

# HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING November 1, 2011

**COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Rice, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Jack Shanks, Tim Sapienza, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Wade Jon  
JACK SHANKS  
Dy...  
Shawn...  
Frank...  
Tom...  
Frank & Andrea...  
Susan...  
John Rice  
Cathy Rape  
Jim...  
Dave Strawbridge  
Sandy...  
James...  
Phyllis...  
...



**CALL TO ORDER:**

Jack Shanks, Council President, called the Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**MINUTES:**

A correction was made to the October 4, 2011 minutes on page 4. Under CSX Historic Harmony will donate should be the Harmony Business District. Tim Sapienza made a motion to approve the, October 4, 2011 minutes as corrected. Dave Szakelyhidi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**RECOGNITION OF GUESTS (agenda items)** No Comments.

**CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

1. Jack Shanks, presented a watch and certificate to Sharon McCormick for 25 years as Borough Secretary.
2. Jack Shanks received a resignation from Council from Jill Allman. Tim Sapienza made a motion to accept Jill's resignation. Dave Szakelyhidi seconded the motion with regrets. Motion carried.
3. Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to appoint Harold Herr to fill Jill Allman's unexpired term as Council Member. Tim Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried. Attorney Racunas will draft up a resolution for the next meeting.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Parks Ordinance:** Attorney Racunas presented the Parks Ordinance with changes. It has been advertised and ready for adoption. Frank Luek made a motion to adopt the Parks Ordinance. Tim Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Skateboard Ordinance:** Attorney Racunas presented the amended Skateboard Ordinance prohibiting bicycles, skateboards and like instruments in the C2 district. Tim Sapienza made a motion to advertise the Skateboard Ordinance. Frank Luek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Bonding Streets Ordinance (proposed):** Attorney Racunas presented a proposed ordinance concerning bonding of streets for overweight vehicles in case of damage to streets. Council is to look the ordinance over for the next meeting. Discussion on if it should include the truck route.

**Arborist looking at trees:** Attorney Racunas reported that he had a conference call with PennDOT concerning an arborist looking at the trees. PennDOT has no problem with it as long as they are notified so they know who is there. Council had no objections

**Removal of trees that border creek:** Council had no objection to Attorney Racunas sending letters to residents along the creek bank that need to remove the trees that pose a dangerous situation.



**Landfill:** Attorney Racunas drafted a letter to Mr. Marburger about dumping of fill. He also drafted a cease and desist letter and notice of violation. Council had no objections to sending the letter to him.

**Zoning issues:** In an Industrial district you can put a residential single family unit but you cannot put in apartments unless you go to zoning and get a variance.

**BOARD REPORTS:**

**COG:** Jack Shanks reported that a letter was received stating that there will be a meeting November 10 concerning purchasing.

**HARB:** No Report. There is a meeting next Monday.

**Water Authority:** Dave Szakelyhidi reported that one low service pump was replaced and they are ready to replace the second one.

**Parks Board** Jack Shanks stated that Harmony Borough has never supported the Zelenople Community Park and Harmony residents use it. Harmony residents have to pay \$80 more per resident to use the pool. If we would share the cost of the park the Harmony residents would pay the same price as the Zelenople residents, The calculation would be that Harmony would donate \$11,000. It has been put in the proposed budget.

Tim Sapienza stated that Harmony doesn't have money to put in their own parks, why give \$11,000 to the Zelig Park. He stated that he is not opposed to lowering the cost for Harmony residents to use the pool but Harmony can't maintain their own parks. Discussion concerning merging the parks – Zelig and Harmony parks. It would help all the parks. Any fund raising would also benefit Harmony Parks. Council had no objections with Harmony and Zelenople working together.

**Library:** No Report.

**Planning Commission:** The Hazard Mitigation Plan that was submitted has been accepted.

The purchaser of Otto and Gerts is looking at putting in some shops. Discussion on whether he has to get a reverse subdivision.

**PSAB:** Discussion on survey that they requested.

**Sewer Authority:** No Report.

**Zoning:** The owner who bought Knauf's Feedmill wants to put in apartments. Under the current ordinance, multiple units cannot be put in an industrial district.



**Joint Comprehensive Plan:** A sample of the new street signs is on the corner of Mercer and Main Street.

**Staff:**

**Building Inspector:** Wade Ion reported that they got the weight limit sign up on Charles Street, the snow plow is fixed, it is set up to purchase salt through COG.

Discussion on where to put up truck signs.

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to put a truck route sign with an arrow on the post with the Washington Trail sign. Tim Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Finance:** The Finance Committee is still reviewing the bank bids. John Rice presented the tentative budget.

John Rice made a motion to advertise the tentative budget. Frank Luek seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Streets:** The Verizon poles have been taken down, but there are still poles on Rt. 68.

**Jackson Landfill:** Jack Shanks reported that the Butler County Planning Commission gave the indication that they might have made a mistake issuing a permit to dump on the landfill but DEP said it was OK that landfill can be put on a flood plain but is asking them to spread it out and compact it. Dave Szakelyhidi requested that Attorney Racunas send a letter to the County Commissioners with copies to DEP, PennDOT and Fema asking them to review the situation. Council had no objections to the writing of the letter.

**Public Safety:** Chief Miller reported on the cost of unlimited Swift 911 notifications. They are looking at the first of the year to begin. Dave Szakelyhidi requested that Council hold off until they see what Zelienople is doing. He stated that Harmony considers it only if Zelig does.

Jack Shanks will be handing out flood forms to people who were flooded. They will need to be turned over to DEP.

**Facilities:** Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the blue recycling bins that were purchased are all used. Jack Shanks stated that he will talk to COG, and Wade Ion will talk to COSTARS about the cost of purchasing recycling bins. Dave Szakelyhidi asked if Harmony Borough could piggyback with Zelienople.

Attorney Marshall is to write a letter to CSX concerning repair of their bridge. There are various maintenance issues. Discussion on who is responsible. Attorney Racunas is to write a letter to CSX. That they are the owner of the property and there are



maintenance issues that need addressed. Dave Szakelyhidi requested that CSX also be notified that there is undermining or washout of the property.

An appraisal was received for the old water tower property at \$18,000.00. An ad has to be put in the newspaper to advertise for bids.

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to advertise for bids to accept no less than a minimum of \$15,000.00 with a reasonable amount of specs (*there was no second or vote on the motion*)

Property is 41.46 feet X 90 feet.

Attorney Racunas is to write the ad.

Jack Shanks reported that a check for \$438.00 was received from the Harmony Business Association as a donation for the CSX lot.

**Silvester Update: (Attached)**

Susie Altemus requested checks of:

\$120.00 for ½ of the payment for the sign for the Silvester (\$120.00 later)

\$236.00 to Pittsburgh Trophy

\$1,600.00 for the Fireworks

Discussion on which fund to write the checks out of.

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to pay bills out of the Silvester Fund and then out of the Parks Board if needed. Tim Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dave Szakelyhidi made a motion to close streets for the race from 2:00 – 4:30 and for the fireworks from 6:15 – 6:30. Tim Sapienza seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jack Shanks reported that Historic Harmony resigned from the Tourism Board.

Attorney Racunas is looking over the National Energy forms.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Personnel:** The Personnel Committee had a meeting. They need to call an executive session to discuss personnel issues.

**Finance:** A tax rate ordinance needs to be passed for 2012. A check was received for \$160.00 for turn back road maintenance. Jack is looking into getting a block grant for the Borough's curbs.

Tim Sapienza reported on funds from the Fire Relief Fund for the fire department. There was an increase on funds received this year. It will go back to normal next year. The money can only be used for safety related equipment.



November 1, 2011

A Fema survey was given to Wade Ion to look at.

There will be a notification test done on November 9, it is a national emergency test.

**Facilities:** John Ruch stated that the rocks at the Historic Barn are the abutment stones from the old bridge. He asked if Harmony Borough could get rid of them or give them to the museum. Discussion on where the stones could be used in the Borough. Tim Sapienza made a motion to allow the Historic Society to use the boulders and they could give the Borough some back to use. Dave Szakelyhidi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Tourism Vote:** Council agreed not to vote.

**Mailboxes:** A resident complained about placement and appearance of mailboxes. Mayor Rape stated that it should be an issue for HARB. The Post Office has the final say.

Mayor Rape stated that she would like to rent out the upstairs room. Jack Shanks stated that due to the insurance it has to be a specific Borough function and has to be handicap accessible.

Mayor Rape also stated that she would like to get a couple of new wreaths for Christmas decorations.

**BILLS PAYABLE:** Tim Sapienza made a motion to pay all bills as presented including the cost of Sharon McCormick's watch. Dave Szakelyhidi seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Tom Eckenrode asked if you can build on the old water tower property. Dave Szakelyhidi explained that it is a nonconforming lot but you could get a variance to build on it. Attorney Racunas stated that you can go to the Zoning Hearing Board. Under the law you should get the variance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** An Executive Session was called at 9:00 PM. Out of Executive Session at 9:40 PM.

Tim Sapienza made a motion to make changes to wages, personal time and vacation. John Rice seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**ADJOURN:** Jack Shanks declared the meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sharon L. McCormick, Secretary



## Harmony Council Meeting – November 8, 2011

### Silvester Update

- **Silvester sign** – request check for **\$120.00** (½ cost of sign) payable to **Signs on Time**. Susie will deliver when delivering sign.
- **Race medals** – request check for **\$236** for medals. Payable to **Pittsburgh Trophy Company, Inc.** Susie will deliver when picking up medals.
- **Fireworks** – request check for **\$1,600** (½ cost of fireworks). Payable to **Jeff Shively**. JoAnnette Cynkay will deliver.
- Requesting permission for the following road closures
  - Start of Race – 2:30 PM
    - Mercer Street Ext to Wilson Alley behind the Bakery
    - Wood Street
    - Main Street from Jackson Street to church parking lot
    - Spring Street by Harmony Inn
    - Mercer Street at Bridge at Evergreen
    - Jackson Township – Evergreen
  - End of Race – following last runner:
    - Evergreen and Mercer will be opened
    - Barricades at Spring Street will be opened and moved to Mercer
    - Remaining streets will stay closed until after Silvester event
- Request for 10 barricades and 4 cones
- Sponsors
  - Butler Hospital - \$1,500
  - Tom Mahler - \$250
  - Phil Lope - \$100
  - Pat Boylan - \$100
  - Bilco Motors - \$200
- Mojo Running Center – Couch to 5K Program – 58 runners signed up



# CORRESPONDENCE

November 1, 2011

## FROM:

1. Local Government Academy
2. Historic Harmony
3. Historic Harmony
4. WBCA
5. UPMC
6. Terry Dickow
7. BCBA
8. Gretchen Moran
9. John Cyprian
10. Jack Cohen
11. LTAP
12. Zelienople Harmony Chamber

## SUBJECT MATTER

Newly Elected Officials Course  
Purchase of microphones  
Christman Market  
Minutes  
Problems between UPMC and Highmark  
Hazard Mitigation Grants  
Spouses Night Out  
COG Meeting, Minutes, Agenda  
Veterans Day Parade  
Tourism Election, Meeting,  
Community Assistance Bulletin  
Schedule of meetings and events