

**BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING
November 17, 2025, at 6:00PM**

CALL TO ORDER WORK SESSION MEETING 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	Absent	Bonner, Timothy (Solicitor)	X	Oakes, Vance (Boro Manager)
Absent	Morley, Shawn	X	DiStasi, Vincent	X	Pokrant, Taylor (Asst. Man)
X	Eakin, Patrick	X	Riddle, Randy (Mayor)	Absent	Goncz, Dan (Engineer)
X	Henry, James	Absent	Bigley, Joel (Vice-Pres)		
Absent	Hodge, Jeffrey	Absent	Zimmerman, William		
X	Hoffman, Jared	Absent	Moeller, Elsea (Jr. Council)		
X	Jaillet, Scott				

DISCUSSION REGARDING GROVE CITY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY REQUEST FOR A ZONING AMENDMENT

- Mr. Ryan Wells, Mr. Kirk Albrecht and Ms. Rebekah Liese, from Grove City Christian Academy were present and detailed their request to modify the zoning in the Industrial District to allow for primary and secondary schools. Mr. Wells explained that the Christian Academy would utilize their Mill Street location for pickup and drop-off and that the Grant Street location would be used for 9th to 12th grade students. Mr. Pokrant detailed the non-conformities that allow their current operation at Mill Street and at the former Armory Building but explained that this would not apply for 107 Grant Street. Mr. Pokrant recommended that the change be a conditional use to allow review of any schools in the future by Borough Council. Mr. Oakes requested that if Borough Council move forward with the zoning change that the Christian Academy reimburse the Borough for the cost. Mr. Wells stated that the Christian Academy would be willing to do so. Ms. Mattocks stated that the item was on the agenda for the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

REQUEST FOR CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

- Mr. William Caldwell, 208 Franklin Place, congratulated Ms. Julie Swartfager on her Ward 4 Council victory and thanked Mr. Bigley for his years of service.
- Ms. Heather Blanchard, D’Licious Bouquets, reported that the Octoberfest event was a success and thanked Council for their support. Ms. Blanchard further detailed that her Light Up Night is planned for December 5th and asked for help in locating a Christmas tree. Ms. Mattocks informed Ms. Blanchard that she may be able to assist and would discuss after the meeting.

COUNCIL MEMBER REQUEST TO ADD ITEMS TO THE AGENDA

- None

CHECK PRESENTATION BY GROVE CITY VALVOLINE TO THE GROVE CITY VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

- Mr. Ken Frenchak, Grove City Valvoline, presented a \$5,000 check to the Grove City Volunteer Fire Department from their recent oil change fundraiser.

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. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the ‘Bills to be Paid’ report. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE WORK SESSION/REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 20, 2025, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON OCTOBER 22, 2025 AND WORK SESSION MEETING ON NOVEMBER 10, 2025

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

GROVE CITY LIBRARY REPORT

- Mr. Scott Amon reported that the Library’s soup fundraiser was a success with \$1,400 raised. Mr. Amon reported that the Library will hold their cookie walk fundraiser on December 6th. Mr. Amon detailed that the former Friends of the Library President is expected to take a possible plea deal that would require full restitution payment to the Library.
- Mr. Amon detailed that the former Library Director, Amy Gallagher, has reached a plea deal with the District Attorney’s office and will be required to pay back approximately \$6,000 of the \$26,000 that she allegedly stole from the Library.

CONSIDER LETTER OF INTENT TO DCED FOR A FIRE DEPARTMENT REGIONALIZATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

- Mr. Oakes explained that he had received an email from Chief Badger requesting that the item be considered. Chief Badger was present and explained that the regionalization study would include several departments in the Grove City and Mercer area. Chief Badger explained that the study would likely result in a recommendation for a mix of paid and unpaid members and that he is against regionalization. Mr. Hoffman explained that he feels that the volunteer model is working in Grove City and that likely any regionalization would benefit areas where it isn’t working. Ms. Mattocks stated that she would refer this to the Police and Fire Committee for further discussion.

CONSIDER GROVE CITY DISC GOLF CLUB PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

- Mr. Oakes explained that the Borough had received the request from the Disc Golf Club that is attached. Mr. Oakes recommended that due to the number of requests that the matter be sent to committee for further discussion. Ms. Mattocks referred the item to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

CONSIDER 2026 BUDGET

- Mr. Oakes reported that the 2026 Budget did not include a tax rate change, or water or sewer rate increase, but did include an electric rate increase. Mr. Oakes explained that the increase would be \$9-\$11 more per month for the average resident and that this increase is largely due to increasing capacity costs. Mr. Oakes detailed that a number of capital projects/capital purchases are included within the budget, these include phase 1 of the Ward 4 stormwater project, water and sewer line replacement on Woodland Ave, a new police cruiser, a new HVAC unit for the Police Department, new radios for the Fire Department, new pickup truck for the Public Works Department, Phase 2 of the Water Treatment Plant project, and a new control panel at the Wastewater Treatment plant. Mr. Oakes asked that Borough Council consider an MOU with the Police Department for their proposed change to 12 hour shifts as it is also included within the budget.
- **Mr. Vince Distasi moved to approve the 2026 Budget and the MOU. Mr. William Zimmerman seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ADVERTISEMENT OF THE INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1505 INCREASING ELECTRICAL RATES WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF GROVE CITY

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this electric rate increase is required for the 2026 Budget due to increasing capacity costs.
- **Mr. Jim Henry moved to advertise Ordinance 1505. Mr. Shawn Morely seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER RESOLUTION 2025-15 SETTING THE TAX RATE

- Mr. Oakes reported that tax rate would remain unchanged at 4.5 mills.
- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve Resolution 2025-15. Mr. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

RECONFIRM ACT 511 TAXES

- Mr. Oakes reported that the per capita, amusement device tax, local services tax, earned income tax, realty transfer tax would all remain unchanged.
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to confirm the Act 511 Taxes. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER ADVERTISEMENT OF INTENT TO ADOPT ORDINANCE 1506 ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT

- Mr. Oakes detailed that this was the topic of the work session prior to the regular meeting and that this ordinance would make primary and secondary schools a conditional use within the Industrial Zoning District.
- **Mr. William Zimmeramn moved to advertise Ordinance 1506. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER BLACK RUN LIFT STATION PAY REQUESTS AS FOLLOWS:

- **RIGHT ELECTRIC INC. PAY REQUEST NO. 5 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$45,195.30**
- **S.E.T. INC. PAY REQUEST NO. 2 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$244,625.49**
- Mr. Oakes reported that the new Lift Station is online, with just a few outstanding items. Mr. Oakes recommended payment of the two requests.
- **Mr. Pat Eakin moved to approve the pay requests. Mr. Scott Jaillet seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

CONSIDER PINE TOWNSHIP REQUEST FOR WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SERVICE EXTENSION TO THE GROVE CITY COLLEGE BASEBALL FIELD COMPLEX ON PINCHALONG ROAD

- Mr. Goncz confirmed that he had reviewed the request and that there was available capacity.

- **Mr. Scott Jaillet moved to approve the utility extension requests. Mr. Vince DiStasi seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

ENGINEER'S REPORT, PRESENTED BY MR. DAN GONCZ

- Mr. Goncz reported that the second phase of the Water Treatment plant should get started in January with delivery of the additional filtration unit. Mr. Goncz reported that the West Main Street water line replacement project would be going back out to bid next month. Mr. Goncz detailed that the Borough hoped to hear in January regarding their grant application for the East Main Street water line project. Mr. Goncz reminded Council that the Borough plans to do both projects before PennDOT paves next year. Mr. Goncz recommended approval of the following pay requests:
 - Consider Payment Request by Global Heavy in the amount of \$124,690.55
 - Consider Payment Request by GFT in the amount of \$2,219 for General Observation
 - Consider H2O Grant Drawdown Number 5 in the amount of \$126,909.55
 - Consider Payment Request by GFT in the amount of \$578.94 for NPDES Permit Renewal Engineering Services
- **Mr. William Zimmerman moved to approve the pay requests for Global Heavy and GFT for General Observation. Mr. Patrick Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Vince DiStasi moved to approve the H2O Drawdown request. Mr. Jim Henry seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**
- **Mr. Jared Hoffman moved to approve the GFT payment request for the NPDES Permit Renewal. Mr. Pat Eakin seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.**

BOROUGH MANAGER'S REPORT PRESENTED BY VANCE OAKES

- Mr. Oakes shared a letter with Borough Council regarding infrastructure upgrades that Armstrong is planning in the Borough.
- Mr. Oakes updated Borough Council that the Maker Construction final payment for Edgewood Ave has been issued and has been revised to within \$300 of the original contract price.
- Mr. Oakes reported that the Borough has submitted the full ARC Grant application. Mr. Oakes reminded Borough Council that this would be for the Filer Alley project.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Chivers Construction expects to start their work on the Ward 4 Stormwater Project in January. Mr. Oakes shared that Public Works has started the water line portion of the project and that residents were mailed notification by the Borough and Chivers.
- Mr. Oakes shared that Grove City College will host a downtown planning open house at the Borough Office on Wednesday at 4:30PM as a part of the RK Mellon Foundation funded planning grant.
- Mr. Oakes reported that Grove City Revitalization Inc. and Jill Schmick with Landscape Design have been monitoring the trees downtown and have determined that they will need to be replaced. Mr. Oakes shared that Landscape Design will replace these trees at no cost to the Borough.

JR. COUNCIL REPORT PRESENTED BY JUNIOR COUNCILPERSON, BY ELSEA MOELLER

- Ms. Moeller reported winter sports are underway at the High School.
- Ms. Moeller detailed that the Grove City School Board has approved plans to renovate Forker Field.
- Ms. Moeller shared that the Elementary School is currently completing parent teacher conferences and that the High School is considering a sports hall of fame for former Grove City athletes.

MAYORS REPORT PRESENTED BY MAYOR RANDY RIDDLE

- Mayor Riddle shared that over the last month he attended the following events:
 - 10/21-Rotary Exchange program
 - 10/26- Lunch and Learn at AHN Grove City
 - 10/29- Training for Junior Achievement Day at Hillview Elementary School
 - 11/3- United Way Non-Profit Summit
 - 11/5- Junior Achievement Day at Hillview Elementary School

- 11/8 – Grove City Veterans Day Parade
- 11/13- PSAB Board meeting
- Mayor Riddle reported that he has the COG dinner upcoming on November 20th.
- Mayor Riddle shared that Chief Allias reported that the Veterans Day Parade was a success without any issues. Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department is starting a click it or ticket campaign and reminded residents to buckle their seatbelts. Mayor Riddle reported that the Police Department would like to thank Grove City College for providing an intern who assisted the Department this fall.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Ms. Mattocks thanked the Grove City Police and Fire Departments for their assistance with escorts for Grove City College following postseason success.
- Mr. Shawn Morley thanked the Grove City Police and Fire Departments for their assistance and participation in the Veterans Day Parade.

NEWS MEDIA

- Council was available for questions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:26PM.

Respectfully,

Taylor G. Pokrant, Assistant Borough Manager