COUNCIL MEETING

 June 9, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held via Zoom on June 9, 2021. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Stephanie Middleton, Bob Siwicki and Judy Voet; Treasurer Joe Hare; Mayor Tim Plummer; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Dave Firn and Vippy Yee, and Controller John Neilson were absent.

PSP Trooper Jessica Tobin and Eagle Scout candidate Joshua Kochersperger from Troop 24 in Kennett Square also attended the meeting.

Members of the public attending the meeting were: Jim Audley, John Baycich, Ed Bendinsky, John Caldwell, Bob Caulfield, Kelly Caulfield, Richard O’Flynn, Teresa O’Flynn, Alan Gee, Rachel Holbert, Ed Matey, Ron Ploeg, Owen Redgrave, Richard Taxin and Matt Sullivan.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the May 12, 2021, Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale recognized Scout Joshua Kochersperger from Troop 24 in Kennett Square who was attending the meeting to fulfill a citizenship merit badge requirement.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Hale asked if there was any public comment; there was none.

EAC & ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Firn previously distributed to members of Council a Wildlife Preserve Public Information Plan prepared by the EAC which calls for the construction of two information kiosks, one a large 12-foot-wide gateway structure with kiosks on either side at the entrance to the Saul Preserve near the Old Mill parking lot and the other a small single kiosk where the new upper trail diverges from the main path in the Chadwick Preserve on Longpoint. The kiosks would have weatherproof bulletin board cabinets to display maps, points of interest, rules and educational information. The plan also calls for installing numbered posts to mark various point of interest in the preserves. Mr. Smith previously noted restrictions in the Saul Wildlife Preserve deeds, Section 701 of the Zoning Code regarding permitted uses in Open Space, and the Environmental Ordinance regarding woodland areas within the Ridley Creek flood plain.

Ms. Middleton made a motion to approve the Wildlife Preserve Public Information Plan with the exception that the kiosk at the entrance to the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary be similar in design to the smaller kiosk for the Chadwick Wildlife Preserve and be located on the Rose Valley Folk property if possible. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved. The Folk will be asked for permission to locate the kiosk in the area the behind the rock with the Saul Wildlife Preserve plaque on it.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Helen Kate Furness Library reopened to the public on June 1. The summer reading program will kick off on June 17 and there will be lots of programs for children during the summer. The Annual Appeal has been mailed and everyone is encouraged to contribute.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Hale reported on the Prices Lane sightline improvement project and recommended that McCusker Landscaping be awarded the contract for dismantling the existing stone wall, cutting back the embankment, and digging the trench for the footer at a cost of $11,000. This portion of the project was awarded to McCusker Landscaping for $11,000.00 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. The more skilled work of reconstructing the wall further back from the road by an expert stone mason will be bid separately. Mr. Audley asked about the sightline requirements. Mr. Hale explained that Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann had prepared a sightline plan showing how far the stone wall had to be moved to provide an adequate view of vehicles approaching Prices Lane.

Engineer Houtmann is in discussions with Aqua PA regarding their repairs of roads in the Todmorden development after the installation of their new water main. Aqua PA only plans to repave the area of the roads affected by their trenching. Mr. Houtmann would like to use the Aqua money along with Borough funds to repave the full width of the roads.

Ms. Yee and Intern Shane Houseman are continuing to work on the Borough’s updated website.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Trooper Jessica Tobin reported there were no State Police incidents in Rose Valley in May, but that on May 6th the PSP conducted speed enforcement on West Rose Valley Road resulting in four citations and five warnings. She also noted that May was the 116th anniversary of the formation of the Pennsylvania State Police and reported on police activity statewide over the Memorial Day Holiday.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Fire Report. There were two incidents of fires associated with a mulch pile at the same address. Fire Marshall Matt Poissant met with the property owner to address the situation. Mr. Poissant included a flier on fireworks safety for distribution to residents prior to Independence Day.

The Town Watch program is progressing as usual. Mrs. DeMasi will send out a recruitment letter for additional Town Watch volunteers over the summer. The Thunderbird Lodge speed device is not reporting properly so traffic data is delayed.

The State of Pennsylvania has reopened, and mask wearing is no longer required. More than 55 percent of Pennsylvanian adults have been fully vaccinated. Mr. Audley asked if the Covid warning signs on Rose Valley trails should come down. Mrs. DeMasi will consider this. Vaccines are available for anyone over 12 years old and all residents are encouraged to get vaccinated as soon as possible. To date, there have been 35 reported Covid cases in Rose Valley and 2 deaths.

PLANNING

There was no Planning Commission meeting in June. Mr. Ploeg is continuing to meet with homeowners along Rose Valley Road between Possum Hollow and Woodward Road to get their input regarding the possibility of a sidepath.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for May, noting that the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks had been reconciled. Mr. Siwicki went over the Income Reports for May. He then reviewed the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of $23,347.81 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MANAGER’S REPORT

Mrs. Healy asked Council to approve Resolution 3-2021 authorizing the application to Delaware County for $1,553 in Liquid Fuel Tax Funds for 2021 road improvement work. This Resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

The bronze beaver statue made by Albert Laessle, a famous sculptor of animals, and Minquas Indian plaque designed by Charles Stephens were stolen on April 5 from the stone monument near Traymore Lane. They have not been recovered even though the Borough offered a $5,000 reward for their safe return. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Borough agreed to work cooperatively with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation to obtain replicas to replace these items, if possible.

Mrs. Healy reported that she had filled out the application forms from the State for Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Borough expects to receive approximately $99,226 in funding in two equal tranches of $49,613, the first in June of 2021 and the second 12 months later.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer requested that Council declare an end to the Disaster Emergency Declaration adopted on April 1, 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, this request was approved.

Mr. Plummer reported that the June 31st Memorial Day ceremony at the Borough’s Veterans’ Memorial was very well attended.

The Rose Valley Borough Fourth of July Parade will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 4th. Unfortunately, only members will be allowed to enter the Rose Valley Swimming Pool due to pandemic considerations, so there will not be any official activities or a picnic at the Pool.

Parade participants will be guided to the trolley path to return to the Moylan Rose Valley Train Station.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that Governor Wolf has requested in his proposed budget a substantial increase in the personal PA income tax rate, revived his plan for municipalities served by the State Police to pay a fee for such services, and proposed serious cuts to funding for recycling programs.

He also reported that the emergency declaration of the Governor, which permits municipalities to hold Zoom meetings, is scheduled to remain in effect until June 28, 2021. After that, municipalities must return to in-person meetings. Audience participation via Zoom is not permitted by State law as currently written and would be a violation of the Sunshine Act.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting of Council will be held in person on July 14 in the main room of the Old Mill.

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 Paula W. Healy, Secretary