

COUNCIL MEETING

July 8, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held Zoom on July 8, 2020 via Zoom. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki and Judy Voet; Mayor Tim Plummer; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Joe Hare; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilperson Vippy Yee was absent.

Guests attending the meeting were: EAC members Leonard Busby and Ron Ploeg; Planning Commission member Jim Kauffman; and residents David Shaw and Matt Sullivan.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said. The Minutes of the June 10, 2020 Council Meeting were not received by Council members due to problems with the Borough email, so approval of these minutes was postponed until the next Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if any members of the public had an issue they would like to comment on; there were none.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Firn and Mr. Busby discussed the draft conceptual study of a pathway to improve the walkability of Rose Valley Road being prepared by Campbell Thomas & Co. The study originated with the EAC but will be assigned to the Planning Commission since it really lies more with its purview. Consultant Bob Thomas has indicated a revised version of the study incorporating comments and discussing alternatives to an 8-to-10-foot-wide trail for bicyclists and pedestrians will be ready before the end of the month. Mr. Busby proposed the creation of a steering committee for this project. Ms. Middleton, Chairperson of the Planning Commission, suggested that the consultant, members of the EAC, Council members, and residents be invited to the next Planning Commission meeting on August 6th via Zoom. Mr. Firn would like the consultant to provide a time line for the project. Mr. Siwicki would like information about grants available for such a project. Mr. Nielson expressed concerns about the cost, safety and feasibility of such a trail given the hilly terrain, houses close to the road, stone walls and other obstacles along Rose Valley Road.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Hale reported that Ms. Yee and Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann conducted the annual road survey. Mr. Houtmann felt that there were no imminent problems with any of the roads.

Mr. Houtmann will perform engineering studies for improving the left-side sight lines for motorist pulling out of Longpoint Lane onto Knowlton Road and out of Price's Lane onto Rose Valley Road.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported the Librarian Board has not yet held its July meeting.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone that while in the green phase of Governor Wolf's pandemic response, everyone should be wearing masks when away from their house and maintaining social distance.

Hurricane season is now upon us so everyone should have a 2-week supply of food, medicine and other essentials. Residents are asked to update their emergency contact information, especially cell phone numbers and email addresses, with the Borough Office.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for June 2020. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 4 false alarms; 1 alarm activation cancelled by homeowner; 1 911 hangup; 1 attempted burglary; 2 domestic checks; 1 car accident; 1 dog law violation; 1 noise disturbance; 1 public drunkenness; 2 see officers; and 2 traffic controls. The Fire Report showed that the fire company responded to the car accident.

Town Watch is progressing as usual.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the data collected by the traffic calming devices.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the following rules for conducting Borough business with the Rose Valley Borough office in the green phase of the pandemic. Anyone approaching the office must wear a mask as directed by the PA Department of Health order of July 1, 2020. Calling ahead for an appointment is recommended. Only one person may interact with the staff at a time, unless an individual requires assistance related to a disability or impairment. Any person who needs to fill out paperwork or wait for other reasons must do so outside the office. Writing instruments, such as pens, will not be provided for the public. The public will only have access to the area outside of the main door to the office, not the office space itself. All contact with the staff will be from behind the glass window of the main door to the office. The public is encouraged to do as much as possible online, over the phone, or by mail.

PLANNING

As mentioned above under EAC, there will be a Planning Commission meeting on August 6, 2020, at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom to discuss the "Conceptual Study for a Rose Valley Road Pathway" prepared by Campbell Thomas & Co.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported he had reconciled the QuickBooks account with the bank statements. Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for June. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Income Report for June and went over the Bills for Approval for July and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of \$11,183.59 were approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer voiced his concerns about a trail along Rose Valley Road.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith informed Council members that he is mailing information regarding Act 511 which enables various forms of local taxes in addition to those authorized under the Borough Code.

Mr. Smith wrote to Aaron Childs and Natasha Lowry regarding ceasing operation of their Airbnb in violation of the Borough Zoning Ordinance.

GENERAL

Mr. Hale thanked Joe Hare for again arranging and hosting the Council Meeting via Zoom.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary