

## COUNCIL MEETING

May 11, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on May 11, 2022 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane, Rose Valley, PA. President of Council Dave Firm called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Councilpersons Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Shawn Stancill, Matt Sullivan, Shannon Prown and Vippy Yee; Controller John Neilson, Mayor Bill Hale, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Treasurer Mario Bacchia was absent.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Marcie Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre; Traymore residents Donna Deeney, Vince Deeney, Carolyn Forwood, Chip Forwood, Jim Kaufman, Irma Kubiak, Ken Hull, Ron Ploeg, Don Razzano, Carol Rude and Gena Scanlan; and residents Aaron Childs and Peter Howell.

### MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the April 13, 2022 Council meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Marcie Bramucci, Executive Artistic Director of Hedgerow Theatre, presented a letter asking if Council would again assist Hedgerow by contributing \$5,732 from its Coronavirus Recovery Funds from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act to help pay for antigen testing and a designated Covid safety officer as required by the Actors Equity Association. 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 which could be used for an MS-4 stormwater management project and other purposes. Following discussion, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council agreed to contribute \$5,732 from its Covid Relief Fund to help Hedgerow Theatre cover the cost of Covid measures imposed on them by the Actors Equity Association.

Traymore resident Ron Ploeg presented a letter from the Traymore Homeowners Association requesting Council to approve the expenditure of \$6,700 for Carney Tree Company to take down eight and one-half trees on Borough-owned Open Space adjacent to homes in 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. Solicitor Smith noted that while private persons in Pennsylvania can be held liable for damages caused by dangerous trees once they had 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. Many of the Traymore residents present spoke about the danger of these trees not only to nearby homes but also to people in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. Mrs. Yee said she

viewed this as a public safety issue and made a motion that the Borough cover the \$6,700 cost of taking down eight and one-half trees in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary. The motion was seconded by Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Hare announced that he was recusing himself because he is a Traymore resident and therefore has a conflict of interest in this matter. Following further discussion, the motion to pay \$6,700 to take down eight and one-half hazardous trees in the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary was approved on a vote of 3 to 2 with Councilpersons Dave Firn, Matt Sullivan and Vippy Yee voting for; Shannon Prown and Shawn Stancil voting against; and Leonard Busby and Joe Hare abstaining.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

Mr. Busby met with Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann, Mayor Hale, watershed specialist Karen Wilwol of the Delaware County Conservation District and McKenney Construction on April 14 to examine the half-dismantled dam for the Old Mill in the Saul Wildlife Preserve. It appeared that it would be feasible to relocate 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 reduce further erosion. The EAC voted to recommend at its last meeting that the Borough hire a hydrologist to provide advice on this problem and Mr. Busby said he will look into this.

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 purchase a wide variety of native plants at wholesale prices.

The students from the School in Rose Valley have been removing garlic mustard from the Saul Wildlife Preserve.

The Japanese knotweed in the Chadwick Preserve was carefully spot treated with Triclopyr on April 19 and 20.

The EAC voted to recommend at its last meeting that QR codes not be placed on posts near points of interest throughout the Saul Wildlife and Long Point Preserves as originally proposed in the Preserves Information Plan. The EAC recommends instead that a single QR code for a map app be placed at the information kiosk near the entrance to each preserve. The interactive map app would have links to information on the various points of interest for those that wish to access it. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, Council approved not placing QR codes in the preserves with the exception of a QR code for a map app at each of the information kiosks.

There will be an EAC workday led by Jim Audley at the Saul Wildlife Preserve on May 28 to install the pet waste station and construct the stone wall at the base of the entrance kiosk.

## HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Sullivan reported that the gutter repairs and repaving of Todmorden Drive, Brookview Lane and Forestview Road have been completed. Mr. Houtmann is working on getting estimates for the culvert repair on the southern side of Todmorden Drive near Brookhaven Road.

## LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee reported that the Helen Kate Furness Library's Great Renovate fundraiser was a big success. Fund raising will continue with the goal of raising \$120,000 this year through the Annual Appeal and other activities. Vippy emphasized the library needs more volunteers.

Ms. Yee plans to complete the EAC portion of the Borough website during the summer.

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Mr. Stancill reported there was no Police Report provided for April due to staffing problems with the State Police. The Fire Report showed responses on 4/14 and 4/15 to assist EMS, and a response on 4/24 to an automatic fire alarm. Fire Marshall Poissant also sent a flier with safety tips on barbecue grilling. Town Watch is proceeding as usual. The two Rose Valley Road speed devices have been repaired and reinstalled. The Borough, however, is getting duplicate digital reports from All Traffic Solutions for the Thunderbird-Lodge device and no report for the parking-lot device.

Mrs. Healy noted many Borough officials attended the South Media Fire Company 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary ceremony at the fire house and the dinner at Spring Haven Country Club on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

## PLANNING

Mrs. Prown indicated there was nothing new to report regarding planning.

## FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed that Status of Funds for April noting that the Borough bank accounts had been reconciled with QuickBooks and reviewed the Income Reports for April. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$36,072.41 were subsequently approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

## MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that the annual large trash pickup will take place on Monday and Tuesday, May 16 and 17, and that residents should have everything out by Monday morning.

## MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale reminded everyone that food trucks will be at South Media Fire Company on the first Friday of every month and encouraged residents to support the fire company.

## SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith provided Council members his solicitor's report for May noting Delaware County averaged only 5.6 traffic citations per 1,000 drivers in 2021 compared with the state-wide average of 14.4 and that Pennsylvania State Police give drivers they have stopped warnings 39% of the time and citations 61% of the time. He also noted the Borough's inability to prohibit door-to-door soliciting, increasing highway deaths due to speeding, distracted driving, road rage and aggressive driving, and the frequency of updates to the State Borough Code.

## GENERAL

The Borough will hold its traditional Fourth of July Parade from the Moylan-Rose Valley Train Station to Rose Valley Swimming Pool and will ask the pool if it can hold the flag raising ceremony inside the pool afterwards.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Council meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

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Paula W Healy, Secretary