

October 6, 2020

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING October 6, 2020

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such
Phyllis Metz
Frank Luek
Dave Szakelyhidi
Joe Dippold
Don Sims
Jason Sarver
Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus
Allen Bayer
Sherry Cepek
Rodney Gasch
Frank Grannon
Kathy Luek
Josh Meeder
Chief Jim Miller
Andrew Orient
Solicitor Matt Racunas
Alex Weidenhof

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm. This meeting was held remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the September 1, 2020 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas did not have an update on the Main Street Bridge matter, it is the Rail Road's liability, they have been on notice. Greg Such requested Solicitor Matt send another letter to the Rail Road adding that firetrucks and school buses go across the bridge. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested adding that the railing needs painted.

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Trick or Treat to be on October 31st from 6:00-8:00 pm. Chief Miller commented that they will send out a Swift announcement via email with CDC Guidelines.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

COG:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report; no meeting.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there was one Certificate of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommended to Council.

550 Main Street – Sam Hopkins –Main house brick to be painted Ivory Spice, cedar to be stained Butternut and window trim and doors (other than front) to be painted white, front door to be painted Wet Coral. Carriage house the cedar is to be stained Shipmate Blue and window trim and doors to be painted white.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 550 Main Street.

Joe Dippold inquired on what color Ivory Spice is, Kathy Luek replied an off-white color.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that a letter was sent to Ed Biller asking him to attend the Water Authority meetings or resign they cannot have a full quorum; he's missed at least six meetings.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the final pieces of equipment and the park benches for the Grant are in but will wait until spring to install. Lance from the County will close the Grant. Susie also reported that the Silvester will be virtual this year and registration is open, it is \$20 for the 5K. There will not be any fireworks or count down this year. The Parks Board is looking for a stand up Father Time face cut-out.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the procession for the Library's 100 year celebration will be on Saturday, October 10th, the Fire Trucks will lead it. No street closure is needed. Phyllis Metz commented that an Event Form is not needed. Chief Miller commented that Neal notified him, no permission is needed. The Police will help with intersections. It will begin in Zelienople around 3:00pm.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek reported that there was no action.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that another Revival Resolution is needed. Solicitor Matt will draft it.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon had nothing to report.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such reported that CSX would like to increase the rent, 32% and 3% thereafter. Greg will write a letter requesting to waive the increase because of the pandemic.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Greg writing a letter requesting the increase be waived due to the pandemic.

Frank Luek inquired if the Rail Road has ever offered the Borough to buy it. Cathy Rape responded that they offered to buy it years ago, and recommended to offer again. Don Sims recommended including it in the letter.

Frank Grannon reported that a truck took out signs on Jackson Street, Frank inquired on getting a new sign from Ibis or find a replacement, the color will be a little different. Joe Dippold commented pay the extra and charge them. Chief Miller will have the Police Report emailed to the Borough.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that Historic Harmony is applying for a grant from Rivers of Steel to finish the interior of the Visitors' Cabin; by finishing the interior, the Museum will be able to add to its exhibit space. The grant is a 1-to-1 match, with cash, volunteer labor and in-kind donations all counting as part of the match. The work would involve new flooring, new wood ceiling, and solar lighting. Rodney Gasch requested the Borough be a partner in the Rivers of Steel Grant by providing the in-kind donation of disposal of construction waste from the project. This would not involve any cash expenditure by the borough, but rather an in-kind donation of existing dumpster space. The donation would save Historic Harmony from renting a

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Historic Harmony Cont.:

dumpster, making the borough's in-kind dumpster worth about \$500. The Grant application is due October 15th.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the borough as a supporting partner of Historic Harmony on the Rivers of Steel grant, with an in-kind donation being the use of the borough's dumpster for construction waste.

HBA:

Sherry Cepek reported on Sleepy Hollow, October 10th, there will be music throughout town, bagpipes from 10-12; the Harmony Inn will have music from 1-4, the Lagerhaus will have guitar music from 1:30-3:00, and there will be a Jazz Trio at the Center of Harmony from 1:30-3:00. The last Artisans date is November 14th

Other Meetings:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Josh Meeder – Center of Harmony – Josh inquired on the status of the storm drain project. Don Sims responded that it is on temporary hold until the future path can be agreed upon. The path was not acceptable with property owners. Josh offered for the borough to use the Center's parking lot; adding that Council needs to take it serious, the lack of action and the safety of his historic building are a concern. Josh would like a commitment from Council. Greg Such commented that as part of the Storm water Study Group, HRG is to look at that valley. Josh inquired on timing; Greg responded that they should have been here already. Jason Sarver commented that the property owners declined permission to move forward with the project, efforts have been attempted. Greg Such commented that there has been three Right-Of-Way Agreements and two blueprints made for the project. Josh Meeder commented that the Borough has been working on it, the Storm water Study with the County could be two years, he is frustrated that the project was put on hold. Mayor Cathy Rape commented that as a tax payer she is frustrated that money was spent on drawings and Right-Of-Way Agreements. Greg will send an email to see when HRG will be here, he will let Josh know as well.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported on paving Charles Street from Center to Highland the cost would be \$8,500. To patch it with hot box the cost would be \$2,500. Cathy Rape commented that there are worse streets and Charles isn't used, she is not for paving the whole street. Dons Sims commented that snow plow season is coming, doesn't want it to be bouncing through there; \$6,000 more for a lot more paving. Dave

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Borough Director of Operations Cont.:

Szakelyhidi inquired about the two holes for the Water, Frank commented they will be patched.

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Joe Dippold the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to paving Charles Street from Center Street to Highland.

Frank Grannon reported the drain/catch basin by Fox's Pizza was full of water, Penn Dot just milled and patched. Frank left a message with Cory Shaffer (our Penn Dot Rep) to see if we're responsible if they filled it in. Mayor Cathy Rape commented about the catch basin by Calvin Church, Jason Sarver commented on the one by the split tree. Frank Grannon will look at them.

Greg Such reported on the Southwestern PA Commission Road Safety Audit, slow speed down to 25 mph, there are four things we need to do: better mark the crosswalk by Pittsburgh Street, ADA ramp, gravel in catch basin, storm drain grate on Rt. 68. Frank Grannon commented that the signs for the crosswalk are up to Penn Dots specs and with permits. Chief Miller commented that to change the speed limit it has to go through Penn Dot and ask them to do a speed study. Greg will send a letter.

Cathy Rape inquired when leaf pick-up would be. Frank Grannon responded October 19th through November 20th and they can be bagged in paper after that. Frank also reported they will be freshening up the crosswalks at the school. Cathy Rape asked to have garbage cans emptied Friday, Frank responded they were emptied today, Cathy would like them emptied again Friday for Sleepy Hollow on Saturday. Mayor Rape inquired if blinking lights could be put around the Truck sign. Frank Grannon replied that each flashing sign needs four batteries; it is about \$100 per sign for about a month. Joe Dippold commented the last trucker said he ignored the signs. Jason Sarver commented that it wouldn't be worth the money. Phyllis Metz inquired if they were solar lights. Frank Grannon commented the sign at the crosswalk on Rte. 68 was about \$2,000. Greg Such commented keeping the trucks out of the Square has been relatively well managed. Joe Dippold commented that he lost his contact at US Liner. Frank Grannon has a new contact and will send it to Joe.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer report submitted.

Jason Sarver inquired on the status of the tree. Allen Bayer reported that a Warning Letter was sent from Matt, it expires on October 12th; on the 13th Allen will have Matt set up a hearing. Cathy Rape inquired on a violation sent to the Rail Road. Solicitor Matt sent a letter, no violation to the Rail Road.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that the Swift Reach for Sleepy Hollow was sent to Emilie. Cathy Rape inquired about the No Parking signs for the Square; Phyllis will set out before 8:00am (before the Bakery opens).

Business Development:

Cathy Rape inquired about the EMA, haven't heard anything, the new person isn't reaching out to anyone. Dave Szakelyhidi reported that he was at Wesbanco and found out that he is still a check signer for the EMA. Dave proposed to put someone else on and remove him. Allen Bayer commented that the EMA did a presentation at Zelig. Cathy Rape will reach out to the new EMA Coordinator. Jason Sarver commented to establish a point of contact.

Cathy Rape commented on the 2021 budget and suggested getting some signs, sandwich boards to write "Quiet Ride" to place in town. Joe Dippold commented that HBA may have a couple signs. Jason Sarver commented that he had a resident suggest the "Quiet Residential" signs as well.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report, will have a committee meeting soon. Greg Such commented that review time is approaching.

Finance:

Greg Such reported that Berkheimer sent an email with COVID earned income tax projections; they are estimating that the borough will lose between \$790-\$870 in tax revenue per month that COVID restrictions remain in place. The borough applied for the Butler County Cares Grant for approximately \$32,000, about \$7,000 goes to the Water Authority for overtime the remaining will help off-set the cut in EIT. Round two of the Cares Grant will be coming; Greg suggested Frank and Amy start to gather information for it.

Streets:

Don Sims reported that the Spring Street paving bill vote needs to be ratified.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved paying the Spring Street paving bill in the amount of \$16,704.77

Facilities:

A motion was made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek to buy four lights for in the Square. Dave Szakelyhidi would like to add four more lights for the wish list for next year's budget. The money the borough is saving on the Penn Power bills Council previously agreed to put back into our lights. Don Sims commented that the lights were to be part of the grant. Mayor Rape commented to go ahead and purchase the lights the grant project will be awhile. Joe Dippold inquired if the new lights should be installed if the Square will be ripped up. Cathy Rape commented that it is four bolts, why not. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he would not want the Square dark during the project. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that we better do the lights and the poles. Greg Such suggested getting a price. Don Sims commented to have Frank get a price and Council can do an on-line vote and ratify it at next month's meeting. Greg Such commented to get a price on post too.

Facilities Cont.:

Phyllis Metz inquired to Solicitor Matt if he could write a Resolution for the records she is disposing. Phyllis commented that she will write up what she is getting rid of and Council is to pass by Resolution. Solicitor Matt will research it and prepare the Resolution. Phyllis also inquired if there is money in the budget to dispose of old files. Greg Such inquired if it all needs to be shredded, Phyllis will find out but thinks some has to be. Cathy Rape suggested contacting Jim Marshall's office, he sometimes has shredding events.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that they had a meeting two items that need to be decided: How much money the borough wants to take over all and do we want to be in Phase I or Phase II of the grant? Phase II could give us a little more time. Tom Thompson is on the line, Tom reported that there is a utility pole interfering with the ADA cross ramp at the South East side of the intersection of Main and Mercer. This pole must be moved when we pave or do sidewalks as the ADA upgrades are mandatory. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired why the borough has to pay for a utility pole that we do not have utilities on. Tom responded because you want it moved. Council also needs to decide on the material for sidewalks, the grant developer intended us to install brick or stamped concrete for sidewalks to look like brick. A suggestion was also made for bluestone. Don Sims inquired on price. The regular concrete is around \$206 and the bluestone is around \$243. Don Sims inquired if there would be a presentation to the public. Greg Such responded that he wasn't thinking of doing that because we already gathered public input and what Ben proposed is not much different and his proposal was made public. Frank Luek inquired on the number of payments and if tax revenue would make up payments. Jason Sarver commented that we need to decide materials. Joe Dippold is working on a financial plan and will have something by the end of the week. Greg Such will help Joe. Tom Thompson suggested Council know how much money by the next meeting to enable it to move forward.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

See 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 \$ **13,783.68**

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **7,889.55** (\$ 7,602.59 after HBWA reimbursement)

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **26.34**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **75.00**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **6,284.79**

Liquid Fuels Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **16,704.77**

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.

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Adjourned: 8:57 pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the October 6, 2020 Zoom virtual meeting at 8:57 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

September 2020

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Completed September monthly Activity Report and Time Report.
4. I had email contact with Victoria Blanchard, 108 Edward Dr., regarding permitting and signage requirements for a yard sale. I referred Victoria to Jackson Twp.
5. Attended September Council meeting.
6. Created violation letter to VA for handicap ramp at 259 Mercer St.
7. Spoke with Mary Hess regarding utilities for a small retail business in the building at the rear of 550 Main St.
8. Spoke with Tracy, Jones Estate, regarding location of water main at 107 Mathews Dr. I referred Tracy to Jackson Twp.
9. Responded to Greg Such regarding questions pertaining to Home Based businesses.
10. Spoke with Steve regarding if goats are allowed to be kept in the borough.
11. Created warning violation notice for 421 Highland Ave.
12. Completed Carriage House renovation building permit for 550 Main St.
13. Spoke to Mary Hess regarding discontinuing work at 550 Main St Carriage House until building permits are obtained and posted.
14. Spoke with Ryan Bectal regarding zoning requirements for a garage at 747 Spring St.
15. Completed September Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer

RACP Meeting Notes of 9/25

Background:

Harmony was previously awarded a \$300K plus portion of a RACP grant jointly with Zelienville. Due to changes in grant match rules it is not feasible for us to take that amount. Zelienville is 3 months from filing paperwork to move the grant forward and needs to know how much of the grant we wish to take.

Meeting Attendees:

Denny Auld (representing Grace Church)

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Andrew Orient (representing Historic Harmony)

Cathy Rape

Gary Rodgers (representing Rodgers Brothers)

Don Sims

Greg Such

Dave Szackelyhidi

Tom Thompson -- Gannett Fleming. Tom will do the engineering / PM for this work.

There are 3 main items to decide:

1. What is our scope of improvements, and what is the dollar amount we wish to spend?
2. Do we want to be in Phase I or Phase II of the grant? Being in Phase II could give us a little more time.
3. For the Borough's expenses, how do we fund our share of match improvements that cannot be funded from cash on hand, and how do we fund the payments to contractors during the time frame of grant reimbursement lag?

Issues / Concerns Discussed:

1. The curb reveals in the square are not high enough. We will need to mill to pave (not included in price estimates). The grant covers blacktop surfacing out to 2' along the curb. We would be responsible for the remaining paving and milling.

Exact paving date (this year or another) is TBD.

2. A utility pole interferes with the ADA cross ramp at the South East side of the intersection of Main and Mercer. This pole must be moved when we pave or do sidewalks as the ADA upgrades are mandatory.

3. Underground utilities would eat up all of the grant. We can only do conduits. For Zelienville the cost of phone underground alone was between 58K and 90K. We decided we would like to have the conduits and pull boxes.

4. The Infrastructure bank can be used as monies to support the road paving (not covered in our grant). A bond can also be used.

5. There are roughly 350' of curbing and sidewalk to be replaced. We think this is 222 sq yards. The grant developer intended us to install brick or stamped concrete for sidewalks to look like brick. A suggestion was also made for bluestone. According to the regs, any surface can be used as long as it is not slippery. Bluestone is a native material and will last longer, but is more expensive.
6. Storm sewers are not included in quote. We discussed running shallow storm drains under the sidewalk, via curb inlets into a small catch basin, then going to 6 or 8" pipe. We determined we could probably drain the square via grading and this is probably not needed.
7. Lighting, benches and trash cans would need to be reset. The current grant reuses existing materials. We determined that we can move these ourselves to save money.
8. Moving the flag pole moving and monuments are not included in the current cost estimates. We discussed that moving the flag pole to the North side of the square may be a good idea.
9. Being reimbursed for steel or aluminum items via the grant is problematic as they must be all US-made. We need to research if current posts and lamps will be reimbursable.
10. We need to move ahead with environmental study previously approved.

Action Items:

1. Dave will talk to Cathy about bluestone suppliers and forward contact info to Tom.
2. Tom will schedule the environmental study in 10 above.
3. Tom will give us estimates for all three sidewalk materials.
4. Tom will send grant specs to Dave who will follow-up with our pole / lamp manufacturer to determine if the grant can cover these.
5. The committee will review the estimates and make a recommendation to the Council on how to proceed in October or November.

Other notes:

1. The grant match is 50%. Being reimbursed for grant expenses may take from 3 months to a year.
2. The grant covers items from the curb back, with the exception of paving for a 2' strip or street when curbs are replaced.
3. The RCAP grant expects a 20 year loan. We can possibly go to the bank and get a 2-stage loan that starts at 8 years and then extends for 20.
4. The Infrastructure bank is 10 year loan, this can be used to cover contractor payments until the state reimburses us. Infrastructure bank applications are not being taken until next spring.

Greg Such