

# HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING December 3, 2019

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Council Meeting  
December 3, 2019  
John Rice  
FRANK GRANNO III  
JASON SARVER  
GREG SUCH  
Joe Dippold  
Phyllis Metz  
Jim Mull  
Frank Luek  
Andrew Rust  
Don Sims  
Colleen Peirce  
Eric Demer  
Cathy Rape  
Sheryl Capell  
Don Duffekne  
Aileen Bailey  
Susie Altman  
Rodney Gasch

December 3, 2019

**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 November 12, 2019 Council meeting minutes.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that a follow up letter was sent to the lawyer for the Railroad regarding the Main Street Bridge, haven't received a response, will send another letter.

Matt reviewed the EMA Bylaws, not ready yet there are still something that need to be discussed and added into that.

**BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:**

**Appointments:**

Greg Such reported there are no new appointments. Greg reported that according to Borough Code the January Reorganization meeting must be the first Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, Greg inquired if Council wanted to combine the Reorganization meeting and the regular council meeting or have two meetings, Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. It was decided that the Reorganization meeting will be Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm and the regular Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

**COG:**

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report; no meeting.

**HARB:**

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

**Water Authority Board:**

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there were two water breaks back to back, they have been fixed and the tank is full.

**Parks Board:**

Susie Altemus reported that they are looking for sponsors; the deadline to be on the shirts is December 10<sup>th</sup>.

Phyllis Metz reported that she spoke to Nikki at Jackson Township regarding the Silvester. The Certificate of Insurance has been sent to Jackson Township. Nikki is to talk to the Chief tomorrow and let Phyllis know what they can or cannot do for us.

**Library Board:**

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

**Planning Commission:**

Frank Luek reported there was no action.

**WBCA:**

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

**Shared Services:**

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

**Parking and Signage:**

Greg Such reported that Saul McCormick passed away; he was the oldest Borough resident at 99 years. Council may re-do the Wood Street Handicap Ordinance in the spring.

**Historic Harmony:**

Rodney Gasch reported that the Christmas Market was successful. The Trombones on Ice was last Saturday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The window project is all done except painting, the painting will be done next spring.

**Harmony Business Association:**

Sherry Cepek reminded everyone to shop local and wished all Happy Holidays!

**Other Meetings:**

Cathy Rape inquired who has the revisions for the EMA Contract. Greg Such replied that there are parts that ask for annual dues, historically we have prorated those and the four communities each had a different amount; the contract does not reflect that. Cathy commented that we only had so many days to get remarks back to him. Joe Dippold will follow up with John.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Eric Peirce** – Eric expressed his opposition to close the Square as part of the Redevelopment Project. Eric inquired if Council thought about how it will impact traffic, most of the traffic would go to Spring Street, what cost is involved. Eric inquired how many households were able to respond in the public opinion. Greg Such commented that it is too early to discuss closing the Square; we are nowhere near ready for that; traffic studies definitely would have to happen.

**Colleen Peirce** - Colleen commented on the lack of trash cans in town, the East end of town. Getting a lot of liter on the bridge and Evergreen Mill Road, she cleans it up but more cans would help. Greg Such reported that Vogel wanted \$60 per can per month to empty them. We could ask Wunderbar if we put a can out would they empty it for us. Jason Sarver commented that there were two cans there and Wunderbar requested they be removed because people were putting doggy bags in them and the smell was an issue. Colleen suggested putting a sign that states no disposal of dog waste, adding that Harmony Inn has receptacles for dog waste. Greg Such commented that we could ask there are new management/ownership. Frank Grannon commented that we get the same complaint in the Square about dog waste in trash cans.

**BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:**

**Police Report:**

Report submitted via email.

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**Office:**

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

**Borough Director of Operations:**

Frank Grannon reported that it has been leaf season and water leaks this month. Leaf season is over, it was a rough one this year with a lot of interruptions. The box has been off and back on about three times, it's back off again. We will pick up bagged leaves (paper bags) for a couple weeks. Frank reported that a Penn Dot permit is not needed for the LED flashing lights at the crosswalk on Rt. 68. The lights are ordered, and can be placed at the crosswalk. Paving is done on Monroe Street by the catch basin. Cathy Rape inquired about the leaves by Calvin on Division Street, they are on the sidewalk. Cathy inquired if Zelig was still picking up, if they could get them. Frank Grannon commented that Calvin should handle the leaves themselves, we have a deadline and it was extended an extra week this year; it's taking advantage of the shared services for one individual. Cathy commented that they need to be notified quickly, they need to be off the sidewalk. Allen Bayer will contact Calvin; there is an ordinance on blocking the sidewalk.

**Zoning and Codes:**

Allen Bayer report submitted.

**COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Public Safety:**

Phyllis Metz will contact US Liner regarding the Silvester and the use of their parking lot. Phyllis reported that the Christmas Market was a smashing success on her part, nothing happened, there were no trucks, the Police were happy, it all worked out.

**Business Development:**

Cathy Rape reported that everyone is invited to caroling on December 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm meet at the Rodgers barn on Mercer Street and have some hot chocolate and maybe some sweets. Jason Sarver commented about sweets, there is a new candy store in Harmony, Harmony Laden.

**Personnel:**

Greg Such reported that the pension audit has been complete, no blemishes or marks; moving forward with the DC Plan for new employees, should have that in place by the first of the year.

**Finance:**

Greg Such reported that he overcharged the Water Authority in rent; need to reduce that amount by \$500. The budget has been posted and is ready to accept. In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the 2020 Budget.

**Streets:**

Don Sims thanked Frank for getting all that together, the last few weeks have been a little trying for him. Josh Meeder had asked Don about the Mercer Street drainage, we will be getting back to it now that things have settled down from water breaks,

**Streets Cont.:**

leaf pick up and road issues. Josh asked Don to announce that the Butler County Commissioners will have a meeting tomorrow, Wednesday morning at 10:00am at the Court House that he and Jim Hulings will be there to voice their concerns; they would like to get concerned citizens to speak up and attend due to flooding concerns. Greg Such commented that it is the Butler County budget meeting. Don Sims also inquired to Frank Grannon if he could get the dog curb signs up when he does the Rt. 68 signs. Frank Grannon will get together with Don to get exact locations.

**Facilities:**

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report. Frank Grannon reported that he received a quote to install the door; it is estimated \$750 in labor only we supply the door and all the materials to do the job. Greg Such inquired if it would take any major materials. Frank Grannon responded that when you pull that frame out, no idea how many brick will come out with it, what is behind it or what they will have to put back in to anchor it. Don Sim inquired that he will complete the job for \$750 even if it takes him 3 days. Greg Such responded that it says \$750 labor only estimate. Frank Grannon responded that he hasn't talked to him. Frank Grannon commented that the door needs picked out. Dave Szakelyhidi and Frank will pick the door from Dambach's. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the bid for labor to install the back door.

**Grants:**

Greg Such presented the final report on the Revitalization Grant from Downtown Redevelopment; it is on the Borough's website. The report goes through some background on the town, talks about the process, the roadmap, some of the things they have learned, and basic recommendations. The recommendations are to make it more of a European type Square in nature with some kind of cobblestone type paving, some additional plants and green streetscapes like that. One thing we have not done is gone through the cost for doing that and that should probably be the next step. Greg does have some estimates from Downtown Redevelopment but he has not looked at them yet. Don Sims commented there are something that we can do and recommended prioritizing it, do the sidewalks first; do what we can with what we got. Don inquired if there is a recourse if we do not like their plan because they are the ones who will be doing our business plan. Greg Such responded that he does not know how that would impact us getting the grant. Don Sims commented that they probably should pick out what we can do with our budget and pursue that. Start with the sidewalks, roadwork/cobblestone. Cathy Rape commented that she didn't think you could use the grant for roadwork. Greg Such commented streetscapes, sidewalks. Cathy Rape commented that she did not understand the zero elevation from sidewalk to street. Greg Such suggested having Ben back. Cathy Rape commented that she agrees to do what we can; she would like to see electric outlets in the lights, the light matching, and more cluster boxes. Jason Sarver commented that we also need to consider what we've learned from the past, trucks coming in and destroying what we do. Joe Dippold commented to bring Ben back, people need to

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**Grants Cont.:**

give input. Frank Grannon inquired on winter maintenance with the cobblestone. Greg Such responded that it's not real cobblestone, will have to use rubber blade. Greg will schedule Ben back in. John Rice inquired if anyone has read the original revitalization study from 2010. Greg Such responded that he has read it and Ben has read it also. It does not say much about beautification, it's more about establishing downtown committees, working with Zelmanople to put shared services in; some of the things in there Zelmanople has already done and has moved on and we are a little bit behind on. Jason Sarver commented that there are some inexpensive things we could do, like different crosswalks – stone crosswalks are nice and stands out. Greg Such suggested he take some pictures. Sherry Cepek commented that Council is going to beautify the town but Barn and Mennonite building were completely ignored in the plans and there is going to be so many construction people in and out the emergency exit road off of Wise, the entrance off of Mercer, is there anything you can do about it. Greg Such responded that we cannot use taxpayer money to try to fight Creekside.

**Training & Conferences:**

Greg Such reported that they are listed on the Correspondence List.

**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 \$ **20,018.13** (\$19,731.17 after HBWA reimburse)

**Bills Already Paid** in the amount of \$ **3,698.30**

**Payroll** in the amount of \$ **3,506.28**

**Silvester Bills Payable** in the amount of \$ **1,500.00**

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.

Don Sims inquired if that is the final bill from Downtown Redevelopment, Greg Such replied yes.

**Adjourned: 7:45 pm**

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the December 3, 2019 meeting at 7:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

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

**November 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. Created September Time and Activity Reports.
4. Performed fire inspection on Tomayko properties, 434 Center St., 218 Bluff St. and 421 Liberty St. Apts. A,B,C. Created invoice and certificates for fire inspection.
5. Attended November HARB meeting.
6. Spoke with Bill Mass regarding zoning for vacant lot on Pittsburgh St.
7. Performed fire inspection on Hoffstetter property at 200 N. Pittsburgh St. Apts. A,B,C. Created invoice and certificate for fire inspection
8. Spoke with Bill Mass regarding zoning for a vacant lot on Pittsburgh St.
9. Spoke with resident at 1128 Seneca Dr. regarding zoning for a porch addition.
10. Spoke with a lady regarding zoning for signage at Murray building on German St.
11. Met with Tom Murray regarding vegetation at CVE.
12. Spoke with Ed Piela regarding fire inspection of his apartments on Liberty St.
13. Created violations notice for CVE vegetation and for abandoned vehicle at 215 Mercer St.
14. Attended November Council meeting.
15. Spoke with Tonya Reynolds regarding an abandoned vehicle on her property.
16. Performed fire inspection at 521 Main St. Apts. A & B. Both apartments failed, reinspection required.

17. Performed fire inspection at 434 Liberty St. Apts. A & B. Prepared invoice and certificate for 434 Liberty St. fire inspection.
18. Prepared fire inspection reminder letters for 5 owners who have not responded.
19. Inspected property at 770 Spring St. to respond to potential buyer's questions. I spoke with the potential buyer to discuss the zoning and area of Swamp Poodle as a potential resident.
20. Created November Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,  
Allen E. Bayer