

November 12, 2013

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING NOVEMBER 12, 2013

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

*Council Meeting
November 12, 2013*

JAMES HULINGS
Frank Luek
Harold Herr
Dave Szakelyhidi
Cathy Rape
Wash
Phyllis Metz
ALLEN BAYER
JOHN RICE
JARON STEWART
Susan Atkins
FRANK GRANNON
Clara Spink
GREG SUCH

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 Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the October 1, 2013 minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Krisha Mackulin reported on the Tax Ordinance for 2014, there is no change from 2013 to 2014, Krisha asked for approval to advertise. In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the advertisement of the 2014 Tax Ordinance.

BOARD REPORTS:

APPOINTMENTS:

Jim Hulings reported on the acceptance of Carol Brethauer's letter of resignation. In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the resignation of Carol Brethauer.

In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the hiring of Joan Voegtly as the part-time Water Authority secretary up to 20 hours per week.

John Ruch requested approval for the use of the trail for the Washington 1753 Commemoration to be held November 30, 2013, the first hike will be around 10:00am, and the second hike around 1:30 or 2:00pm. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the use of the trail for the Washington 1753 Commemoration.

COG:

Jim Hulings had nothing new to report.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there were three Certificates of Appropriateness approved and recommended by HARB.

The Wahl House at 324 Monroe Street; the house had been painted prior to approval; the colors selected were Blue Zephyr and Ostrich Feather (beige). In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 324 Monroe Street.

HARB CONT':

Certificates of Appropriateness approved and recommended by HARB Cont'.

The bench placed on a concrete pad at the Youth Center. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the bench.

The electrification of Harmony Square; an electrical box is to be placed at the North end behind the monument, paint is to match stone. Harold Herr questioned who was sponsoring it. Jim Hulings stated it is sponsored by the Butler County Commissioners through a grant, and the Parks Board and Silvester. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the electrification of the Square.

Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that DEP is requiring the Water Authority to upgrade the water plant. Harold Herr reported that the Borough will need to co-sign the loan for the Water Authority because the Borough owns everything. The loan is for \$950,000.00, it is a 20 year loan, 5 year fixed at 2.25% rate. The old loan will be paid off with this loan (\$740,000.), and upgrades made to the water plant. In a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved co-signing the loan. Solicitor Krishna Mackulin clarified that it is non-electoral debt and is to be paid by the Water Authority.

Greg Such arrived at 7:24pm.

Parks Board

Susie Altemus reported on the electrification to the square, she asked for approval to submit Dilts' invoice to Gary Pinkerton for the remaining funds from the grant. There is \$1,165.00 balance on the grant. Jim Hulings passed out a packet on the power to the square explaining the idea for use of electric in the square. The cost minus the grant money would be around \$4,370. The Parks Board agreed to fund it from the Parks Board and the Silvester funds; which is non-tax payer money. That money is all money raised through volunteers from donations and events. A motion was made by Harold Herr and seconded by Phyllis Metz to approve spending that money (for electric in the square). John Rice questioned #3 Disconnect wiring at Stewart Hall. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that there would be one meter to feed the lights in the Square instead of having two meters to pay for. Mayor Rape commented on the illumination of the flag, she does not want to see anything attached to the monument, or the meter socket to be higher than the monument. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if there was a cheaper way. Greg Such stated they're running out of time (grant deadline has passed, extension was given).

Parks Board Cont':

(A motion was made by Harold Herr and seconded by Phyllis Metz to approve spending money for electric in the Square).

Roll call vote: Phyllis Metz – yes

Frank Luek – yes

Dave Szakelyhidi – no

Jim Hulings – yes

Harold Herr – yes

John Rice – no

Greg Such – yes

Motion passed.

Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if Council could discuss a cheaper and alternative way to supply electric in the Square. Jim Hulings commented that he would like to move on unless someone has details on how it can be done cheaper. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested using the pole in McPharlin's parking lot, would alleviate digging up the street. Jim Hulings reported the Parks Board discussed that option and voted against it; they would like power in the center of the Square so no extension cords would need to be laid over sidewalks.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing to report.

Sewer Authority:

Harold Herr reported everything seems to be going well, tap-ins are coming in good. Harold also stated that his term is up in December for the Water Authority and needs to be re-appointed. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the re-appointment of Harold Herr to the Water Authority Board.

Zoning:

John Rice had nothing to report.

Shared Services:

Jim Hulings reported that they met with Zelienople, and everything is going well.

Parking/Signage & Events:

Jim Hulings reported that approval is requested for Get Fit Families Kids Christmas Race to be held on December 15th from 2:00 until 3:30pm, it is the same 1 mile race as the Silvester. Joella Baker is sponsoring the event. There will be rolling road blocks for street closures; streets affected are Mercer Street and Spring Street. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Get Fit Families Kids Christmas Race.

Jim Hulings also reported the Silvester will be December 31st and the Polar Plunge will be January 1st.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Chief Miller was unable to attend the meeting; Sgt. Chuck Carlson had nothing to report, but commented that whoever organized the Christmas Market held over the week-end did a wonderful job.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing to report.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Borough Supervisor:

Wade Ion reported that the Boat Launch signs are in, need to be picked up. The sidewalk repairs have been completed, the storm drain on Jackson Street has been repaired. The Canoe Launch has been cleaned up; leaves are being picked up daily, the curbs were all back filled on Edmond Street from the paving.

Wade also reported on the paving bids for 2014. Robinson Drive is around \$39,000 for paving and milling; we will need to put drains in ourselves. Paving East New Castle Street and Center Street is around \$9,600. Part of Center Street is in Jackson Township, reimbursement from Jackson Township would be \$2,700.00. The total paving project is \$48,387.00, once we get Liquid Fuel money, Council can decide what to do.

Zoning & Code Enforcement:

Allen Bayer's report attached.

Allen reported that a Civil Action Hearing is scheduled for November 25th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Personnel:

Harold Herr had nothing to report.

Finances:

Jim Hulings report that the 2014 preliminary budget had been advertised, requested final approval of the 2014 budget. Mayor Rape questioned the postage and advertisement items stating they're too high. Mayor Rape also questioned the contribution to fire departments stating they already receive money from the millage. Council President satisfied Mayor Rape's questions on the 2014 budget. A motion was made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz to approve the 2014 Budget.

Roll call vote: Phyllis Metz – yes

Frank Luek – yes

Dave Szakelyhidi – yes

Jim Hulings – yes

Harold Herr – yes

John Rice – no

Greg Such – yes

Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS CONT':

Streets:

Jim Hulings had nothing new to report.

Public Safety:

Mayor Rape had nothing to report.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings reported on the CHZ Composting Education Center. It is a non-profit corporation not affiliated with the Borough except for the fact Dave Szakelyhidi and Jim (Hulings) are on the Board of Directors. The three groups, Harmony Borough, Zelienople Borough and Cranberry Township decided to withdraw from the composting aspect of it because of the financial hardship. Jim also stated they will be working on ideas what to do with yard waste.

A motion was made by John Rice and seconded by Harold Herr to rescind the latest burning ordinance, repeal it and replace it with the previous burning ordinance. Don Sims commented that he doesn't like every time he opens the door, smoke comes in. Jim Hulings stated he is very much against allowing people to burn garbage and trash in his neighborhood. Harold Herr stated you are not allowed to burn garbage or trash, it states it in the ordinance. Phyllis Metz commented that nobody adheres to it. Claire Spinks commented that yard waste is a problem, Council needs to provide an alternative, even if it's to send a truck around. John Rice commented that the CHZ Composting was the idea behind the 2nd Burning Ordinance. Harold Herr commented that a tree came down in the wind storm; he doesn't want to keep it lying around until spring.

Roll call vote: Phyllis Metz – no

Frank Luek – no

Dave Szakelyhidi – yes

Jim Hulings – no

Harold Herr – yes

John Rice – yes

Greg Such – no

Motion denied.

NEW BUSINESS:

Training and Conferences:

Jim Hulings reported that there is on-line training for newly electric officials.

Personnel:

Jim Hulings reported on the election results, Council elects - Don Sims, Jarod Stewart, and Greg Such; Mayor - Cathy Rape and Judge of Elections – Jim Hulings.

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NEW BUSINESS CONT':

Finance:

Jim Hulings had nothing to discuss.

Streets:

Jim Hulings had nothing to report.

Public Safety:

Mayor Rape had to leave the meeting early due to another commitment.

Jim Hulings reported on the FEMA Flood Insurance Letters.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Business Development:

Jim Hulings reported on grant opportunities for 2014, 100% non-matching.

Joe White and Bill Callahan are working on writing grants, Jim stated he will check on the progress.

BILLS PAYABLE:

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

General Bills Payable in the amount of **\$18,175.94**.

Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$4,687.98**.

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$255.51**.

Silvester Bills Payable in the amount of **\$3,768.12**

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

Jim Hulings called for an executive session at 8:04pm to discuss litigation; came out of executive session at 8:20pm.

ADJOURN: 8:46 pm

As there was no further business to discuss, in a motion made by Harold Herr and seconded by Greg Such, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the November 12, 2013 meeting at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown
Secretary

Code and Zoning Monthly Activity Report

October 2013

1. 3 building permits issued in October and 90 building permits issued year-to-date. Of the 90 building permits issued year-to-date 60 were for sidewalk violations.
2. Status of sidewalk violations.
 1. PERMIT ISSUED and REPAIR COMPLETED –69 properties – 90%
 2. PERMIT ISSUED and NO WORK DONE or IN PROCESS and NOT PAST DUE - 1 Properties –1%
 3. NO PERMIT ISSUED, NO WORK DONE and PAST Due. 7 Properties –9% **(For 1 property the Civil Action Hearing is scheduled for 11/25/2013).**
3. 7 zoning and code violation letters were sent in October and 107 zoning and code violations letters have been sent year-to-date.
4. 9 abandoned vehicles violations have been sent year-to-date. All but one abandoned vehicle has been removed.
5. Performed final inspection and preparation of information sent to Matt for magistrate filing on 1 property due to past due sidewalk violations.
6. 8 multi-unit dwelling fire inspections completed in October. 43 multi-unit dwelling fire inspections completed year-to-date.
7. Performed numerous violation follow-up inspections.
8. Attended October Council meeting.
9. Attended October HARB meeting.
10. Met with attorney regarding deposition.
11. Answered numerous phone calls regarding building permits, zoning & code pertaining to properties for sale, etc.

12. Followed up on several complaints that were brought to my attention.
13. Stopped by office daily for mail, etc.
14. Created October monthly report.