

COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on August 10, 2022 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Dave Firm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Shannon Prown, Shawn Stancill, Matt Sullivan and Vippy Yee; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Leonard Busby and Joe Hare were absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Marcie Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre; Joe Gribbin, Hedgerow Board Member; and residents Kelly Caulfield, Denise Coan, Kevin Coan, Marvin Koellish, Eloina LeBuhn, Bruce LeBuhn, Teresa O'Flynn, Ron Ploeg and Diane Seider.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the July 13, 2022 Council meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kevin Coan of 1 Thornpath Lane said he was not in favor of a sidepath along Rose Valley Road because he felt very few people would use it and there is already a path to the train station along the bed of the old trolley track from Rose Valley Swimming Pool to Woodward Road. He expressed concern that residents were not notified about what days the survey crew from G. D. Houtman would be working on their properties. Mr. Hale apologized for this noting that properties owners were informed that the survey work was going to be performed. He also noted that while the old trolley track through the woods was fine for people out for a daytime walk, it was not a good alternative for SEPTA Regional Rail commuters. Mr. Coan also said he was advised that the Borough would have to invoke eminent domain and compensate him if it wanted to put a sidepath on his property. Mr. Hale explained this would be unnecessary because the Borough already has the right to put a sidepath within his right-of-way parcel along the road.

Further discussion of the sidepath followed. Kelly Caulfield expressed her opposition to the sidepath and the expenditure of money on a project she understood to be mainly promoted by Traymore residents who would benefit from being able to walk to the train station. Mr. Hale responded that the impetus for the sidepath Feasibility Study actually came from the EAC as a result of the Multi-Municipality Trails and Recreation Study which advocated improving pedestrian access to the SEPTA train stations and safety along primary roads within the school district.

Diane Seider of 6 Rose Valley Road said she would not be opposed to a sidepath if it was located in front of the trees on her property which serve to block the lights of vehicles turning from

Ridley Creek Road onto Rose Valley Road. Denise Coan of 1 Thornpath Lane said she wanted the sidepath to be located on the road side of their existing wrought-iron fence.

Mr. and Mrs. LeBuhn of 138 W. Rose Valley Road voiced their objection to Hedgerow Theatre scheduling an adult-theatre production outdoors on the Hedgerow House property which is next door to them and zoned Residential. The performances are to start at 7:30 in the evening with a large stage, theatrical lighting, and amplified voices, singing and keyboard music that they feel will be disturbing to them. Mr. and Mrs. LeBuhn are willing to let the planned 11-performance run of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night proceed provided Hedgerow promises not to hold any more outdoor performances of adult-theatre productions at Hedgerow House in the future. The LeBuhns are not objecting to outdoor performances of children's-theatre productions during the day. Mr. Hale noted certain uses of the Hedgerow House property are grandfathered, conforming uses under the Zoning Code, such as outdoor children's-theatre performances and acting classes. Mr. Smith will send a letter to Hedgerow reiterating what uses are grandfathered for the Hedgerow House property under the Zoning Code and provide a copy to the LeBuhns.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Firm noted there is an unattractive stump from a fallen ginkgo tree on the Borough-owned Valley Green property at the corner of Old Mill Lane and Rose Valley Road. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved, \$500 was allocated from the Parks budget for Carney Tree Co. to grind this stump.

HIGHWAYS

Mr. Sullivan reported that Engineer Houtmann is almost ready to send out the bidding documents for the Todmorden Drive culvert repair project.

LIBRARY

Ms. Yee reported the library is continuing their annual appeal and will hold a Well-Red fundraiser on Friday, September 23 at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$40 in advance or \$45 at the door. She encouraged everyone to support the library.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Stancill reported the July Police Report showed one accident and one burglary, and the July Fire Report showed no responses. Fire Marshall Matt Poissant provided a flier about planning how to get out of your home in case of a fire. The Borough is still receiving two data reports from the Thunderbird Lodge speed device and none from the Borough parking-lot device. Discussion followed about speeding on Rose Valley Road. Mrs. Healy will ask the State Police for additional speed traps.

Mr. Stancill reported the necessary corrections were made to the Borough's Critical Personnel Emergency Notification List. Resolution 5-2022 adopting the updated Emergency Operations

Plan for the Borough of Rose Valley and updated Critical Personnel Emergency Notification List was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Council also approved Resolution 6-2022 urging State and Federal lawmakers to enact stronger gun laws on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved. Mr. Smith offered to get Borough residents trigger locks for their guns. Residents should call the Borough Office if they are interested in obtaining these locks.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that the Borough Engineer has performed a survey of the 7 properties along Rose Valley Road from south of Buttonwood Way to Woodward Road and is in the process of researching the deeds and preparing a plan of property lines, rights-of-way, existing conditions and topography.

Mr. Neilson and others wanted to know how a sidepath would be paid for and when we can get an estimate. Mr. Hale responded that while the Borough has provided \$20,000 of funding this year for the Planning Commission to study the feasibility of a sidepath between Possum Hollow Road and the Moylan/Rose Valley Train Station, funding for final design and construction of the sidepath was expected to come mostly from grants. He noted the Borough has already been awarded a \$76,000 Delco Green Ways Connect Grant which it intends to use to design and construct a sidepath across the most dangerous section of the road for pedestrians where a stone wall is only a few feet from the white line, with the approval of the Delco Planning Department.

FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for July and reported he had reconciled 6 of the 7 Borough bank accounts with QuickBooks. The remaining account had two deposits which had not yet been entered into QuickBooks. Mr. Neilson reviewed the Income Reports for July and went over the August Bills for Approval. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$40,274.01 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, however the \$3,000 contract-renewal check for All Traffic Solutions will be held until the reporting problem with the parking-lot speed device is corrected.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith provided Council members his solicitor's report for August which discussed the ability of the President of Council to make a formal motion; the 30-day limit for challenging the legality of a Borough Ordinance; reasonable time limits for public comment; and the rules governing Executive Sessions of Council.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Paula W. Healy Secretary