

COUNCIL MEETING

December 8, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on December 8, 2021 at the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, Pa. in the main room. President of Council Bill Hale called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Debra DeMasi, Dave Firn, Joe Hare, Bob Siwicki and Vippy Yee; Treasurer Mario Bacchia; Controller John Neilson; Mayor Tim Plummer, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Stephanie Middleton was absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Borough Engineer Matt Houtman, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theater Marci Bramucci, and residents Aaron Childs, Tina DiChiara, Alan Gee, Gail Hale, Peter Howell, Jim Kaufman and Ron Ploeg.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the November 10, 2021 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Howell reported that the Rose Valley Museum's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on December 5 was a success with about 100 people in attendance including 25 children. The event was held outside with masks worn, caroling by candlelight and hot chocolate.

Marci Bramucci from Hedgerow Theatre informed Council that Actors' Equity Association is imposing stringent Covid-19 regulations on theatres utilizing union actors. It is requiring that there be twice-a-week Covid testing of artists, a Covid safety officer for the cast, and a Covid safety screener to verify patrons have proof of vaccinations or a negative Covid test. She provided a breakdown of the costs associated with these requirements for the next two productions through April of 2022, which totaled \$8,337. She asked Council if the Borough would fund this expense using its Coronavirus Recovery Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act.

PERSONNEL

There was a vacancy at the Treasurer's position due to Joe Hare's appointment to Council at the November meeting. Joe Hare nominated Mario Bacchia of 40 N. Longpoint Lane, Rose Valley, to fill this position. Mr. Bacchia has been a resident of Rose Valley for 29 years and is a banker with substantial financial experience. The nomination was seconded and unanimously passed. Resolution 18-2021 appointed Mario Bacchia as Treasurer was subsequently approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that Jim Audley, John Curtis and other volunteers have been working on the information kiosk for the entrance to the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. James Traverso of Rose Valley Troop 272 will be building the kiosk for the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary as part of this Eagle Scout Project in early 2022.

Mr. Firn requested that the Council Meeting be closed for a Public Meeting on the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS-4) Pollutant Reduction Plan. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Council Meeting was closed at 8:30 p.m.

Mr. Houtmann then outlined the proposed MS4 Pollution Reduction Plan noting that it calls for stabilizing 150 feet of Vernon Run stream bank at an estimated cost of \$28,500. Mr. Firn asked if there were any further comments or questions regarding the Plan. There were none. It was noted that the plan had been advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on November 10, 2021 and on public display in the Borough Office. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Public Meeting was closed at 8:35 p.m. and the Council Meeting reopened.

Mr. Firn made a motion to approve the MS-4 Pollutant Reduction Plan which was duly seconded and unanimously approved.

ROADWAYS

Engineer Houtmann explained to Council that numerous sections of sunken or damaged concrete gutters had to be repaired before Todmorden Drive, Briarcrest Circle, Cedar Hollow and Tanglewood Circle were resurfaced by Aqua PA. Some of these gutters were damaged by Aqua PA during their water main replacement project while others had cracked and subsided over decades. Mr. Houtmann had identified which sections he believed were the Borough's responsibility and which were Aqua's beforehand. This work was performed by Aqua subcontractor Delmont Utilities who submitted a bill for all the gutter work at unit prices beyond what Mr. Houtmann considered acceptable. Mr. Houtmann is negotiating the unit pricing with Delmont and asking them to only bill the Borough for the gutter work it is responsible for.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi went over the Police and Fire Reports for November. The Police report cited no incidents in November. The Fire Report showed that the Fire Company responded to 2 automatic alarms and warned of the dangers associated with holiday decorations including electric lights on dry trees and real candles. Mrs. DeMasi noted that Town Watch is doing well and reviewed the traffic data from the speed devices on Rose Valley Road.

Mrs. DeMasi would like all residents to prepare their own home emergency plans and supply kits. She also would like all residents to cut back vegetation along the road to make sure there are clear sightlines for vehicles at intersections and room for pedestrians to step out of the

roadway when cars are coming. She noted residents should not put leaf piles in the street expecting them to be picked up as the Borough does not provide this service.

Mrs. DeMasi reminded everyone to be careful about the Omicron Covid variant, get appropriately vaccinated and boosted, follow CDC guidelines and get their seasonal flu shot.

PLANNING

Mr. Hale reported that Bob Thomas, our consultant for the Rose Valley Road Walking Path feasibility study, is still working on developing conceptual plans, sections and sketches to assist homeowners who have indicated they might be willing to grant an easement for the walking path. Mr. Neilson suggested that donations be solicited to help fund the pathway work rather than using all taxpayer monies.

FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds for October noting that the PNC Bank accounts and QuickBooks had been reconciled. Mr. Siwicki reviewed the Income Reports for October. Mr. Neilson went over the December Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$70,957.76 from the General Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. A check in the amount of \$8,337 from the Coronavirus Recovery Fund to Hedgerow Theatre was also approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Siwicki reminded everyone that the Budget Public Meeting and Special Council Meeting to approve the 2022 budget will be held on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Old Mill. Mrs. Healy noted the budget was advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on November 15 and 18, 2021 and has been on public display in the Borough Office since November 11. Mr. Siwicki reported that the County had just issued the total property assessment for the Borough and that it had decreased by about \$4 million from last year due to property assessment appeals to just over \$210 million. Because of this roughly 2 percent reduction in total assessed value, the 2022 millage rate will have to increase from 1.10 to 1.12 mills.

GENERAL

The following Resolutions were approved on motions made, seconded and unanimously passed:

Resolution 8 – Appointing Creative Waste Solutions/B&L as Recyclers for 2022

Resolution 9 – Appointing R. C. Marland as Snowplow for 2022

Resolution 10 – Appointing Fischer Cunnane & Associates as Auditors for 2022

Resolution 11 – Setting Fees for Permits in 2022

Resolution 12 – Appointing Thomas Alan Gee to Zoning Hearing Board

Resolution 13 – Appointing Scott Laughlin to Zoning Hearing Board

Resolution 14 – Appointing John Curtis to Zoning Hearing Board

Resolution 15 – Appointing Jim Kaufman to Planning Commission

Resolution 16 – Appointing Steve Karlovic to Planning Commission

Resolution 17 – Appointing Matt Sullivan to Planning Commission

MAYOR’S REPORT

Mr. Plummer noted with some sadness that this was his last Council Meeting as Mayor and congratulating members of Council on doing an excellent job working for the benefit of the residents of Rose Valley this past year. He promised to continue his work with the Rose Valley Centennial Foundation to raise funds for the repair and refurbishment of Thunderbird Lodge to make it a suitable home for the Rose Valley Museum. He noted that Sunday evening’s Tree Lighting Ceremony with candlelight caroling at the Lodge was truly a magical experience.

Alan Gee thanked Mayor Plummer on behalf of all residents for all his work over many years to make Rose Valley a better place to live.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT

Mr. Smith advised Council members that if they were asked by residents to give advice about who is legally responsible for trees, downed branches and leaves, or any other legal matter, they should refer these questions to him.

The Budget Public Meeting and Special Council Meeting to approve the 2022 budget will be held on December 14, at 7:30 p.m.

The Borough Council Reorganization Meeting will be held on January 3, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

The first Council Meeting of 2022 will be held on January 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m.

All meetings will be in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane Rose Valley.

Mr. Hale announced that Council would hold a brief Executive Session after tonight’s Council Meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary