

August 6, 2013

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING August 6, 2013

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Phyllis Metz, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Jim Hulings, Harold Herr, Greg Such, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

OTHERS PRESENT:

*Council Meeting
August 6, 2013*

*James Hulings
Cathy Rape
Susan Herr*

FRANK ANDREA GRANNON

GREG SUCH

*Frank Luek
Phyllis Metz
Jim Hulings
Joan Ruch*

ALLEN BAYER

*Sandy Ferranola
Steve Hulings
Cathy Rape*

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum was reached and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Council President, Jim Hulings.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the July 2, 2013 minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he reviewed the ordinance we have in place on mobile homes; it is not sufficient, very general. Matt also reviewed the obstruction on sidewalks, we do not have a specific ordinances; the nuisance ordinance can be used for vegetation. A more specific ordinance could be drafted for both issues; Council would review and decide to amend or adopt the ordinances, once adopted they would need to be advertised; the process would take couple of months.

Matt reported on the Heritage Fund, there is about \$2,600.00 in the fund, it was thought that a motion was made a year or two ago to use that money to paint the name on the water tower, the money was never taken out of the Heritage Fund. Amy is to check the 2011 minutes to see if a motion was made to use the Heritage Fund, if it was then the money should be transferred from the Heritage Fund back into the General Fund.

Matt also reported that the arborist report sent to Penn Dot was rejected; the report needs to be in Penn Dot format. Mayor Rape reported that our Arborist is not familiar with Penn Dot's format. Matt will follow up with some engineers he knows to see if they are familiar with the Penn Dot's format, they can use our Arborist's report. Greg Such questioned why we are doing this. Matt responded that the water tower sits on a location that requires going through proper channels (Penn Dot) to have trees trimmed so that the name on the water tower can be seen.

BOARD REPORTS:

APPOINTMENTS:

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Council unanimously approved to appoint Peggy Ragusa as a member to the Parks Board.

COG:

Jim Hulings reported that there was not a meeting this month, and we received about four emails from COG.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that HARB met but did not convene because there was nothing on the agenda.

Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that they are interviewing for a licensed operator, they are about 2/3 of the way done.

Phyllis Metz commented that there is water in front of Nanna's property. Dave Szakelyhidi replied that they had PA Rural Water out with their correlater and could not find anything.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported the Western Pennsylvania Wheelman's Brewvet is scheduled for Saturday, August 10th; they are to leave from the boat launch, ride to Slippery Rock and come back to the Inn. No street closures required just be aware that there will be about 20 cyclists.

Susie asked for a motion to move \$4,000.00 from the Silvester Account into the Parks Board Account to help cover up front expenses for the Bluegrass Festival. Once tickets are sold the money will be put back into the Silvester Account. In a motion made by Greg Such and seconded by Harold Herr, the Harmony Council unanimously approved the transfer of \$4,000.00 from the Silvester Fund into the Parks Board Fund.

Susie reported that there is about \$3,000.00 left from the Parks Grant, she would like to use it for electric in the square. Wade reported that Purchase Orders were issued by Gary Pinkerton for 60 ton of stone, and to re-gravel; that also covers the digging for the catch basins and drain pipe by Barbish at the boat launch. The Borough is responsible for the catch basins, pipe, and the back filling. Dilt's received the okay from Penn Power; it will cost \$585.00 to put the service drop in. Penn Power's cost is included in Dilt's Purchase Order; Dilt's bill is to be sent to Gary Pinkerton. Wade also stated that when we get a bid from Dilt's for the electric in the square, the bid needs to be sent up to Gary Pinkerton, Gary writes the Purchase Orders, once we receive the Purchase Orders from Gary we can contact the contractor to have the work done.

Susie thanked Frank Grannon for keeping the Parks and the Trail nice.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing to report.

Sewer Authority:

Harold Herr reported that everything is going well.

Zoning:

John Rice was not able to attend the meeting.

Shared Services:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Parking/Signage:

Events:

Jim Hulings reported that the Bluegrass is on September 6th & 7th; the Fleatique on September 7th will not have street closures due to the Bluegrass Festival being the same day. Jim reviewed the list of events scheduled in Harmony; the Mosaic 5K on September 21st, and the Christmas Market on November 9th and 10th. Jim also announced that the Connoquenessing Creek Clean Up will be August 10th, volunteers are needed. It kicks off from the Beacon Hotel in Renfrew.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Chief Miller reported paving on Main Street Zelienople will be about a 3 week deal; paving is from 6:00pm – 6:00am, they will include Harmony in their Swift Reach Notifications. Phyllis Metz questioned a car theft. Chief Miller reported that a car was stolen from McCrackin's; the guy was picked up in Warren County.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing to report.

Borough Supervisor:

Wade Ion reported that streets signs have been ordered.
There was yard waste in the limb pick-up; they did not pick up the yard waste.
The canoe launch has been cleaned up.
The catch basin on Monroe Street has been rebuilt.
Don Rape completed all the cement work; the bike rack filled in.
Suburban Insulation insulated the attic on August 1st.

Phyllis Metz stated a truck coming up from the plant was trying to make a right turn in the square, she suggested signs be placed coming up from the plant. Jim stated it will be added to the truck sign list.

Zoning & Code Enforcement:

Allen Bayer – report attached.

Allen reported he will start the Fire Inspections with the Murray apartments on August 16th.

Mayor Rape questioned the sidewalks with no curbs. Allen stated there are three properties like that, by Code and Ordinance the property owner is responsible for the curb; discussion. Jim stated it is the way the law is, it's in the Borough Code, which is Pennsylvania law.

Allen reported on the building permits survey: Marion Township and Zelienople charge \$35.00; Franklin Township charges \$20.00; Jackson Township and Lancaster Township charge \$25.00; Evans City is value based, \$1.00 to \$500.00 is \$5.00, \$501.00 to \$2,000.00 is \$10.00, Cranberry Township charges \$20.00 for residential, and \$25.00 for commercial. Allen felt \$20.00 or \$25.00 is comparable, plus the up charge per additional dollar (ex: \$2.00/\$1,000).

Zoning & Code Enforcement Cont':

Matt stated a resolution would be needed to amend the ordinance. Harold Herr suggested \$25.00 plus the up charge per additional dollar, there was consensus among Council.

OLD BUSINESS:

Personnel:

Harold Herr had nothing to report.

Finance:

Jim Hulings reported that a new report was distributed to Council; this report is easy to read and gives more visibility on fund totals. Jim would like one more report that would be even more definitive, a report that tells how we are doing against budget and projects ahead and tells how we are going to be.

Streets:

Wade Ion reported that paving (Harmony streets) will take place on August 19th.

Public Safety:

Mayor Rape reported that it was her understanding that when the Certificate of Appropriateness was approved and the recommendation was given to have tails put on the arrows, that it was just a suggestion. The sign was made without the tails.

Mayor Rape on the state of the borough, in the first seven months of the year Harmony has run fairly smoothly, truck traffic has seemed to improve with the addition of signage. There have been many activities including races in and around town, all great exposure for the shops. HBA (Harmony Business Association) has moved the Farmers Market to the Zelig Park parking area, the visitors' cabin has been erected awaiting a roof, and any volunteers wanting to give money or time contact Historic Harmony. The overall appearance of town is improving with the new sidewalks, which helps with all of our home values. We need to strive for continued cooperation between home owners, businesses, HBA, Parks, and Council to make Harmony even more desirable.

Jim Hulings reported that FEMA sent a survey on flood risk. Solicitor Matt stated it is dealing with a pipeline. Dave Szakelyhidi will complete the survey.

Facilities:

Frank Luek reported the brick repair has been completed. Frank suggested paying an extra \$50.00 for the front repair. In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the \$50.00 increase for the brick repair. The total repair is \$550.00, the check is to be made out to Tim Burns, and Frank Luek requested a check be made this week.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings reported that the Redevelopment Authority of Butler County is having a meeting on blighted properties.

Business Development Cont':

Jim Hulings also reported on Act 13, they're starting to fight Act 13. Matt Racunas stated that Act 13 took local government regulation out of oil and gas development.

NEW BUSINESS:

Training and Conferences:

Jim Hulings reported there are a lot of training and webinar opportunities available if anybody on Council is interested.

Personnel:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Finance:

Harold Herr reported that he needs wish lists for 2014, would like to have no later than September 1st. Jim Hulings reported that he will edit the wish list from 2013 and send it to Council, as they can add to it, eliminating duplications.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi questioned if the roof panels need to be painted; it will be added to the wish list for 2014.

Dave Szakelyhidi also reported that the Northern Connections Magazine had an article listing National Historic Landmarks; Harmony Borough was named in it. Sandy Ferrainola brought the article in.

Streets:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Mayor Rape had nothing to report.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings commented that the Harmony Inn has been sold, looking forward to having the new owners take over and seeing what it does for the town.

BILLS PAYABLE:

A list of bills in the amount of **\$9,387.44** was presented to Harmony Borough Council as **General Bills Payable**. A list of bills in the amount of **\$4,976.87** was presented to Harmony Borough Council as **Bills Already Paid**. A list of bills in the amount of **\$5,433.40** was presented to Harmony Borough Council as **Parks Board Bills Payable**; and a list of bills in the amount of **\$500.00** was presented to Harmony Borough Council as **Parks Board Already Paid**.

In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented in the General Bills Payable list in the amount of \$9,387.44, plus the Bills Already Paid list in the amount of \$4,976.87, and the Parks Board Bills Payable list in the amount of \$5,433.40, plus the Parks Board Bills Already Paid list in the amount of \$500.00.

August 6, 2013

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Linda Nye – expressed concern about people not stopping at the stop sign at Pittsburgh Street and New Castle Street. People stop when there is a police car there. Linda is concerned when school starts someone will get hit. Linda also commented that the speed limit on Charles Street is too high. Solicitor Matt stated that a traffic study would be required; the Borough cannot just enact an ordinance. Charles Street is in both Jackson Township and Harmony Borough. Mayor Rape commented the speed limit cannot go lower, it is already 25mph. Linda inquired what people are to do with cardboard since the no burning ordinance. Greg Such commented that Vogel takes his cardboard, set it out with recyclables.

An executive session was called at 8:00pm; out of executive session at 8:29pm.

In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to raise Amy Brown's wage up to \$14.00 per hour.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to add Carol Brethauer as a signer on the bank accounts and remove Sharon McCormick.

ADJOURN: 8:35pm

In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the August 6, 2013 meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown
Secretary

Code and Zoning Monthly Activity Report
July 2013

1. 19 building permits issued in July and 74 building permits issued year-to-date. Of the 74 building permits issued year-to-date 47 were for sidewalk violations.
2. 1 zoning and code violation letter was sent in July and 88 zoning and code violations letters have been sent year-to-date.
3. Prepared sidewalk violations follow up plan, warning and reminder letters and mailing list.
4. Warning letters were sent out to all property owners having a sidewalk repair completion date of 7/15/2013 that have not applied for a building permit for their sidewalk repair.
5. Reminder letters were sent out to all property owners having a sidewalk repair completion date of 7/15/2013 and have been issued a building permit.
6. Performed several violation follow-up inspections.
7. Attended June HARB and Council meetings.
8. Met with Robinson Industries regarding property line.
9. Answered numerous phone calls regarding building permits, etc.
10. Followed up on several complaints that were brought to my attention.
11. Requested Zelig police to cite abandoned vehicles on Edmonton St. after my violation notice was ignored.
12. Inspected 1 construction site.
13. Follow up discussion with Pat Murray regarding fire inspections for all of Murray properties in the borough.
14. Completed July activity report for Council.
15. Completed US Census Building Permits Report.
16. Dropped off building permit at McCrackin for sidewalk construction.
17. Met with Jim Hulings to review handicap ramp and catch basin at 401 Center St.
18. Responded to several emails pertaining to zoning questions.

19. Walk through of borough to review status of sidewalk violations.

a. PERMIT ISSUED and REPAIR COMPLETED - 47 Properties - 70%

b. PERMIT ISSUED and NO WORK DONE - 4 Properties - 5%

c. NO PERMIT ISSUED and WORK HAS BEEN DONE - 4 Properties - 5%

d. NO PERMIT ISSUED and NO WORK DONE - 7 Properties - 10%

e. PENDING - 7 Properties - 10%

20. Stopped by office daily for mail, etc.

21. A special thank you to Wade for filling in during my vacation.