, PA, OWNED BY MICHAEL MCDONALD

- Mr. Goncz confirmed that there is capacity for this request.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve this request. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY DANIEL GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that work continues at the water treatment plant with sofit lighting installed and the HVAC startup scheduled for later this week. Mr. Goncz detailed that he was not optimistic that Global Heavy will meet the deadline, but will have an update at the next meeting. Mr. Goncz recommended that the attached payment requests be approved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation, management and design work in the amounts of \$6,900, \$13,030 and \$6,940, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$142,099.60, from McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$164,114.35 and from Renick Brothers in the amount of \$41,359.20. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz reported that Borough opened bids for the demolition of the existing water treatment plant, that will be partially funded by LSA Grant funds that must be spent by 2026 and Global Heavy was the only bidder. Mr. Goncz recommended that the bid be approved.

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the demolition bid from Global Heavy Corporation. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Goncz explained that the 2025 Annual Services Contract with Gannett Fleming was attached, and it will include preparation of the municipal wasteload report. Mr. Goncz asked that it be approved by Council.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to approve the agreement. Mr. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes shared with Council that the Borough has three applicants for the police vacancy.
- Mr. Oakes reported that at the COG meeting last month that he was informed that Marion Township and Harrisville Borough had reached an agreement for the Kozyrest Campground sewer connection. Mr. Oakes stated that the EADS group has sent information regarding the project to Mr. Goncz.
- Mr. Oakes reported that barricades were stolen from the Turkey Trot 5K event, taking the Borough to five stolen barricades thus far this year. Mr. Oakes mentioned that these cost about \$100 each. Mr. Jaillet suggested that in the future the Borough may want to consider a fee for these events.
- Mr. Oakes expressed his gratitude to Borough Council and Borough staff for all of their work this year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELLE MYFORD

- Ms. Myford reported tomorrow is the last day of classes at Grove City College.
- Ms. Myford reported that the Grove City School District will be on break from December 20th to January 2nd.
- Ms. Myford reported that winter sports have begun at the high school.
- Ms. Myford shared that the Interact Benefit Concert was a success with \$300 raised for the food patty along with non-perishable goods.
- Ms. Myford detailed that the LGI has reopened at the high school following renovations.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 11/20- COG Dinner
 - 11/23- Peace Pole Dedication at Memorial Park
 - 12/7- Grove City Swim Team Breakfast at the YMCA, where he dressed as Santa.
 - 12/14- Wreathes across America event with Representative Bonner at Harrisville VFW and ceremony at Veterans Memorial at Memorial Park. Representative Bonner detailed that the program is an initiative to place wreathes on veteran's graves. Mayor Riddle expressed his hope that a wreath event can be held in the Borough next year.
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has Shop with a Cop upcoming at Grove City Walmart on the 18th.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Chief Allias reported that the Police Department LiveScan machine is up and running. Chief Allias shared that it will be very useful for modern fingerprinting and identification work.
- Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department will be conducting roving DUI patrols during the holiday season.
- Mayor Riddle detailed that the Police Department is continuing to cover shifts due to Officer Bennett's absence.
- Mayor Riddle expressed his thanks to Hall Industries for their donation to purchase a radar sign to assist with speed enforcement and data collection.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Alex Smith, arrived late, stated that he was at a swim meet with Titusville and that the boys team won, but the girls team lost.

NEWS MEDIA

- Borough Council was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager