

COUNCIL MEETING

June 12, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on June 12, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President Pro Tem of Council Shannon Prown called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Cheryl Harner, Kathryn Mehan and Tony Orr; Mayor Bill Hale; Controller John Neilson; Treasurer Chris Bourke; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Joe Hare and Matt Sullivan were absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Kelly Caulfield and Ron Ploeg.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the May 8, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mrs. Caulfield informed Council that there are roosters noisily crowing near her house on Prices Lane at all hours of the day and asked what can be done about it. Solicitor Smith explained that the State of Pennsylvania's laws governing noise preempt local regulations so the first instance for relief is to call the State Police and complain about the noise. Another approach would be to talk with the neighbors about the problem. A longer-term alternative would be for Council to pass an ordinance prohibiting roosters in the Borough. After much discussion, it was decided that Mayor Hale would talk to the owners of the roosters to see if a solution to the noise problem could be reached.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that about 50 volunteers freed a total of approximately 150 trees of climbing English ivy on the May 4 "Free the Trees" workday organized by Kathy Siwicki in the Traymore development, the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary, along Rose Valley Road, and at Rose Valley Swimming Pool.

EAC member Olivia Nnadi is working on content, including informative environmental videos, to include within the EAC component of the Borough website. Tony Orr currently updates the website, which runs on the Wix platform. Olivia will talk with Tony Orr about how to get EAC content posted on the website. Tony noted that if the Borough wants to hire a professional webmaster to develop and post content or move to a more expensive platform, money for this will have to be included in the budget for next year.

Mr. Busby thanked Jim Audley who led a "Friends of the Preserves" workday on June 8 in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary working on trails, planting trees and removing knotweed.

HIGHWAYS, INSURANCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Orr reported that bidding documents for 2024 Road Work were prepared by Matt Houtmann including trench restoration and mill and overlay of Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane, Price's Lane, and a small area at the beginning of Arbor Lane, and mill and overlay of the southern end of Todmorden Drive near Brookhaven Road which was not repaved previously due to the culvert repair work in that area. The request for bids was advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times. However, only one bid was received from A. F. Damon, Inc. and Houtmann felt the pricing was too high as the amount for the trench restoration and mill and overlay work exceeded Aqua PA's \$132,250 contribution-in-lieu of pavement restoration. He recommended that the road work be rebid. Council approved authorizing to rebid the 2024 Road Work on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

An Intermunicipal Cooperation Paving Agreement made by and among the Borough of Rose Valley, the Township of Nether Providence and A. F. Damon, Inc. was prepared by the Nether Providence Township solicitor to enable the Borough to piggyback on the Township's contract with Damon at its competitively bid prices for trench restoration and mill and overlay for the portion of West Possum Hollow Road which extends from the Township into the Borough. Resolution 6-2024 approving and authorizing the execution of this Intermunicipal Cooperation Paving Agreement was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. The agreement states the Borough will reimburse the Township for the cost of preparing the agreement document.

Damon actually completed the pavement restoration work on West Possum Hollow Road just prior to this Council meeting. In the course of preparing for the work, Houtmann noticed a small sink hole forming where a stormwater pipe runs under Possum Hollow Road from an inlet near the bottom of Locust Lane to an outlet on the other side of the road. After removing the grate from the inlet, it appeared that Aqua PA had run their new water main right through the Borough's stormwater pipe completely blocking it. Excavating the sink hole revealed this to be the case and Aqua PA had to come back to repair the Borough's pipe and reroute their water main under it. It also was determined that, separately from the damage caused by Aqua, the old frame and grate of the stormwater inlet needed to be replaced, the outlet pipe extended an additional 24 feet with 24-inch pipe and the swale dug out because it had become almost completely silted in over many years.

A.F. Damon submitted a bill to the Borough for the trench repair and mill and overlay of West Possum Hollow Road within Rose Valley Borough at the Township's competitively bid prices in the amount of \$65,761.84. Damon also submitted a \$15,150 bill for work associated with the excavation of the sink hole and the stormwater inlet and pipe extension. Houtmann will request that Aqua PA reimburse the Borough for the costs associated with the sink hole. Borough Council approved payment to A. F. Damon of up to \$80,911.84, subject to the Borough's Engineer's review, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

LIBRARY

Ms. Mehan reported that Bonner Roofing is working on a project to install new gutters and that Tri-State Light and Electric performed a lighting audit. There is still a vacancy on the Board of Directors so recommendations would be greatly appreciated. The Library was approved for a Google Workspace for Nonprofits account which will allow all volunteers to have work email addresses. The teen advisory board has been a great success and many kids showed up to prepare "Cookies and Cram" study bags for finals week at the high school. The Delco Gives Day on May 8-9 raised over \$31,000 for the Library, which was first on the small-business leader board and fifth in number of donors who gave.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the May Police Report listed 3 investigation responses and 2 responses to false alarms, while the May Fire Report was not yet received. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed devices. A Town Watch recruitment letter was sent out to residents on May 30th.

Mr. Hale reported that there have been complaints about the sightline looking to the left towards Media when pulling out of School Lane onto Rose Valley Road because the hillside next to the roadway blocks the view of oncoming traffic. He asked that Council approve up to \$2,500 to lower the hillside somewhat to improve the sight line since so many vehicles from the School in Rose Valley exit from the Lane at this location. He noted the Borough has undertaken several projects to improve sight lines at intersections at its own expense including removing many trees and substantially cutting back the hillside at Longpoint Lane and Knowlton Road, moving back the stone wall and cutting back the hillside at Price's Lane and Rose Valley Road, and removing trees blocking the view looking to the right at School Lane and Rose Valley Road. After some discussion, this request was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, with the exception of Mr. Busby who abstained.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds and reported that the Bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks. Mr. Neilson reviewed the May Income Reports and went over the June Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amount of \$32,522.55 from the General Fund and \$532.50 from the Highway Aid Fund were approved.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reminded everyone that the Borough will hold its Annual Fourth of July Parade from the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station to Rose Valley Swimming Pool starting promptly at 2:00 p.m. There will not be a picnic at the pool after the parade.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith distributed an article discussing why a Pennsylvania borough's regulations on lawn signs on private property were found to violate the freedom of speech provision of the First Amendment. He also thanked the Helen Kate Furness Library for participating in the "Art Ability" program which services the disabled community.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary