

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING & HEARING January 6, 2009

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: John Rice, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Jeff Smith, Michelle Barto, Gary Habsburg, Dave Eberle, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon J. Melanick
Wendy J.
Cathy Rape
 MICHAEL PARRISH
Cathy Beecher
MAURIS SERRANO
Bernice + Dave Levin
Diane Brenner
 BETH POLACK
Jim + Ann John
Dak + Kathy Reisinger
Ron + Carolyn Meyer
Tom + Karen Law
Nancy Hoffmann
Mike Hansas
Frank + Andrea Harrison
Beth STOMAS
Phyllis Metz
Tim + Rhonda Eppinger
David Luek
Verned L. Morrow

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HEARING:

Council President, Jeff Smith, called the hearing to order at 7:00 PM to hear public comment concerning opening 5th Street.

President Smith explained the reason and request for opening 5th Street. He stated that no vote can be taken until an ordinance is written and advertised. He then turned the meeting over to Attorney Marshall.

Attorney Marshall swore in those residents wishing to speak at the hearing.

Michael Parrish, 2100 Georgetown Drive, Sewickly, presented a Harmony Street Map (July 1996) showing 5th Street. He stated that there are two agreements of sales;

Brenkle Enterprise & Harmony Developers

Dale Warner and Judy Warner & Harmony Developers

He then presented to Council:

Exhibit #1 - 1996 Borough Street Map

Exhibit #2 - Map of proposed 5th Street

Exhibit #3 - Agreement of Sale (Warners)

Exhibit #4 - Agreement of Sale (Brenkles)

Mr. Parrish stated that the Borough has expressed that 5th Street is a Borough Street and that the Borough adopted the map. The developer has offered to develop the street at no cost to the Borough. Opening 5th Street offers a better access.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Phyllis Metz: (766 Spring Street) presented Exhibit #5 – a letter she had sent the Borough expressing her concerns of traffic on Spring St. and the importance of keeping green space.

Gary Barnes from the Harmony Inn (230 Mercer St) addressed the paper that is going around Harmony Borough. He protested the content of the paper concerning gains to the Harmony Inn. Mr. Barnes stated that he is in favor of all new people coming into the town, not just the Harmony Lake Development. He also protested the distribution of the letter which stated that Harmony Inn will be the sole benefits of the new development. He also stated that he resents what has been passed around by an elected official of Harmony. He stated that he has a right to express opinion.

Dale Reisinger (773 Spring Street) expressed concerns on opening 5th street and quoted from notes concerning Borough ordinances and the Municipal Planning code adoption. The last grading of Spring Street was 1960. Since the new development does not abut 5th Street, he does not believe they have the right to open 5th Street. 51% of the abutting property owners have to agree to opening the street. Lewis owns 50% and Reisinger owns 50%

Cathy Rape (769 Spring Street) questioned, “why open 5th Street? The only revenue will be from water taps which the Water Authority will get anyway. They have no intention of repairing or improving Spring Street.” She disagrees that not much traffic comes down Spring Street. She questioned if there is a homeowners association and expressed concern

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concerning water runoff. She proposed that they use Center Street and 6th Street. She stated that she would like to know what kind of deals are being made.

Doug Bogolea (760 Spring Street) stated that they should find another exit instead of Spring Street. He doesn't want the traffic.

Diane Brenner (747 Spring Street) stated that the Post Office was interested in the building back on Spring Street. A signed petition was signed against it because of traffic. Since then there are 8 more children on the street which raises the possible chance of a child being hurt. She asked Council to please consider the safety issue. The little bit of Liquid Fuel money received will not cover the upkeep and repairs to the street.

Bob Ziegler (774 Spring Street) presented a petition (Exhibit 6). He expressed concern of the added traffic.

Dave Morrow (753 Spring Street) Stated that Spring Street already has a lot of traffic. He feels that 5th Street will take a lot of the traffic load off the lower end of Spring street and that the development will help the Borough with more business and more opportunities.

Tim Eppinger (764) questioned if 5th Street ended at Warner's property.

Mr. Parrish answered that the Warner and Brenkle property are in Jackson Township. He questioned if there had ever been any maintenance done on the street.

Jeff Smith answered that it is a paper street.

Attorney Marshall stated that there is no record of 5th Street ever being opened.

Kathy Reisinger (773 Spring Street) presented Dale Reisinger's notes as exhibit #7.

Dave Lewis (751 Spring Street) stated that a petition was presented 50 years ago to the Borough to open 5th Street. They wouldn't open it then. He commented, "Opening 5th Street would be stupid." He stated that it is not a block long, it is ½ a block long. He suggested widening Spring Street and putting in curbs.

Mr. Parrish stated that the petition that was presented is not a petition against opening 5th Street but against the Development which is not before Council and is in Jackson Township.

Hearing closed at 7:50 PM.

Brief Recess

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

Jeff Smith, Council President, called the Council Meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: