

August 6, 2019

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING August 6, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Such, Phyllis Metz, Frank Luek, Dave Szakelyhidi, Joe Dippold, Don Sims, and Mayor Cathy Rape.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Call Council Meeting Call
August 6, 2019
FRANK GRAHNON
Joe Dippold
Cathy Rape
Don Sims
GREG SUCH
Phyllis Metz
Cathy Rape
Frank Luek
John Rice
Bob Zupp
Joe White
Kathy Luek
Sandy Ferranola
Sheelby Cepek
Josh Meeder
Allen Bayer
James Heeling

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the July 2, 2019 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that correspondence was sent out to Penn Dot and CSX. Matt will work with Allen on a violation notice that was sent out. Calvin Church did come to Planning but no documents on storm water run-off were submitted; Allen or Matt will coordinate with Calvin to make sure they supply the correct information. The Easement Agreement Don is handling. Greg Such inquired if there were anything regarding the truck damage in the Square, Matt will follow up with that.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported there are no new appointments.

COG:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there are four Certificates of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommended to Council.

The Neff House – 550 Main Street – Sam Hopkins – Paint Historic Marker Sign. Paint black background and border, light blue paint on Neff House, numerals and scrolls, white figure and Historic Harmony lettering. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Historic Marker Sign painting.

Grace Church – 538 Main Street – Parking sign Grace Church lot. Replace present parking sign with new one of composite material, white background, black lettering, and the same font as current sign. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Parking Sign.

Grace Church - 538 Main Street – Paint the Schmidt House. Paint brick Crabby Apple Red with white trim, similar to present paint. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the painting of the Schmidt House.

Rodgers Brothers – 223 Main Street – Replace Windows. Replace two windows on the north side and one on east side of the 1940 cement block addition rear of building. Windows will be double hung vinyl clad wood windows. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the replacement of windows. Joe Dippold abstained.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that a value cluster was installed at Center and Division Streets, another one will be installed at New Castle and Division in the near future.

Parks Board:

Greg Such reported that Thursday, August 8th is the KardaZ concert, and the Swinging BopCat Big Band has been rescheduled for August 15th.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the children's library in the basement was flooded on 6/21, needed to replace the carpet; any donations would be greatly appreciated. The Butler County Federated Library System (BFLS) had malware detected 7/17, no personal data is stored in the BFLS. The Libraries have remained open but they do not have the scanning capabilities for checking out books, and the public computers cannot be used. Programs are ongoing; the summer reading program is almost over. A new STEM program will be starting on August 24th, one Saturday per month – "Pushing the Limit" the program is made possible by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The annual fundraiser will be September 21st, "Book the Night."

Historic Harmony:

Kathy Luek reported that the Antique Gun Show will be August 10th; the Cellos in Harmony Concerts will be September 13th, 14th and 15th - Friday evening at the Wine Cellar, Saturday night at the Harmonist Barn and Sunday morning at the Mennonite Meeting House. The Christmas Market will be November 9th and 10th.

Planning Commission:

Joe White reported that Calvin Church wants to get on top of the issues; Jim Willard wants to get things settled. Planning is recommending to Council that Bill Hummel get involved to get storm water analysis of the black top area. Frank Luek commented that Planning wants Bill (Hummel) to look at their storm water plan but Calvin cannot provide the storm water plan; Jim Willard is the one who said he did it. Solicitor Matt recommended that Council authorize Bill Hummel to do the study or provide Bill with the study to review contingent on 100% reimbursement of all engineering cost from Calvin Church. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously authorized the engagement of Bill Hummel to do storm water assessment on behalf of Calvin Church subject to 100% reimbursement by Calvin Church. Josh Meeder inquired if Calvin should contract Bill Hummel directly instead of using Borough money and hoping to get reimbursed. Solicitor Matt commented that Bill (Hummel) should review it anyway on behalf of the Borough, he will give Calvin those options; either way they have to pay for it. Matt will contact Calvin.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that WBCA agreed to provide spring-loaded caps for Indian Brave Campground to cap off their drains that are in low lying places.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

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Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Harmony Business Association:

Greg Such reported the Tourism has a marketing opportunity that HBA, Historic Harmony and the Borough should discuss.

Other Meetings:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Goehring – Water Authority employee – Jim stated that he has been employed for 26 months, in his interview process it was stated that there was a retirement plan; he would like to know the status of that plan; he’s been giving the same comment “we’re working on it” for a year. Greg Such replied that the Borough received four responses to the RFP (Request for Proposal) that was put out, our attorney evaluated those four and came up with one, we have asked for an outside opinion on the costs and yields of those funds and that came back ok. There are three references we want to check and then we can engage in contracting. Jim inquired on a time line, Greg responded about two months we should have it done.

John Rice inquired any idea when that will be dropped in as a hard number so the Water Authority can deal with it in their budget and back obligation. Greg Such replied that he and John will need to work on that.

Bob Ziegler – 774 Spring Street – Bob inquired if the Borough could clean out the grate. Frank Grannon inquired where to put the debris; and leaf season is coming soon and nothing has come up on that. Cathy Rape stated that she would like to talk to Brad Wise, there is a farm on Textor Hill, and she would like to see if they have a DEP permit. Frank Grannon inquired if the borough could get in there, easy access. Greg Such commented to put the debris in the dumpster if the pile is not too big.

John Rice commented that the Borough needs to obtain an off-borough site to dump or recycle. Don Sims commented that there are alternatives, dumpster like we did for the flood.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that Dave’s lights will be delivered tomorrow. There are three catch basins that need replaced, a grate on one that is collapsing up by Fox’s Pizza, there is a sinkhole on one by Division and Beaver Streets; and a whole side collapsed on one with a sinkhole on Monroe Street and one top that is cracked. There are four on Harmony Heights that the tops are completely starting to deteriorate from the concrete and they do not make the top anymore, working on different repairs on that. Frank sent Don an email and he put some prices together

Borough Director of Operations Cont.:

on the ones with the sinkholes and the one that the top is going down on; he came up with about \$3,000 for those couple replacements. Greg Such inquired if we have someone who could do it. Frank Grannon responded that Bob (Barbish) may be able to do them. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to replace 3 storm water receptacles that Frank mentioned for approximately \$3,000. Frank also reported that crosswalks in the heart of downtown have been painted. Cathy Rape and Joe Dippold painted crossbars and the No Trucks sign. Next will be the crosswalks up top and the school signs, Frank will get some assistance for 68 to get that crosswalk painted in the next week or so.

Greg Such inquired about the tree on Evergreen Mill Road, Frank is to remove the two logs. Don Sims commented that the property owner is responsible. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that Harmony Borough has an agreement with Jackson Township that they take care of Evergreen Mill Road and Harmony Borough takes care of Old Little Creek Road. Greg Such stated that the guardrail is mangled. Mayor Rape inquired if it could be turned into insurance. John Rice commented that it's a Township or State Road. Frank Grannon will call insurance company to start a claim on it. Greg congratulated Frank on the crosswalks.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted.

Mayor Rape inquired why a warning was sent, there is more greenery than a house. Allen explained the process that a violation notice is sent, then a reminder, and then Matt (Solicitor) sends a warning. Allen commented that the property owner ignored two notices from Allen but sent an email to Solicitor Matt stating he does not own the property from the fence down to Grandview but according to the map in the office it does show it as one lot. Allen will look into it.

John Rice inquired if a demo permit was issued for the removal of the Webster house. Allen responded that a demo permit was issued; he had 60 days to tear it down. John commented that there is a Water Authority issue regarding the tap. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it's been shut off for non-payment for years but the new owner is to rebuild so the tap has been reserved.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz gave a reminder that Thursday is the concert, and the rescheduled concert is the 15th. Phyllis sent all of the Swift Reaches for the year to Cindy. Phyllis also reported that events can be advertised in the Borough News, she will look into advertising the Silvester and if the Museum would want the Christmas Market in it.

Business Development:

Cathy Rape reported that they talked about the bridges for sale, measured Wood Street and it would be approximately 54' but it is a lot lower than the Main Street Bridge so it would need to be built up if we want to pursue that.

Business Development Cont.:

Cathy publically thanked Chris Zoelle from Centerline Boring for cleaning out the boat launch for free and Paul Reynolds from the Fire Company took the truck down and hosed it off.

Cathy also reported that the Borough News has had numerous articles on flooding and storm water management, Cath would like to see if Zelienople, Harmony, Lancaster and Jackson to form a group to do things smarter, instead of just a retention pond, a greenway of putting in sidewalks and driveways; and keeping trees because all of their development is affecting Harmony. Harmony doesn't have space, Zelienople doesn't have too much space to develop; it's affecting us. She thinks we need to cooperate. Cathy stated that Porter's Cove cannot be built on, maybe we can make a huge retention pond there for floodwaters to go into; it is Jackson's property but we need to work together and she would like to see if they would be willing to do that. Lancaster and Jackson are the ones with the developments that they could change their ordinances to make things go greener instead of hard surfaces. Greg Such inquired if the County should get involved, it seems to be good to have a mediator. Greg will send a note to Mark Gordon. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that north of the off ramp by Sysco, property located in Jackson that could be an enormous retention area before the water got into Swampoodle; Penn Dot would need to be involved. Dave inquired if the grant could be used for that. Greg Such responded he doesn't think so, it is for beautification. John Rice commented that in 1969 CSX or Baltimore/Ohio Railroad gave Harmony the option to keep one bridge; they opted to keep the Main Street bridge. John inquired if the Borough wants to put a bridge over Wood Street. Mayor Rape responded a walking bridge. Greg commented that it is very early on and it is driven by the fact that there are old bridges available that the state is removing with their replace a bridge program. John Rice commented that it is additional liability any time you put something in; Greg agreed.

Personnel:

Greg Such commented that it has already been covered.

Finance:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report.

Streets:

Don Sims commented that Frank gave an overview. The Mercer Street drainage is not being ignored, it looks like we're going to go back to trying to go between the two buildings; Don needs to work something out with the excavator prior to performance of that and will need to rework the Easement. That is all still being worked on; we do want to complete this. Josh Meeder inquired what the expectations are. Don Sims required the expectations are to do it in phases; he hopes once things are worked out in 2019 to take it from Mercer Street down to the existing inlet on Aster Lane/Alley. Then the following year we would follow the same path as the existing pipe, remove it and replace with a larger pipe at a higher elevation to the creek. Josh Meeder inquired in the first phase if it is attaching to the existing manhole cover if there would be a check valve at the creek level. Don Sims replied no. Josh suggested one. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested a bigger pipe at the creek. Cathy Rape commented that she is still for an open ditch. Josh Meeder commented

Streets Cont.:

that he would not want an open ditch, it's a liability concern. Bob Ziegler inquired what size pipe. Don Sims responded 30". Josh inquired on a time frame for the next revision; Don needs to see what the excavator needs to perform this. Don is not in a hurry to dig, ground too saturated right now.

Cathy Rape reported on the price to get the sidewalk repaired was about \$648. She would like to see weed-killer bought that is what is breaking up curbs and sidewalks. You can hardly see the curb on German Street because there is grass on sides, street and sidewalk and there is grass over the Main Street parking lot. Don Sims commented that he is hesitant to spray poison when people have animals. Phyllis Metz commented that there is biodegradable weed killer that doesn't hurt the environment. Don Sims commented that if it is animal safe he would be willing to look at it. Frank Grannon commented that the last time they used a 55 gallon drum. Frank is to get a price. John Rice inquired if there was any more discussion on trying to cut down on the water coming off the hill on Third Street. Greg Such responded no but Dave (Szakelyhidi) has an alternate plan.

Facilities:

Greg Such inquired on the door, Frank Grannon is to get pricing.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that Zelenople and Harmony's entry for the RACP Grant was accepted, the grant amount was \$500,000. Zelenople wants \$400,000 Harmony will take the \$100,000. We will need to learn how to manage it, there will be some reporting. That is beautification/street side development – it can be the Square, crosswalks, Don Sims commented doing some improvements in the town square. Greg also reported that Mayor Hartung from Mars put in for a grant for a NASA STEM Center in Mars and that also was accepted.

Greg reported that we did a support letter for Jackson Township on a multi-modal grant that they put in for a bridge to complete part of the trail into the new park they are building and some street side improvements in front of Bilo.

Training & Conferences:

Greg Such reported that they are listed on the Correspondence List. The PSAB Conference is coming up in October; the Borough is obligated to pay expenses for any council member who would like to attend.

BILLS PAYABLE:

Greg Such reported that the following lists of bills were presented to Harmony Borough Council for approval:

General Bills Payable in the amount of \$ 31,613.526

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ 8,005.49

Payroll in the amount of \$ 8,994.17

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of \$ 405.91

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of \$ 500.00

Parks Board Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ 1,000.00

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

August 6, 2019

An executive session was called at 8:00 pm by Council President, Greg Such; out of executive session at 8:19 pm.

Adjourned: 8:20 pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the August 6, 2019 meeting at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Brown".

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Monthly Activity Report
Harmony Borough Code and Zoning Enforcement and
Residential Multi-Unit Dwellings Fire Inspection

July 2019

1. Stopped by the office two times each week to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Attended July HARB meeting.
4. Attended July Council Meeting.
5. Performed two violation inspections.
6. Created reminder violation notice for vegetation at 421 Highland Ave.
7. Spoke with Peter Hess, 330 Monroe St. regarding removal of two trees.
8. Spoke with Phil Lope regarding zoning ordinance pertaining to fencing.
9. Spoke with architect, Tony Poli, regarding commercial use, restaurant with apartment upstairs, at 562 Main St.
10. Created warning violation notice for vegetation violation at 421 Highland Ave.
11. Inspected 4 violations.
12. Created high grass violation notices for 101 N. Pittsburgh St. and 560 Main St.
13. Created violation notice for Robinson Ind. for tree blocking pedestrian walkway sign at Grandview and Pittsburgh.
14. Spoke with Debbie, IE Power, regarding building permit for electrical work at CVE. I referred her to Penn Power.
15. Spoke with Tim regarding occupancy permit for newly installed pool. I referred him to Lancaster TWP.

16. Left a message for Donna, Riverpoint Reality, that 565 Virginia Ave. was not in Harmony Borough. Donna needed an occupancy permit for a closing on the property. Referred Donna to Harmony Twp.

17. Spoke to Michelle, 770 Spring St., regarding neighbor building a fence on a paper street and his stealing her shed full of yard equipment.

Respectfully submitted,
Allen E. Bayer