

COUNCIL MEETING

July 14, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on July 14, 2021 at the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa in the main hall. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Deb DeMasi, Dave Firn, Judy Voet and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Treasurer Joe Hare; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilpersons Stephanie Middleton and Bob Siwicki were absent.

Guests and members of the public present were Chairperson of Hedgerow Theatre's Board of Directors, Ann Byun; new Hedgerow Theatre Executive Artistic Director, Marcie Bramucci; Planning Commission member Ron Ploeg and resident Aaron Childs.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the June 9, 2021 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Neilson expressed his opposition to the sidepath along Rose Valley Road being studied by the Planning Commission saying he would like Rose Valley Road to remain as is. He is also opposed to the installation of crosswalks with flasher lights which he feels would be out of character with the community. He further noted the sidepath would not benefit many residents such as those in the Long Point and Todmorden developments and questioned how many people would actually use the sidepath to walk to and from the train station. Mr. Ploeg said he would pass Mr. Neilson's views on to the Planning Commission.

Ann Byun introduced Marcie Bramucci, the new Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre. Marcie discussed how Hedgerow had made it through the last year-and-a-half of the pandemic and noted its ongoing outdoor production of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" and plans for indoor performances in the fall. Mr. Hale noted he had asked Ann and Marcie to attend the Council meeting because the Borough had received coronavirus relief funding from the State which could be used to help businesses affected by the pandemic and Hedgerow appeared to have been impacted especially hard. Mrs. Voet asked how Hedgerow planned to use the proceeds from the sale of the Esherick furniture and stairs. Ms. Byun replied that the money had been invested in an endowment fund.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that the design for the kiosk at the entrance to the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary will be similar to the kiosk at the entrance to the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary. The Rose Valley Folk has given permission for the Saul Kiosk to be located on the Folk property behind the rock with the Saul Wildlife Preserve plaque on it.

Mr. Firn reported that treatment for the spotted lantern fly would take place soon. Trap trees will be created to attract the pest. Knotweed spraying will be done later in the summer. Mrs. Voet asked if private residents can arrange with the Borough's sprayer to treat knotweed on their properties at the same time they are spraying weeds on Borough land. Mr. Firn said that this could be arranged and has been done in the past.

The EAC will develop a formal management plan for the Borough parklands.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

The stone bridge on Old Mill Lane was recently repointed by Weaverland Masonry. The \$10,200 cost of this work will be paid out of the Road Improvement Fund.

The stone wall on Tim Plummer's property is going to be reconstructed further back from the road to improve the left sight line for people coming out of Prices Lane. McCusker Landscaping has selected an expert stone mason to reconstruct the wall at a cost of \$11,434. A motion was made to accept this bid. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Engineer Houtman has been negotiating with Aqua regarding the restoration of roads in the Todmorden development after the replacement of the water lines. Aqua originally intended to repave the one side of all the roads in Todmorden that was affected by trenching. The Borough would then have to repave the other side at a later date. Mr. Houtman recommended that Aqua repave both sides of the roads in the southern half of the Todmorden development, including Todmorden Drive up to Forestview, Cedar Hollow and Briarcrest. This would avoid heavy construction equipment traveling on newly repaved roadway. The Borough would then repave the roads in the northern half next season. After some discussion, this proposal was accepted on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Ms. Yee and Intern Shane Houseman have been working on developing the new website and are currently building the EAC section.

LIBRARY

Mrs. Voet reported that the Library reopened on June 1, 2021. The quarantine of materials has been discontinued. The ebooks and digital resources have been expanded and website usage has increased dramatically. Summer reading started on the County level on June 1 and began at Helen Kate Furness Library on June 17. Sandy Nailor Author Day will be sometime in August with children's writer Amy Thomas as the guest author. The book sale is on the second floor in the non-fiction section on dedicated shelves during library open hours. The Fall Fest will replace the May Fair this year and the tentative date is October 2. The Library is having a Pop-Up Summer Auction from July 21 to 28. Mrs. Voet encouraged everyone to go to the Library's website (www.hkflibrary.org) to see the items that will be auctioned.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. The Police Report showed no incidents for the month of June. Trooper Tobin sent reports on 2020 DUI arrests and homicides. The Fire Report showed 3 responses to automatic fire alarms and one appliance malfunction for the month of June. Fire Marshall Poissant provided a flier on scalding accidents.

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone to update their emergency contact information.

The Town Watch program has resumed the passing of the Town Watch signs. A recruitment letter was sent out to the residents asking them to volunteer for Town Watch. It is a great way to serve your community and only takes 1 hour a month.

Mrs. DeMasi reviewed the statistics from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road.

Mrs. DeMasi discussed the pandemic. The State of Emergency has been lifted, but Covid cases are rising in the United States. Everyone should be careful, follow the CDC guidelines and get fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

It was decided that the Covid warning signs should be removed from the Borough paths.

The Borough will continue to follow CDC guidelines going forward. These guidelines currently state that unvaccinated people attending an indoor meeting must wear a mask while masks are optional for vaccinated people.

PLANNING

There was no Planning Commission meeting in July. 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 June, noting that the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks had been reconciled. He then went over the Income Reports for June. The Borough received its biannual fines-and-forfeits payment from the State in the amount of \$178.77. The Borough also received its first \$49,613.21 tranche of Coronavirus Recovery Funds from the State from the American Rescue Plan Act. The Borough will receive an equal amount in a second tranche 12 months later. This money can only be used in certain ways such as supporting local first responders, assisting local businesses negatively impacted by the pandemic, and for water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. The Coronavirus Recovery monies will be transferred to a new account at PNC Bank with the same signatories as the other Borough accounts, namely William Hale, Joseph Hare, John Neilson and David Firn, to separate the accounting for these funds.

Mr. Neilson reviewed the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$23,731.80 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. The \$10,200.00 payment to Weaverland Masonry from the Borough Road Improvement Fund

for repointing of the bridge on Old Mill Lane was also approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hale presented a request for South Media Fire Company in the amount of \$810 for an Eagle Scout Project. This project by Ben Crawford of Rose Valley Troop 272 will involve building a large new table for the Fire House community room, replanting their 9/11 memorial garden, and clearing the training yard of overgrown vegetation and trash. The expenditure of \$810.00 from the Coronavirus Recovery Fund to support South Media Fire Company was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Plummer reported that the Fourth of July Parade was a success. A Scouts color guard led the parade, South Media Fire Company brought out their trucks, Hedgerow Theatre and the Rose Valley Museum had decorated cars, and there were lots of bikes and kids. A fun time was had by all.

The William L. Price historical marker that will be located at the corner of Prices Lane and Rose Valley Road will be dedicated on November 6. Historian George Thomas will give a talk, the Rose Valley Museum is planning a weekend of events and the entire community will be invited to participate.

The "Welcome to Rose Valley" ambassador program has been dormant during the pandemic but now needs to be revived. About a dozen volunteers from various sections of Rose Valley will be recruited to welcome new residents to their neighborhood and hand out welcome packets.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary