

COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 2021

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on August 11, 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, Stephanie Middleton and Vippy Yee; Mayor Tim Plummer; Controller John Neilson; Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy.

Councilpersons Bob Siwicki and Judy Voet, and Treasurer Joe Hare were absent.

Guests attending the meeting were Marci Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theater, and residents Chris Carpenter, Tina DiChiara, Cindy Holston, Peter Howell and Ron Ploeg.

MINUTES

Mr. Firn requested a change to the July 12, 2021 Council Meeting Minutes. Under the Environment & EAC section, in the second paragraph, third sentence, it should say “Knotweed spraying may be done later in the summer” instead of “will be done”. With this correction, the Minutes from the July 12, 2021 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcie Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre presented a report to Council outlining recently incurred or upcoming expenses related to the coronavirus including approximately \$6,500 due to the early closure of TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA resulting from a break-through Covid case in a vaccinated cast member; \$17,500 due to reduced indoor capacity over the four-week performance of THE WEIR in the fall; and \$3,000 for Covid-related HVAC improvements. She requested assistance for Hedgerow Theatre from the Coronavirus Recovery Funds recently received by the Borough via the State from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act.

ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Firn reported that resident John Curtis has volunteered to help build the kiosks for the Saul and Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuaries and that a Scout will help with the construction as part of his Eagle Scout Project.

EAC member Jim Audley has requested that the Borough purchase a program to help map the sanctuaries called Wild Notes at a cost of \$1,039, which includes a seat license, setup of the program and a 1-year membership. Council approved this expenditure on a motion made, seconded and unanimously approved.

The cork and ailanthus trap trees were treated for spotted lantern flies.

Mr. Firn is looking into the recycling program since the one-year contract with the current recycler expires on December 31, 2021. Discussion followed about the high cost of recycling. Mr. Firn will put the 2022 contract out for bid in time for budget preparation and request quotes for once-a-week and every-other-week pickup.

HIGHWAYS & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that the stone wall south of Prices Lane is expected to be removed and the embankment cut back in September/October as part of the Prices Lane sightline improvement project. The stone wall will then be reconstructed further back from the road.

Aqua will repave both lanes of the southern half of Todmorden Drive (with the exception of the first 250 feet), Cedar Hollow Drive, Briarcrest Drive and Tanglewood Circle.

The first 250 feet of Todmorden Drive between Brookhaven Road and the large culvert running under the road will not be paved because substantial repairs are required to the culvert outfall and under the gutters along the south side of the road. Council approved preparation of an RFP for these repairs by Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann.

Aqua wants to replace the water line under Old Mill Lane and needs to obtain easements for this work. Council approved granting an easement to Aqua for the Borough-owned property at the beginning of Old Mill Lane on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Ms. Yee is continuing to work on the new Borough website and will have the EAC portion up and running shortly.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. DeMasi reported that there was no Police Report for July due to a summer vacation. The Fire Report showed 4 incidents in July; three of these were responses to automatic fire alarms and one was a smoke investigation. Fire Marshall Matt Poissant provided a flier on campus fire safety for students headed off to college.

The Town Watch program is once again passing the patrol signs in person, and there is a new patroller in Todmorden. Mrs. DeMasi encouraged residents to volunteer for this important community activity. The commitment is only for 1 hour a month.

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

Covid cases are increasing in Delaware County. Everyone should be careful, follow the CDC guidelines and get fully vaccinated as soon as possible.

PLANNING

Ms. Middleton reported there was no Planning Commission meeting in August. Mr. Ploeg is continuing to meet with residents along Rose Valley Road between Possum Hollow and Woodward Road to get their input regarding the possibility of a sidepath. Ms. Middleton reminded everyone that the Planning Commission is an advisory body which provides information and makes recommendations to Borough Council.

Resident Chris Carpenter asked if Planning Commission meetings could be on Zoom. Solicitor Smith replied that State law requires that all governmental meetings be in-person now that the Governor's emergency declaration has expired.

Resident Cindy Holston expressed her concern about people crossing Rose Valley Road at Price's Lane.

FINANCES

Mr. Neilson reviewed the Status of Funds and went over the Income Reports for July. He then reviewed the Bills for Approval for August. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$31,066.90 were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

A new bank account has been opened for the Coronavirus Recovery Fund. Discussion followed regarding permitted uses of this money and Hedgerow Theatre's request for assistance. The Department of the Treasury's rules for the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act outline four permitted uses for local governments: (1) assisting small businesses and nonprofits in responding to the negative economic impacts of the Covid-19 public health emergency, (2) providing premium pay to essential workers, (3) providing government services to the extent of a reduction in revenue, and (4) to make necessary investments in water, sewer or broadband infrastructure. Expenditures are intended to be forward looking and cover costs incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021 and ending December 31, 2024. It does not appear likely the Borough will be able to spend funds on the categories 2 and 3. Further research is needed to determine if the Borough can expend funds on category 4 to meet stormwater requirements after the current Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit expires in 2023. It was noted that Hedgerow is a tremendous asset to the community and very deserving of help in surviving the pandemic. Council approved the award of \$27,000 from the Coronavirus Recovery Fund to assist Hedgerow Theatre in responding to the negative economic impacts of Covid-19 on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported that Governor Wolf has once again proposed that municipalities served by the Pennsylvania State Police pay a fee for such services and also proposed serious cuts to recycling programs. There is also a bill pending in Harrisburg that would eliminate gasoline taxes which could pass this session. He will keep us informed.

Mr. Smith was contacted by a resident who had been notified by his neighbor about trees on the property border. Mr. Smith informed the resident that this was a private property issue that the neighbors would have to resolve.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Plummer reminded Council about the William L. Price historical marker dedication ceremony on November 6, 2021. Historian George Thomas will give a talk, and the Rose Valley Museum is planning a weekend of events.

The "Welcome to Rose Valley" program needs volunteers for various sections of Rose Valley to greet new residents and deliver their welcome packets. Those interested in participating should contact the Borough Office.

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

Paula W. Healy, Secretary