

COUNCIL MEETING

January 8, 2025.

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on January 8, 2025 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Meehan, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown, Mayor Bill Hale, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Controller John Neilson and Secretary Paula Healy. Solicitor G. Guy Smith was absent.

Resident Kyle Sperry from School Lane attended the meeting, as did guests Gina Gibbs, Chairperson of the Rose Valley Folk, and Elizabeth Spencer of the “Swarthmorean”.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the December 11, 2024 Council Meeting and the Special Council Meeting held on December 18, 2024 to approve the 2025 Budget were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sperry of 19 School Lane asked if anything more was known regarding the possible purchase of the residential Parlin property at 2 Roylencroft Lane by the School in Rose Valley and expressed his concern about how the school intends to use the property. Mrs. Healy indicated the Borough has not been notified of any change in ownership of 2 Roylencroft. Mr. Busby noted the residents have also expressed concern about the property at 15 School Lane which was previously purchased by the school and is also zoned residential. After taking down the house, the school is currently using the property to park staff cars during school hours and as overflow parking for school events. Mr. Smith will be consulted regarding this usage.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby made a motion to approve Resolution 2-2025 appointing Kathy Siwicki to fill a voting-member vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Council which was duly seconded and unanimously passed. Kathy has been an associate EAC member for over a year and is a retired Swarthmore College biology professor. She has led “Free the Trees” events to remove English ivy from trees in the Borough over the last two years.

Mr. Busby thanked Olivia Nnadi for updating the EAC website. Mr. Orr agreed that Ms. Nnadi had done a wonderful job noting that the website is well organized and professional looking. Mr. Busby informed Council that the EAC has many educational programs planned for 2025. EAC member Ron Ploeg is working on gathering information about the ownership of roosters and other fowl in Rose Valley.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that he is working with Mrs. Healy to update the technology in the Borough Office, including purchasing a scanner, and that his employer generously donated a monitor. He and Mrs. Healy will meet with a representative from Nerds to Go to discuss a new computer and other upgrades. He is also working on obtaining equipment for livestreaming Borough Council meetings focusing on good-quality used items.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that the Helen Kate Furness Free Library's Annual Corporation Meeting will be held on January 21 at 7:00 p.m. Any residents of Rose Valley Borough or Nether Providence Township who have contributed \$50 or more in 2024 may attend. A 2024 film documentary examining food culture in the United States entitled "Food and Country" and featuring writer Ruth Reichl will be screened on January 24 at 1:00 p.m.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the December Police Report listed 3 incidents including a motor vehicle crash and a traffic violation, both involving alcohol, and a theft. The December Fire Report has not yet been received. Town watch patrols are proceeding as usual. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed device near Thunderbird Lodge, but the Borough Parking Lot device is still not working.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that the Borough is still waiting for PECO to do tree work associated with upgrading the power distribution line along Rose Valley Road before it can proceed with the walking path project. Meetings with residents affected by the path are continuing regarding the placement of the path, trees and other landscaping.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for December 31, 2024 and January 1, 2025. At the beginning of the year, the funds remaining from 2024 in the operating accounts (\$9,381.29 in the checking account and \$89,301.42 in the savings account) were transferred to Capital Reserve. \$70,000 was then loaned from Capital Reserve to the operating accounts to cover operating expenses until real estate taxes are received, with \$40,000 going into the checking account and \$30,000 going into the savings account. \$30,000 was also loaned from Capital Reserve to the Highway Aid Fund for snowplowing and salting expenses until the state Highway Aid payment is received.

Mr. Hare went over the December Income Reports and Mr. Neilson reviewed the January Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$18,477.30 from the General Fund and \$13,275.00 from the Highway Aid Fund for salting roadways were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Busby asked who decides when to salt. Mrs. Healy replied that the Borough's snowplowing contractor, R.C. Marland,

makes this determination. Leonard observed that there were times recently when salting seemed unnecessary and that it is expensive and damaging to the environment. He said the contractor also seems to use excessive amounts of salt, possibly because he is paid by tonnage applied. Mr. Orr noted that the contractor's main responsibility is public safety which may make him cautious given weather uncertainty. Mrs. Healy said she will monitor salting more closely going forward.

Gina Gibbs, chairperson of the Rose Valley Folk, requested that the Folk be relieved from paying the Borough amusement tax this year due to rising costs associated with maintaining the building and work needed to keep the Old Mill competitive with other venues. She pointed out that the Borough Amusement Tax Ordinance was amended last year to exclude Rose Valley Swim and Tennis Club. It was noted that unlike the swimming pool, the Folk has historically been profitable and derives most of its income from people who live outside the local area renting the facility for weddings or other events. Gina said she would provide financial information regarding the Folk and proposed projects for next month's Council meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Resolution 1-2025 appointing Robert M. Healy to serve as Chair of the Vacancy Board was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. It was noted that if Borough Council fails to fill a vacancy on Council or in another elected Borough office within 30 days of the position being vacated, the Vacancy Board (which is made up of the remaining Council members and the Chair) must appoint someone to fill that position within 15 additional days.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale distributed a report listing all properties sold in the Borough in 2024 with the sale prices and the real estate transfer tax received. He also reported that Molding Disciples Ministries had inquired about installing an LED sign in front of their church along Brookhaven Road. He noted that Section 1001 of the Borough Zoning Code dealing with sign requirements states that internally lit signs are prohibited.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith was absent but submitted a report informing Council of fines and penalties for ordinance violations per Section 3321 of the PA Borough Code. This topic will be discussed further when Mr. Smith returns.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary