

## COUNCIL MEETING

April 13, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on April 13, 2022 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, PA. President of Council Dave Firn called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Leonard Busby, Joe Hare and Shannon Prown; Controller John Neilson, Treasurer Mario Bacchia. Mayor Bill Hale and Solicitor G. Guy Smith. Council members absent were Councilpersons Shawn Stancill, Matt Sullivan and Vippy Yee, and Secretary Paula Healy.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Marcie Bramucci, Executive Director of Hedgerow Theatre and residents David Dee, Peter Howell, Ron Ploeg and Chip Seltzer.

### MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the April 4, 2022 Special Council meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Howell, a board member of the Rose Valley Museum, informed Council that the Museum would be open to the public on April 23 and 24 from Noon to 4:00 pm, there will be a Rum and Chocolate Tasting Event on April 24, and the museum has instituted a training program for guides. He also reported that the RV Centennial Anniversary Committee met recently and is planning a black-tie gala at the Old Mill in January 2023 to kick off the centennial year.

Chip Seltzer, President of the Rose Valley Swimming Pool Board, requested that Council again waive the collection of amusement tax from the Pool in 2022. He noted that the Pool continues to struggle with finances, has lost a major benefactor and will need to rebuild the pools in the future. Mr. Hale noted that the Pool paid \$6,780 in amusement tax in 2019 prior to the pandemic and that their property would go to the Borough if it went out of business.

Marcie Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre, informed Council that the Actor's Equity Association continues to impose costly Covid-19 regulations on theatres utilizing union actors. She asked if Council would consider helping Hedgerow again with these expenses using its Coronavirus Recovery Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. It was noted that the Borough has about \$11,300 remaining in its Coronavirus Recovery Fund and expects to receive another tranche of almost \$50,000 near the end of June.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby reported that at the March EAC meeting, concern was expressed about the intrusion of technology into the nature preserves via numerous QR code postings and that the EAC now proposes to post QR codes only at each information kiosk.

Mr. Busby reported he plans to meet with Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann, a watershed specialist from the Delaware County Conservation District and a contractor on April 14 to examine the feasibility of relocating some of the stones from the creek-end of the dam to the area where the earth has been washed away next to the inland-end of the dam to prevent further erosion.

The EAC will hold its Annual Native Plant Sale and Environmental Workshop on Saturday, May 14 in the Saul Wildlife Preserve from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. A nature walk with Dr. Roger Latham will take place at 11:30 am. This is a great opportunity to buy native plants at wholesale prices.

The Japanese knotweed in the lower flood plain of the Chadwick Preserve will be spot treated with Triclopyr in the near future when weather permits. Signs will be posted in the preserve prior to spraying and residents, including dogs, should keep out of the area for 24 hours after treatment.

Ron Ploeg requested on behalf of the Traymore Homeowners Association that the Borough cover the \$6,700 cost of Carney Tree Company taking down eight and one-half trees on Borough owned Open Space adjacent to the Traymore development. The one-half tree is on the property line between Traymore and the Borough. These trees were identified as hazardous to houses nearby by a tree expert either because they are already dead or compromised by disease. The HOA has already had Carney remove numerous other trees judged to be hazardous on its own property.

## HIGHWAYS

The Borough received \$29,421.67 in liquid fuels tax money from the State in March. The Borough's 2022 roadwork package for repaving northern Todmorden Drive, Brookview Lane and Forestview Road has been sent to PennDOT for approval. Replacement of gutters sections along these roads which have settled or are badly damaged will begin in April. This concrete curb work does not require PennDOT approval because liquid fuels moneys cannot be used for this purpose.

## LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY

Mr. Firn reported that Ms. Yee could not attend the meeting due to illness but had informed him that Library fundraising efforts were going well, more volunteers are needed, and that a new Library app is available to download which allows you to check out your own books.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. Prown reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. There were two motor vehicle accidents on the Police Report for March. The Fire Marshall Report indicated there were no emergency calls in March and a flyer reminded residents that backyard burning of sticks, branches and logs is permitted in Rose Valley with appropriate safety precautions, but not the burning of leaves or

trash. Town Watch is proceeding as usual. The two Rose Valley Road speed devices have been repaired and are in the Borough office awaiting re-installation.

South Media Fire Company will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, April 30. A parade to the Fire House from Strath Haven Middle School will start at noon followed by speeches, an open house and hot dogs. Everyone is encouraged to attend. A dinner will be held at Spring Haven Country Club at 5:30 pm and all Councilpersons, the Borough Manager and Mayor have been invited to attend with a guest.

## PLANNING

Mr. Hale indicated there was nothing new to report regarding the walking path but that our consultant and members of the working group are continuing discussions with landowners along Rose Valley Road. The Borough has not yet received additional information regarding its Green Ways Connect Grant from Delaware County.

## FINANCES

Mr. Bacchia reviewed the Status of Funds for March and reported that the Borough bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks. He noted there are several outstanding checks that have never been cashed which he will ask the office staff to look into. Mr. Hare reviewed the Income Reports for March. Mr. Neilson went over the April Bills for Approval and answered questions. Mr. Hale noted that the \$1,638 cost of the plants for the Eagle Scout Project in the Saul Wildlife Preserve was somewhat more than the \$1,500 allocated due to price increases. However, he noted the cost of the Eagle Scout Project at the Veteran's Memorial would be less than the \$1,000 allocated because the bluestone was purchased for \$946.37, and the sand and wood stain were donated. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$30,434.06 were subsequently approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Busby discussed the request by Mr. Ploeg on behalf of the Traymore Homeowners Association for the Borough to cover the \$6,700 cost for Carney Tree Co. to take down hazardous trees on Borough property adjacent to Traymore homes. The solicitor stated that while private persons in Pennsylvania can be held liable for damages caused by dangerous trees once they have been put on notice, this does not apply to municipalities. Mr. Busby noted that although the Borough is not obligated to cover this cost, it could do so as a good neighbor without creating a legal precedent. Mr. Hale noted snow removal was \$10,220 under budget this year so money was available in the budget to cover this work. After discussion concerning the narrowness of the quorum present, Mr. Busby made a motion to give Carney Tree Company permission to take down eight and one-half hazardous trees identified with green and purple markings on Borough owned Open Space adjacent to the Traymore development. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved with Mr. Hare abstaining. If the Traymore Homeowners Association still desires the Borough to cover this expense, this issue can be revisited at the next Council meeting.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale reminded everyone that the reception honoring outgoing Mayor Tim Plummer which was postponed from January will take place at the Old Mill on May 1 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith provide a solicitor's report noting the 2022 threshold amounts for bidding are as follows: a purchase of less than \$11,800 is exempt from the bid process; a purchase between \$11,800 and \$21,900 requires the solicitation of three bids (but not necessarily the subsequent receipt of three bids), either written or via telephone; and a purchase of more than \$21,900 requires the full bidding process with the bid advertised twice. He also reminded all Council members to submit their Statement of Financial Interests and explained that under PA Ethics Law, a conflict of interest exists for public officials when they use their office for the private financial benefit of themselves, members of their immediate family, or a business with which they or members of their immediate family are associated.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Council Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary