

COUNCIL MEETING

November 13, 2024.

The monthly meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on November 13, 2024 in the main room of the Old Mill, 9 Old Mill Lane. President of Council Matt Sullivan called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Other Council members present were Leonard Busby, Joe Hare, Cheryl Harner, Tony Orr and Shannon Prown, Mayor Bill Hale, Treasurer Chris Bourke, Controller John Neilson, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Councilperson Kathryn Mehan was absent.

Residents attending the meeting were Kelly Caulfield, Deb DeMasi, Neil Halloran, Cindy Holston, Andrea Noll, Andrew Noll, Ron Ploeg, Katie Rubin and William Thomas. Amy Caruso of the "Swarthmorean" and Mike Sikora representing J. P. Mascaro attended as guests.

MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes of the October 9, 2024 Council Meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

RECYCLING CONTRACT

The Borough's one-year recycling contract with J. P. Mascaro expires on 12/31/24. The request for recycling bids for 2025 was advertised in the Delaware County Times on 10/24/24. Two bids were received: Creative Waste Solutions bid \$125,468 for weekly collection and \$115,468 for every other week collection, and J. P. Mascaro bid \$88,656 for weekly collection and \$66,324 for every other week collection. After some discussion, a motion was made to accept J. P. Mascaro's bid of \$66,324 for every other week collection of recyclables for 2025. This motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

ENVIRONMENT& EAC

Mr. Busby reported there is a vacancy on the Environmental Advisory Commission (EAC). Mrs. Healy will publicize this in a Borough e-mail blast. Anyone interested should contact the Borough Office.

The EAC recommends conducting the deer hunt as the Borough has done in past years. Because this subject was not listed on the agenda, it was tabled until the December Council Meeting.

The October 20 workshop sponsored by the EAC and conducted by the Straub Water Research Center on macroinvertebrates who live in our creeks was a success. There will be a Zoom

workshop conducted by the Pennsylvania Resource Council on Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels and Runoff on November 18. The movie “2040” on climate change will be shown at the School in Rose Valley on December 4.

The EAC has been discussing the subject of crowing roosters disturbing neighbors and recommends that Borough Council adopt an ordinance to establish guidelines for the ownership and care of fowl in the Borough in order to protect the welfare of the community, maintain public health and safety, and ensure proper care. The ordinance would prohibit roosters in the Borough with a grace period for removal and a limit on the number of fowl based on lot size. Discussion followed with a wide range of opinions expressed including the need to consult further with fowl owners in the Borough, whether guinea hens and other barnyard animals should also be prohibited, and whether a wider noise ordinance should include noise from things such as instruments and sports. Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Busby to prepare a draft fowl ownership ordinance.

HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Mr. Orr reported one Snowplowing bid was received from R. C. Marland in response to a request for bids advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on October 24, 2024. The bid pricing was \$200 per hour for a dump truck with plow; \$195 per hour for a pickup truck with plow; \$135 per hour for a skid steer loader; and \$315 per ton for salt spreading. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, R. C. Marland was awarded the 2024-2025 snowplowing contract.

The Aqua water line replacement work done earlier this year involved a portion of a private driveway at the end of Price’s Lane. Aqua included \$3,980 to repave this driveway in the money it gave to the Borough to repair roads. However, the owners of the driveway have requested that it not be repaved because they are considering changing it from paved macadam to crushed stone. Mr. Smith therefore prepared a Driveway Repaving Agreement and Release for the distribution of this money to the owners of the driveway. On a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, this document and the \$3,980 distribution was approved.

Mr. Orr also reported he is investigating live streaming the Borough Council meetings using a simple system which would necessitate purchasing a laptop computer, wide angle web camera, microphones and a YouTube channel at a cost of about \$4,000. Mr. Hare said he was against this expense because he did not think the benefit to the few people who might watch in a small borough like Rose Valley was worth the cost impact on the budget. Mr. Nielson said lower taxes for everyone provided a better benefit.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Ms. Harner reported that the October Police Report listed 24 incidents including 15 for traffic enforcement, and the October Fire Reports listing 5 responses. She noted officer Michelle Naab, the Borough’s State Police Liaison, will be retiring in January. Typical data was received from the Rose Valley Road speed device near Thunderbird Lodge for southbound traffic. The speed device next to the Borough Parking Lot recording northbound traffic was apparently damaged

when the pole and arm supporting the flashing yellow lights for the Hedgerow curve came down. The pole, arm, lights and speed device have been reinstalled, but the speed device is not working.

PLANNING

Mrs. Prown reported that the Borough is still waiting for PECO to upgrade their power distribution line along Rose Valley Road and take down larger trees, and that the plans for the walking path will be adjusted to address certain concerns.

FINANCES

Mr. Bourke reviewed the Status of Funds and reported he had reconciled the bank accounts. Mr. Neilson went over the Income Report for October and reviewed the November Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amounts of \$36,213.25 from the General Fund and \$511.89 from the Highway Aid Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Hare distributed the preliminary budget for 2025. After making several adjustments, including adjusting for the recycling collection bid of \$66,324 from J. P. Mascaro, the proposed budget calls for total revenue and expenses of \$421,260, a 4.7% increase in Borough taxes, appropriation from Capital Reserve of \$1,670 and a millage rate of 1.33 mills. Mr. Hare noted that the budget may need to change slightly when the Delaware County Board of Assessment Appeals provides the 2025 total taxable assessment value for the Borough in a few weeks.

Mr. Hale noted it was good that the budget includes only a nominal appropriation from Capital Reserve since this fund has been reduced over the years to an appropriate level now that the Borough no longer owns a sewer system and sewage treatment plant.

Mr. Hare made a motion that Council approve the advertisement of the proposed 2025 Budget and the Special Council Meeting on Wednesday, December 18 at 7:30 pm to adopt the Budget. The Special Council Meeting on December 18 is needed to provide at least 30 days between passage of the proposed budget and final approval. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The proposed Budget will be on display in the Borough Office starting November 15.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Mrs. Healy reported that there was a vacancy on the Zoning Hearing Board for an alternate position. Mr. Ed Matey of 116 Traymore Lane has volunteered to fill this vacancy. Mrs. Healy prepared Resolution 10-2024, appointing Mr. Matey to the Zoning Hearing Board as an alternate for a term beginning November 13, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027. This Resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported he is working on the draft fence ordinance. Mr. Sullivan requested it include an exception for deer fencing like the Nether Providence Township fence ordinance.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Paula W. Healy, Secretary