

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 18, 2023 7:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary Kay Mattocks at 7:14 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 | X | DiStasi, Vincent | X | Pokrant, Taylor (Secretary) |
| Absent | Myers, Shawn | X | Riddle, Randy (Mayor) | Absent | Goncz, Dan (Engineer) |
| X | Henry, James | X | Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres) | | |
| X | Hodge, Jeffrey | Absent | Zimmerman, William | | |
| Absent | Gallagher, Amy | X | Riddle, Emmy (Jr. Council) | | |
| X | Jaillet, Scott | X | Myford, Elle (Jr. Council) | | |

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

RECOGNITION OF JEFFREY BADGER FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Mr. Jeff Badger was recognized for 42 years of service to the Borough of Grove City Electric Department and also presented with a citation from Representative Bonner.

RECOGNITION OF TIMOTHY HOLLIDAY FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Mr. Timothy Holliday was recognized for 42 years of service to the Borough of Grove City Electric Department and also presented with a citation from Representative Bonner.

APPROVAL OF ‘BILLS PAID’ REPORT

- **Mr. Joel Bigley 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. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 20, 2023

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Ms. Heather Baker reported that the library is beginning to plan for the new year. This includes a New Year’s at noon party that is coming up on December 30th to ring in the New Year. Ms. Baker also thanked the community for their support of her husband Jim as he continues to receive treatment for leukemia.

**CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1495 WATER RATE INCREASE
CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1496 SEWER RATE INCREASE
CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1497 ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE**

- Mr. Oakes explained that the three ordinances before Council were a part of the budget planning process and the three increases collectively will increase the average residential bill by about \$10 a month. Mr. Oakes thanked Council for their work during the budget process and requested that all three ordinances be taken together.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to adopt Ordinance 1495, Ordinance 1496 and Ordinance 1497. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

RECONFIRM ACT 511 TAXES

- Mr. Oakes stated that there was no change to the Act 511 Taxes. These taxes include \$5 per capita tax, \$52 LST tax, 1 percent earned income tax, 1 percent realty transfer tax and \$50 annual tax on amusement devices per machine.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to reconfirm the Act 511 Tax Rates. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

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

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-16 VACANCY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes detailed that Mr. Tom Nesbit was willing to serve another term on the vacancy board and explained that vacancy board is made up of one elector who would assist if Council were unable to fill a vacancy.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2023-16. Mr. Shawn Morley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-17 PLANNING COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENTS

- Mr. Oakes reported that all members up for reappointment were willing to serve another term and thanked them for their service.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to approve Resolution 2023-17. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-18 ZONING HEARING BOARD REAPPOINTMENTS

- Mr. Oakes reported that all members up for reappointment were willing to serve another term and thanked them for their service.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Resolution 2023-18. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-19 GROVE CITY LIBRARY BOARD REAPPOINTMENT

- Mr. Oakes detailed that Councilman DiStasi was up for reappointment and Councilman DiStasi indicated that he would be willing to serve another term.
- **Mr. Shawn Morley moved to approve Resolution 2023-19. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: FOOLS IN THE FOREST DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD ON 3/30/24 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: HUNTER FARM HUCKFEST TO BE HELD FROM 6/29-6/30/24 AT HUNTER FARM PARK

- Councilman Jaillet questioned the fact that the requester was a private company. Mr. Pokrant stated that Grove City Disc Golf Club was involved in the event but had not been included as the requester. Mr. Jaillet stated that he was alright with the event as long as the Grove City Disc Golf Club served as the sponsor.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the event request contingent upon Grove City Disc Golf Club serving as the event sponsor. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2023-20 NAMING THE BOROUGH MANAGER AS THE AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY FOR A SIDEWALK MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE SR 58 BRIDGE PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes reported that PennDOT will be replacing the bridge on Main Street that is over Wolf Creek. As a part of this work, the Borough is required to execute a new sidewalk agreement as the Borough has historically been responsible for sidewalk maintenance on this bridge. Mayor Riddle asked when this work was set to begin. Mr. Oakes stated that it was to begin in 2025.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve Resolution 2023-20. Mr. Jeff Hodge seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes presented the Engineer's Report in Mr. Goncz's absence. Mr. Oakes reported that work continues at the Water Treatment Plant and it is scheduled to be completed in Fall of 2024. Mr. Oakes stated that he spoke with Mr. Goncz and that he recommended approval of the attached payment requests.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and management in the amounts of \$13,972.50 and \$9,772.50, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$182,873.29 and from McCurley-Houston Electric in the amount of \$70,173.48. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- Mr. Oakes also recommended that the annual services agreement with Gannet Fleming be approved.
- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the annual services agreement with Gannet Fleming. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

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

- Mr. Oakes reported that he has booked the Keystone Events Center for the upcoming Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinner in April.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that he will be submitting a 902 Recycling Grant for a new woodchipper. The 2024 budget reflects a local math of fifteen percent for this item as well.
- Mr. Oakes asked that Mr. Pokrant provide an update regarding the zoning amendment request to allow daycares within the C-1 Central Commercial District. Mr. Pokrant detailed that Planning Commission met on December 7th and reviewed the request. Planning Commission recommended that the zoning ordinance be amended, but made their recommendation contingent upon the applicant obtaining an opinion of probable cost from a design professional to ensure that she would be able to move forward with the project if approved. Mr. Pokrant explained that the Borough is still waiting for this opinion.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELLE MYFORD

- Ms. Myford reported that winter sports have started and will continue for the next few months.
- Ms. Myford reported that the brunch with Santa event at the Library that was held earlier this month raised over \$300 for the Grove City Library.
- Ms. Myford shared that the Interact Club and Student Council have planned a benefit concert for December 19th that will benefit the Grove City Food Pantry. The concert will be from 6:30-9:00PM at the High School.

- Ms. Riddle shared that last month she was absent because she was at the Boys Cross Country Banquet presenting them with proclamations due to their success this past season.
- Ms. Riddle detailed that Winterfest is coming up on January 20th and that this year it is semi-formal to encourage greater attendance.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle thanked the Junior Council Members for keeping Council informed regarding activities at the High School.
- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 12/1- Bookends Ribbon Cutting
 - 12/3- Presented a Proclamation to Virginia Riddle for her 90th birthday.
 - 12/7- Holiday Inn Express Ribbon Cutting after extensive renovation work.
 - 12/9- Served as Santa Claus at the Grove City YMCA
- Mayor Riddle reported that the Grove City Police Department will be attending Shop with a Cop Tomorrow at Grove City Walmart. This event includes police officers from the area and Pennsylvania State Troopers.
- Mayor Riddle reminded Council that the Reorganization Meeting is coming up on January 3rd at 6PM.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Gannet Fleming will be sponsoring the Mercer County Boroughs Association Dinners in 2024. Gannet Fleming will cover the cost of the meal for elected officials from the 12 boroughs in Mercer County.
- Mayor Riddle asked Chief Allias to discuss the letter of commendation that was included within Council's packet regarding Officer Phipps. Chief Allias detailed that Officer Phipps through interviewing of a family member helped to crack the case of a juvenile that had been missing for over two years. Chief Allias complimented Officer Phipps on his excellent interviewing ability and his willingness to go above and beyond to assist in this case.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the hiring process for a new officer continues to progress and Chief Allias is hopeful that he will be hiring an officer in February.
- Mayor Riddle shared that the Police Department body cameras have arrived and that they should be up and running in March. Mayor Riddle also shared that the Police Department has started their transition from their current records management software to CODY, they expect that the new software will be up and running by October.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Oakes shared that he had included information regarding a recent court decision regarding Act 65 and its implications for the Sunshine Act. Mr. Oakes asked Solicitor Bonner to review this new decision and see if it has any impact to the Borough's agenda process.
- Councilman Hodge shared that he sat down with Councilman Bigley, Mayor Riddle and Chief Allias earlier this month to discuss recruitment for new police officers. Councilman Hodge stated that it was a productive meeting and thanked Chief Allias for organizing it. Councilwoman Mattocks stated that she is very happy with the job that Chief Allias is doing and thanked him for his work.

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 8:01PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager