

COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2020

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on June 10, 2020 via Zoom because of the coronavirus pandemic. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were: Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firm, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Nielson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Guests attending the meeting were State Trooper Jessica Tobin, Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board President Chip Seltzer, and residents John Baycich and Dan Razzano.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the May 13, 2020 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Chip Seltzer requested that Rose Valley Swimming Pool's amusement tax be waived for 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Pool is opening late with many social distancing restrictions and it is uncertain how many memberships will be renewed. At this time, they are not accepting new members and guests are not permitted. A motion was made that the Borough Tax Collector be exonerated from collecting the amusement tax from Rose Valley Swimming Pool for 2020. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Trooper Jessica Tobin attended the Meeting to bring Council up to date on the following subjects: Delaware County moving into the "yellow phase" of Gov. Wolf's pandemic plan, scams being perpetuated upon citizens, and speeding issues. Trooper Tobin related that driver licenses, photo ID's and vehicle registrations that expired between March and June, can now be renewed by June 30th. Questions about the pandemic and the reopening of businesses should be directed to the Chester County Health Department, which is also covering Delaware County. Their number is 610-344-6225.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Firm reported that Jim Audley is working on creating a plan for a trail in the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve along the top of the ridge and down the hillside via switchbacks to connect with the existing trail in the floodplain, thus creating a loop.

The conceptual study of a pathway to improve the walkability of Rose Valley Road being prepared by Campbell Thomas & Co. will hopefully be ready next month. Council originally approved \$3,000 for this study. The consultant is asking for additional funds of up to \$1,500 to include a discussion of various options and incorporate other comments on a draft of the study. On a motion made, seconded, and unanimously passed, Council approved up to \$1,500 as a change order to the original contract.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee would like Borough Engineer, Matt Houtmann, to perform studies of how to improve 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. Council agreed that Mr. Houtmann should be asked to do these studies utilizing engineering expense funds already in the budget. Discussion followed about speed traps to slow traffic down on Rose Valley Road at the Hedgerow curve. Trooper Tobin will let the State Police know of the Borough's concerns.

Many more people are walking along Borough roads in these times of pandemic which has created a safety issue. Pedestrians need to be able to safely step to the side of a road if there is a car coming. Residents are therefore requested to cut back or remove bushes, trees and other vegetation which has grown into the right-of-way or easement along the roads, and to remove stones or logs which could interfere with the safety of pedestrians.

Ms. Yee would like to change the Borough's e-mail address so that it would end in .org. She is investigating this and if there would be an additional cost involved.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet distributed a report from Leah Kulikowski, Director of the Helen Kate Furness Library noting that the Library will begin contactless pickup starting June 15th. The Library is instituting various procedures in response to the pandemic. Returned books will be quarantined for 72 hours, checkouts will be 3 weeks for all items (including DVDs) and items can only be renewed once.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reported that Delaware County has now moved into the yellow phase of the pandemic restrictions. This means that there can be no gatherings of more than 25 people, businesses and offices can be open but with restrictions, and everyone should be wearing masks when out in public. All Borough residents should make sure that the Borough office has their most recent contact information. Mrs. DeMasi is working on updating the information in the Borough's Emergency Management Plan.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports for May 2020. The Police Report cited the following incidents: 1 false alarm; 2 alarms cancelled by complainants; 1 lost animal; 3 domestic checks; 1 report of criminal mischief; 1 report of identity theft; 1 suspicious person report; and 3 see officer-go reports.

The Fire Report showed that the Fire Company responded to a call on 5/21 for a fire alarm going off due to electrical problems. Fire Marshall Poissant also sent a flier on grilling safety to be sent out to residents.

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

Mrs. DeMasi talked about the COVID-19 pandemic. There have been over 6,000 deaths in Pennsylvania and over 600 deaths in Delaware County.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported that she is still waiting for Cory Keregise to finish his project. He will then be able to advise Rose Valley on proceeding with the creation of a Best Practices Manual for historic home improvements.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reported that in trying to reconcile QuickBooks account with the bank statements, the General Fund checking was off by \$29.70. He is working on trying to find the cause of this discrepancy.

Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Report and Status of Funds for May. Mr. Nielson went over the Bills for Approval for June. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of \$26,602.96 were approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer reported that there was a very small Memorial Day Ceremony at the Borough's Veterans' Memorial on May 25 limited to himself, Mr. Hale and Mrs. DeMasi due to the pandemic. Small flags were left in a box near the flagpole and residents were encouraged to come down later and place a flag in honor of our veterans. Flag Day is June 14 and all residents are encouraged to fly their flags.

The historical marker in honor of William L. Price is in the process of being fabricated. It will be placed at the corner of Price's Lane and Rose Valley Road in front of the house where Mr. Price lived.

Mayor Plummer presented a Proclamation to Margery Howe on May 16 at an event in her honor at Thunderbird Lodge. Margery is moving to New Mexico after living on Price's Lane for twenty years and donating her time and gardening expertise at many Rose Valley sites including Pew Park, the Old Mill, the Veterans' Memorial, Thunderbird Lodge and Rose Valley Swimming Pool. Many thanks to Margery for all her good work over the years.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith has agreed to act as mediator in the dispute between the Jones's and the Corbett's regarding the setback of the Jones's shed.

There is a resident who is operating an Airbnb in violation of the Borough Zoning Ordinance. Council approved having Mr. Smith write the resident about ceasing this activity on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

Mr. Smith also updating Council on various issues in his June solicitor's report.

GENERAL

Mrs. Voet complimented the new Rose Valley sign near the corner of Rose Valley and Brookhaven Roads. Mr. Hale received permission from Molding Disciples Ministries Church to put the sign on their property and Mrs. Anne Cho, mother of Elaine Pilson who lives in the old parsonage house, beautifully improved the garden where the sign is located.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary