

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING/REGULAR MEETING
July 21, 2025, at 6:30PM**

CALL TO ORDER PUBLIC HEARING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 6:37PM

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	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Asst. Man)
X	Eakin, Patrick	Absent	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	Absent	Moeller, Elsea (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott				

HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 1506 VACATING A PUBLIC ALLEY BETWEEN 124 AND 128 S. CENTER STREET

- Ms. Anna Sprando, 124-128 S. Center Street, detailed that she is requesting annulment of the alley. Ms. Sprando explained that she would allow access even if it is annulled. Ms. Sprando detailed that she has situated the alley currently to allow space for vehicles to turn onto Filer alley. Ms. Sprando explained that she has not received any complaints regarding access to the alley. Ms. Sprando explained that when the property was purchased that she believed that the alley was hers due to a conversation with Mr. Pokrant regarding the fact that the Borough did not maintain it. Mr. Pokrant confirmed that he did inform her that it was not maintained and also guided them through the annulment process in 2021 when it was previously attempted.
- Mr. Bigley questioned if there had been any complaints or issues with the alley since Ms. Sprando took ownership. Ms. Sprando confirmed that there have not been. Mr. Oakes questioned what they wanted to do with the alley. Ms. Sprando stated that they wanted to own it due to the improvements that they have made to it. Ms. Sprando stated that they paved the alley and adjacent parking areas at a cost of \$8,000 in 2021. Mr. Bigley reminded Council that if the alley is not annulled that the Borough will be responsible for maintenance and liability within the alley. Mr. Bigley expressed his opinion that it would be to the benefit of taxpayers to have it off the books. Mr. Bigley questioned an audience member, William Caldwell, a former Borough Public Works Employee, regarding how often the Borough maintained the alley. Mr. Caldwell stated that he thought it was private property and that he did not plow it.
- Ms. Mattocks expressed that she had concerns regarding how future owners may use the alley if it is annulled. Mr. Eakin expressed that he is concerned that future owner may restrict access to the alley.
- Mr. Hoffman detailed that current access is difficult due to vehicle and material storage by Ms. Sprando. Mr. Hoffman stated that he regularly travels in the area of the alley and sees people using the alley. Mr. Hoffman expressed that liability alone should not be a reason to annul the alley. Mr. Hoffman explained that the County GIS map currently shows the alley and was available in 2021. Mr. Hoffman detailed that parking is not permitted on alleys less than 12 feet in width and therefore parking would not be permitted on the referenced alley.
- Ms. Sprando stated that the previous owners often parked in the alley and used it as their own as well. Ms. Sprando expressed that she would like to be reimbursed for her improvements on public property. Mr. Eakin asked if a survey was done when the property was purchased. Ms. Sprando stated that one was not done.
- Solicitor Bonner explained that following annulment that private right of way rights would still exist in the alley.

ADJOURNMENT

- Ms. Mattocks requested additional comments, hearing none, the hearing was adjourned at 7:18PM.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING by Council President, Mary K. Mattocks at 7:25PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PRAYER: was offered by Mr. Jeff Hodge

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	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Asst. Man)
X	Eakin, Patrick	Absent	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
Absent	Henry, James	X	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
X	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	X	Moeller, Elsea (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott				

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- None

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. Vince Distasi 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. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 16, 2025 AND WORK SESSION MEETING ON JUNE 30, 2025

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amnon reported that the library participated in Pennsylvania Ohio Giving Week and raised over \$27,000 and that due to the influx of these funds and others, will be able to stay open until the end of the year. Mr. Amnon reported that the summer reading program has been a success with over 300 participants. Mr. Amnon reported that the Library Board will be meeting with Borough Council on August 6th to discuss the financial stability of the library.

CONSIDER ORDINANCE 1506 VACATING A PUBLIC ALLEY BETWEEN 124 AND 128 SOUTH CENTER STREET

- Mr. Joel Bigley moved to adopt Ordinance 1506. No second was made and the motion died due to a lack of a second.
- Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to deny the alley annulment petition. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried by majority with one no vote by Mr. Joel Bigley.

CONSIDER EDGEWOOD AVENUE ADA IMPROVEMENT BIDS

- Mr. Oakes detailed that the bids have come in under budget with the low bidder being Maker Construction, but that the work will delay street paving until September.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the bids, awarding the contract to Maker Construction. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER FINAL PAY REQUEST FOR MAKER CONSTRUCTION FOR THE SUPERIOR ADA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough was satisfied with the work that was completed.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the pay request. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-11 UPDATING THE GROVE CITY LATERAL POLICY

- Mr. Pokrant reported that this would update the current policy after about 18 months of experience with the program. The updates will include a code of conduct, requirement that pre and post repair footage be submitted, and a penalty should a plumber violate an element of the code of conduct. Mr. Pokrant detailed that this would help protect residents from plumbers that may not act in their best interest. Solicitor Bonner questioned the current ordinance that only provides exceptions for transfers between spouses. Ms. Mattocks and Mr. Bigley expressed their interest in revisiting this at a future work session meeting.
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve Resolution 2025-11. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER EVENT REQUEST: TOWER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FREE MOVIE NIGHT IN THE PARK TO BE HELD ON 8/9/25 FROM 8-11PM

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

ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION OF BRYCE FOREBACK AND DIRECT THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION TO BEGIN THE HIRING PROCESS FOR THE POSITION OF PATROLMAN

- Mr. Oakes explained that Mr. Foreback has resigned and taken a job with the City of Butler.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to accept Mr. Foreback's resignation and start the hiring process. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PROMOTION OF NEVAN VODZAK TO PERMANENT FULL-TIME STATUS

- Mr. Oakes stated that Mr. Vodzak has performed well and that Chief Allias recommends his promotion.
- **Mr. Jeff Hodge moved to promote Mr. Vodzak. Mr. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

PRESENTATION OF MMO FOR NON-UNIFORM AND UNIFORM UNION PENSION PLANS

- Mr. Oakes presented the MMOs for each group. Mr. Oakes noted that the Police Pension plan will increase from \$163,582 to \$280,662 and that the non-uniform plan will decrease from \$160,659 to \$105,520. Mr. Oakes mentioned that he spoke with Thomas Anderson and Associates and that they expect overall 2026 costs to be similar this year due to anticipated state aid.

CONSIDER MARION TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION TO 449 CAMPGROUND ROAD, HARRISVILLE, PA 16038, OWNED BY KOZYREST CAMPGROUND

- **Mr. Joel Bigley moved to approve the request. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes reported that DEP was on-site today for the inspection of the new water treatment plant and they reported that no significant findings were observed while on-site. Mr. Oakes explained that they will be waiting on official approval before sending water to the system. Mr. Oakes reported on a change order with Global Heavy for the installation of individual chemical flow switches in the amount of \$10,407.50 that will provide greater control to operations staff. Mr. Oakes also reported on a change order with McCurley Houston Electric to motorize the garage doors and make a few minor HVAC upgrades at a cost of \$10,240. Mr. Oakes also reported that Mr. Goncz recommend approval of all the listed payment requests.
- **Mr. Pat Eakin moved to approve Change Order No. 6 to Contract No. 1 with Global Heavy in the amount of \$10,407.50, Change Order No. 3 to Contract No. 2 with McCurley-Houston Electric in the amount of \$10,240, payment requests from Gannet Fleming for construction observation and design in the amounts of \$1,610, \$1,270.43, \$7,100, and \$8,865, from Global Heavy Corporation in the amount of \$285,959.93 and from McCurley-Houston in the amount of \$27,109.08. Mr. Jared Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT PRESENTED BY VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes reported that he met with Springfield Township and Pine Township regarding a possible water extension to Springfield Township to serve a proposed distillery development. Mr. Oakes stated that Springfield Township is working on possible grant opportunities for this extension.
- Mr. Oakes detailed that Grove City College has received a grant of approximately \$179,000 for a downtown revitalization plan. Mr. Oakes detailed that the process has begun with stakeholder interviews and will include public meetings/workshops with the entire process expected to wrap up in December.
- Mr. Oakes reported that phase 1 of Ward 4 stormwater project is out for bid.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the ADA improvement project at Memorial Park is completed and that he is happy with the work that was done by Youngblood Paving.
- Mr. Oakes reported that he is working on a pre-application submittal to the Appalachia Regional Commission for an undergrounding project in Filer alley. Mr. Oakes explained that he will have more on this should the Borough be invited to submit a full application.
- Mr. Oakes reported that contract negotiations will be starting with the non-uniform union next month and that the executive committee would be leading those negotiations.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, ELSEA MOELLER

- Ms. Moeller reported that Dr. Finch has officially retired as the superintendent and has been replaced by Dr. Weaver. Ms. Moeller also reported that Dr. Watkins has been hired as the assistant superintendent.
- Ms. Moeller detailed that construction is on-going at the high school with mechanical work being completed in the technical education wing.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY TAYLOR POKRANT

- Mr. Pokrant reported that Mayor Riddle was unable to make it tonight, but had submitted a written report.
- Mr. Pokrant reported that Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 6/18- NextEra PJM Update
 - 6/23-6/26- PSAB Leadership Team trip to Washington DC
 - 6/30- Work session meeting
 - 7/4 -July 4th event at Forker Field
 - 7/16- COG meeting
- Mr. Pokrant shared that Mayor Riddle reported that he has the following events upcoming:
 - 7/21-7/22- Mayors Roundtable for PCN
 - 7/26- Relay for Life
 - 8/5-8/6- PSAB summer board of directors meeting

- Mr. Pokrant reported that Chief Allias will have an officer at the Relay for Life event, at the Leesburg Touch a Truck event and at Grove City College move-in day. Mr. Pokrant shared that the police department is currently in the midst of another wave of aggressive driving enforcement.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks mentioned that it has been a good season at the pool due to the weather. Ms. Mattocks mentioned that the retaining wall at Cunningham Mill Park needs attention. Ms. Mattocks also detailed that things went well with the 4th of July event and thanked Pine Township for splitting the cost of the fireworks.

NEWS MEDIA

- None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager