

## COUNCIL MEETING

August 14, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on August 14, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were council persons Cheryl Harner, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown, Mayor Bill Hale, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Council persons Leonard Busby, Joe Hare and Kathryn Mehan were absent.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the July 10, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby was absent but submitted the following report: At the July 23 EAC meeting, Olivia Nnadi reported good progress in planning how to transfer existing EAC content into the EAC component of the Borough website using the existing website platform. She also reached out to local municipalities to learn what website platforms they use, which the Borough might consider utilizing in the future.

The EAC discussed noise issues generally and roosters in particular and will continue these discussions at the September 24 EAC meeting. Residents are encouraged to attend the meeting to share their views and participate in the discussion.

Jim Audley led a volunteer workday on July 27 in the Long Point flood plain of the Chadwick Preserve. Volunteers re-caged previously planted black willows to protect them from deer and removed mile-a-minute. A recently planted pawpaw tree donated by Roger Latham is growing well and should pollinate an existing grove. Additional work is planned to eradicate invasive angelica trees, weed whack stilt grass before it goes to seed, and chemically treat invasive Japanese knotweed.

### HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Orr reported that Innovative Construction has not yet scheduled the Borough's 2024 Road Work on Buttonwood Way, Thornpath Lane, Price's Lane and the southern end of Todmorden Drive near Todmorden Road. Possum Hollow Road was repaved by A. F. Damon through the Intermunicipal Cooperative Paving Agreement with Nether Providence Township. The Borough needs to apply for its allocation of approximately \$1,400 in Liquid Fuels Tax Funds from Delaware County for the 2024 Road Work.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the July Police Report listed 1 car accident and 1 investigation referred to another agency. Fire Marshall Matt Poissant has recovered from his illness and submitted a July Fire Report listing 3 responses to automatic fire alarms. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed device near Thunderbird Lodge. Higgens Electric has received the replacement pole and arm to support the flashing yellow lights for the Hedgerow curve next to the Borough Parking lot. The Parking Lot speed device will be remounted on this pole when it is installed. Ms. Harner is still trying to connect with State Police liaison Michele Nabb to discuss speed traps. Mr. Smith will talk with Mr. Sigismondi's lawyer about the boat and trailer he has parked for some time on the shoulder of Brookhaven Road in front of his property.

## PLANNING

Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann is preparing the final design plans for the new walkway along Rose Valley Road from Woodward Road to Buttonwood Way for the September Council meeting. The plans will be on display prior to the meeting for public viewing and questions starting at 7:00 pm. Mr. Hale noted our grants require a four-foot-wide trail with a hard surface and that asphalt was ultimately selected on the recommendation of our consultant Bob Thomas, our engineer, and every trail expert we talked to due to the significant slopes involved, cost considerations, the ability to blend in with existing streets and driveways, and ease of installation, snow and ice removal, maintenance and repair.

Matt Sullivan provided Council a sample Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding By and Between the Redevelopment Authority of the County of Delaware and a Municipality; and a sample Resolution authorizing a Municipality to enter into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement for purposes of permitting the Municipality to be able to use the Delaware County Land Bank from time to time to deal with blighted real properties. He also provided a copy of the Delaware County Redevelopment Authority Land Bank Administrative Policies and Procedures. Mr. Sullivan explained that the Land Bank Program is a vehicle to help municipalities deal with abandoned properties. He noted he is on the Delaware County Redevelopment Authority, which would like all County municipalities to adopt these procedures. Mr. Hale noted the Borough came close to having an abandoned property along School Lane several years ago and that it would be desirable to have this mechanism in place should there ever be another.

## FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Fund for July and reported that the bank accounts had been reconciled. Mr. Neilson went over the July Income Reports and reviewed the August Bills for Approval and answered questions. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$37,018.24 from the General Fund and \$498.54 from the Highway Aid Fund were approved.

The Rose Valley Swimming Pool requested at the July Council Meeting that the Borough exempt the tax collector from collecting the Borough amusement tax from the Pool in 2024. Council decided to investigate amending the Amusement Tax Ordinance to specifically exclude pool and tennis clubs from the tax, however the Pool would like to have the matter settled for this year's taxes. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council exempted the tax collector from collecting the Borough amusement tax from the Pool in 2024. Council then authorized the Solicitor on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, to prepare an ordinance to amend the Amusement Tax Ordinance to exempt swimming pool and tennis clubs from the amusement tax and advertise this ordinance for consideration at the next Council meeting.

#### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hale reported he met with the Davies of 15 Rabbit Run to discuss the 12 and 16 Hilltop Road neighbors' concerns regarding the Davies' new in-ground pool with a powered safety cover in lieu of a fence. The Davies stated they would make sure the safety cover was closed when the pool was not in use. Mr. Hale also reported that the two Hilltop Road families are planning to install fencing along their properties to prevent their children/grandchildren from easily accessing the adjacent 15 Rabbit Run property.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The solicitor's report for August discussed fences and, in particular, swimming pool fences. The PA Uniform Construction Code was revised in 2021 to adopt the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code of 2018, which exempts pools with powered safety covers from having fences around them. Mr. Smith noted that Rose Valley Borough does not have a fence ordinance and that existing fences and swimming pools would be grandfathered if one was enacted. Council instructed Mr. Smith to draft a fence ordinance similar to neighboring municipalities, such as Swarthmore Borough, for consideration.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary