

December 3, 2013

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING December 3, 2013

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Council Meeting

Dec. 3, 2013

Jim Hulings
Harold Herr
John Rice
Greg Such
Cathy Rape
Frank Luek
Phyllis Metz
Dave Szakelyhidi
Allen Bayer
Jim Miller
Franky Andrew Shannon
Don Jones

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 November 12, 2013 Minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that there was a hearing on a sidewalk violation, and one more coming up. Matt reported that the Tax Ordinance for 2014 has been advertised, it is ready for adoption. It purposes no increase in taxes. In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the 2014 Tax Ordinance.

BOARD REPORTS:

APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Hulings reported that there are three appointments:

Planning Commission – Frank Luek

Public Library Board – Mike Razanaus

Zoning Hearing Board – Russ Ottney

Nina Ziegler

Tom Ayres as alternate

In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the appointments to the Planning Commission, Public Library Board, and the Zoning Hearing Board.

COG:

Jim Hulings had nothing new to report.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there was no action needed from the December 2nd meeting.

Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the loan is being typed up, table until next meeting.

Parks Board

Susie Altemus reported that the Silvester is coming along, they have \$4,250.00 in Sponsorship; 98 have signed up for the 5K and 9 have signed up for the 1-mile. The Parks Board is in need of wood for the Polar Plunge recreational fire, wood can be dropped off at the Canoe Launch. Mayor Rape stated that logs at the cabin on Main Street can be used.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing to report.

Sewer Authority:

Harold Herr reported that two homes are going up at Tollgate Road.

Zoning:

John Rice had nothing to report.

Shared Services:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Parking/Signage & Events:

Jim Hulings reported that the Get Fit Families Kids Christmas Race to be held on December 15th from 2:00 until 3:30pm, it will require Spring Street to be closed for a couple of hours, and a rolling road block on Mercer Street.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Chief Miller had nothing to report.

Office:

Amy Brown reported that RA Services was in to update the internet security and stated a new computer will be needed for next year; one computer is extremely slow and cannot be updated. A short training session was given on invoices and purchase orders.

Borough Supervisor:

Wade Ion was unable to attend the meeting.

Zoning & Code Enforcement:

Allen Bayer's report attached.

Allen reported that the blue mail box at the new Post Office is a problem because of the foundation it sits on, there is only 30" out to the curb, a wheelchair cannot get through. People are parking in Sapienza's lot to put mail in the box, and people are stopping in the middle of Mercer Street to put mail in the box. Allen will meet with the Post Master to have it relocated.

OLD BUSINESS:

Personnel:

Mayor Rape publically thanked Harold Herr and John Rice for their time, dedication, professionalism and love for the community and the town. Harold had served Council for 30+ years, and John had served for 8 years.

Finances:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS CONT':

Streets:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Mayor Rape requested the Boat Launch Sign be up before the Polar Plunge.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings had nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS:

Training and Conferences:

Jim Hulings reported that there are a lot of conferences for newly elected officials.

Personnel:

Jim Hulings submitted a conflict of interest letter naming three businesses he does business with and would have to abstain from voting if anything would come up regarding those companies.

Jim reported that the Borough will hold a reorganization meeting on Monday, January 6, 2014; it will be advertised in the paper.

Finance:

Jim Hulings reported on a proposal from Payroll Smarts. It will save the Borough \$600.00 per year. It will replace ADP (if Council would want to change), it would be the same service as ADP, they will do all reports ADP did, W2's, year-end totals, payroll with direct deposit, and taxes. All conversion work will be done for free. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Harold Herr, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the change in payroll companies from ADP to Payroll Smarts.

John Rice inquired on the Solicitation Permits. Solicitor Matt stated there is an ordinance for soliciting or peddling, there is an application process. The fee is currently set at \$250.00. Harold Herr asked if the Borough would make Girl Scouts get a permit at \$250.00. Solicitor Matt stated the ordinance has exemptions for charitable purposes, farmers selling their own produce. Chief Miller stated it's a safety issue; it's good to know who's in your town. Zelienople's ordinance allows soliciting up until 9:00pm. Jim Hulings stated his concern with the event vendors, we won't have any vendors at the events if we charge each \$250.00. Greg Such suggested lowering the fee but in sure all applications are completed. Matt will look at Zelienople's ordinance, make a draft amendment to our ordinance, have the fee by resolution and present it to Council.

December 3, 2013

Streets:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Jim Hulings reported on Rex Energy submitting permit applications to DEP for drilling on Gudekunst Road.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings reported that the website demo has been pushed back to January.

BILLS PAYABLE:

The following lists of bills were presented to Harmony Borough Council for approval:

General Bills Payable in the amount of **\$5,722.89**.

Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$2,796.31**.

Silvester Bills Payable in the amount of **\$559.10**

In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Sandy Ferrainola stated HARB has a meeting on January 6 at 7:00pm inquired what time the Reorganization meeting would be. It was decided the Reorganization meeting would be at 6:30pm on Monday, January 6, 2014.

Delsa White reported that a while back she had fallen, not sure if it's the sidewalk or a driveway, she tripped on loose asphalt on Jackson Street and Main Street. The Zoning Officer, Allen Bayer will look at it, along with Wade Ion; if need be the guys can do an emergency patch.

John Ruch stated the bicycle/skateboard ordinance was in the newsletter, it needs to be enforced. He recommended giving out warnings as a good way to start. The state law does not allow riding on the sidewalk.

Jim Hulings called for an executive session at 7:40pm to discuss litigation; came out of executive session at 7:50pm.

ADJOURN: 7:53 pm

As there was no further business to discuss, in a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by John Rice, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the December 3, 2013 meeting at 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown
Secretary

Code and Zoning Monthly Activity Report

November 2013

1. 1 building permit issued in November and 91 building permits issued year-to-date. Of the 91 building permits issued year-to-date 61 were for sidewalk violations.
2. Status of sidewalk violations.
 1. PERMIT ISSUED and REPAIR COMPLETED –56 properties – **92%**
 2. PERMIT ISSUED and NO WORK DONE or IN PROCESS and NOT PAST DUE - 0 properties –0%
 3. PERMIT ISSUED AND PAST DUE – 2 properties – **3%**
 4. NO PERMIT ISSUED, NO WORK DONE and PAST Due. 3 Properties – **5%**
3. 1 zoning and code violation letter was sent in November and 110 zoning and code violations letters have been sent year-to-date.
4. 10 abandoned vehicles violations have been sent year-to-date. All but two abandoned vehicle has been removed.
5. 5 multi-unit dwelling fire inspections completed in November. 45 multi-unit dwelling fire inspections completed year-to-date.
6. Performed numerous violation follow-up inspections.
7. Attended November Council meeting.
8. Attended November HARB meeting.
9. Attended Civil Court Hearing in Evans City regarding past due sidewalk violation. District Magistrate gave defendant 60 days to correct sidewalk violations.
10. Met with resident to discuss zoning and code requirements pertaining to garage demolition and reconstruction.

11. Spoke with realtor regarding having a restaurant in the Sapienza property.
12. Mailed a reminder letter pertaining to a vegetation violation.
13. Made several calls pertaining to scheduling fire inspections.
14. Answered several phone calls regarding building permits, zoning & code pertaining to properties for sale, etc.
15. Followed up on several complaints that were brought to my attention.
16. Attended depose hearing regarding sidewalk injury litigation.
17. Stopped by office daily for mail, etc.
18. Created November monthly report.