

## COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2022

The regular meeting of the Rose Valley Borough Council was held on March 9, 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 Joe Hare, Shannon Prown, Matt Sullivan and Vippy Yee; Controller John Neilson, Mayor Bill Hale, Solicitor G. Guy Smith and Secretary Paula Healy. Council members absent were Councilpersons Leonard Busby and Stephanie Middleton, and Treasurer Mario Bacchia.

Members of the public attending the meeting were Borough Engineer Matt Houtmann, Eagle Scout candidate Ryan Dougherty and Mrs. Karen Dougherty, and residents Aaron Childs, Tina Dichiara and Peter Howell.

### MINUTES

After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Minutes from the February 9, 2022 Council meeting were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

Ryan Dougherty presented his Eagle Scout Project to Council. He would like to plant native plants in the Saul Wildlife Preserve to replace the invasives that have been removed and stabilize the soil to prevent erosion. Ron Ploeg, a member of the Rose Valley Borough EAC, is supervising the project. Ryan asked if Council could approve \$1,500 to buy plants for the project.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Peter Howell, a board member of the Rose Valley Museum, informed Council that the Museum would be open to the public on March 26 & 27 from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. There will also be a lecture on March 27 entitled "Rose Valley Rocks" by West Chester University Professor of Geology, Dr. Walt Cressler. The subject will be the geological origins of the rocks in Rose Valley and how William L. Price utilized rocks in his architecture.

### HIGHWAYS & INSURANCE

Matt Houtmann informed Council that the request for bids for Rose Valley Borough's 2022 Roadwork project had been advertised in the Delaware County Daily Times on February 17 and 20, 2022. The bids were opened in the Borough Office on March 3, 2022 at 11:05 a.m. The following bids were received: Charlestown - \$239,501.80; MECO - \$237,444.00; Gessler - \$218,952.00; A. F. Damon - \$200,008.00; and InConn - \$183,235.40. Mr. Sullivan motioned that Council accept the bid from InConn in the amount of \$183,235.40. This motion was seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan asked Mr. Houtmann about progress on the culvert work that needs to be done at the lower end of Todmorden Drive. Mr. Houtmann replied that he had an onsite meeting with an experienced contractor to verify the feasibility of his design and that he is preparing the bid documents.

Mr. Sullivan asked Council to approve Resolution 3 – 2022 requesting \$1,553 from Delaware County in 2022 County Aid for roadwork. This resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

Mr. Sullivan then asked Council to approve Resolution 4 – 2022 setting paving restoration standards for Borough roads. These standards have been reviewed and approved by Mr. Houtmann and Solicitor Smith. This resolution was approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### PERSONNEL

Mr. Firn reported that Councilperson Stephanie Middleton submitted her resignation from Borough Council because she is moving out of Rose Valley. It was with deep regret that Council accepted her resignation on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Ms. Middleton did an outstanding job while on Council as Planning chair overseeing the Planning Commission, which has been working on the Rose Valley Road walking path project. She will be greatly missed.

This seat needs to be filled within 30 days so a special Council meeting will be held on Monday, April 4 at 7:30 pm at the Old Mill for this purpose. Mr. Firn announced that Shannon Prown will move from the Public Safety chair to replace Stephanie as the Planning chair. The newly appointed Council member will thus fill the Public Safety chair. The personnel committee has identified a strong candidate for this position. Advertisement of this opening will be put on the Borough's website and sent out to the residents Google Group inviting anyone else interested in being appointed to Council to submit a resume at the office or to [rosevalleyborough@comcast.net](mailto:rosevalleyborough@comcast.net). Candidates must have lived in the Borough of Rose Valley for over 1 year and be a registered voter to be eligible to serve.

### ENVIRONMENT & EAC

In Mr. Busby's absence, Mr. Firn reported on the following items. Mr. Busby would like to meet with Mr. Houtmann and a contractor to examine the feasibility of relocating some of the stones from the end of the dam to rebuild the wall of the mill race next to the dam that has been eroded away. Saturday, May 14 will be the EAC Spring Invasvie Workshop and Plant Sale from 9: 00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and everybody is invited to attend. Davey Tree Company will treat the two trap trees for Spotted Lantern Fly. The poison ivy near the trails and knotweed will be sprayed. The kiosk at the Saul Wildlife Sanctuary entrance has been built with the exception of the stone wall at its base and the kiosk in the Chadwick Wildlife Sanctuary is under construction.

### LIBRARY & TECHNOLOGY

Ms. Yee attended the Library Board meeting on March 8. There is a new Library app which allows you to scan your own books out when you borrow them. The Library is planning activities for children over Spring break and various interesting summer programs. There is a new book club for adults and a program on tree mapping is being planned.

The Great Renovation Raffle is starting soon and everyone is encouraged to support this Library fundraiser. Tickets are \$25 each or 5 for \$100.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Mrs. Prown reviewed the Police and Fire Reports. There were no incidents on the Police Report for February, 2022. The Fire Company responded to two fire alarm calls from the Old Mill. The Fire Marshall had also sent a flier on microwave safety.

Town Watch is proceeding as usual. The Borough will have a Town Watch Appreciation Night in September, 2022. This bi-annual event was postponed in recent years due to the pandemic.

Ms. Prown attended a meeting at the Delaware County Emergency Management Office in Middletown.

### FINANCES

Mr. Hare reviewed the Status of Funds and the Income Reports for February. Mr. Neilson went over the Bills for Approval and answered questions. The Bills for Approval in the amount of \$29,528.40 from the General Fund were approved on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed. Mr. Hale requested that Council approved \$1,500 to purchase native plants for Ryan Dougherty's Eagle Scout project to be planted in the Saul Wildlife Preserve. Mr. Sullivan asked if local businesses could be asked to donate plants for the project. Mr. Firm replied that stores such as Lowes or Home Depot do not carry suitable native plants and that local nurseries are only willing to discount prices. Council approved the expenditure of up to \$1,500 from the parks budget to purchase the plants on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Hale reminded Council that 2023 will be the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rose Valley becoming a Borough. A committee has been organized by Peter Howell with representative from various Rose Valley organizations to work on creating an activity each month during the centennial year.

### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Smith reported he had written the letter that is needed by the auditors before they can submit their Annual Audit and Financial Report on the Borough to the State of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Smith asked that an Executive Session be held at the end of the Council meeting to discuss a legal matter.

GENERAL

As discussion led by Mr. Firm, Council decided that, in accordance with CDC guidelines, wearing masks at Borough meetings would be optional starting in April.

There being no further business, on a motion made, seconded and unanimously passed, the Council Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Paula W. Healy, Secretary