

June 1, 2021

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING June 1, 2021

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Phyllis Metz

Jason Sarver

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus - virtually

Rodney Gasch - virtually

Frank Grannon

Harold Herr

Sam Hopkins - virtually

Chief Jim Miller - virtually

Solicitor Matt Racunas

Engineer Tom Thompson - virtually

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in-person and remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

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MINUTES:

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the May 4, 2021 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he has one item to report on in an executive session.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported there are no appointments.

COG:

Phyllis Metz reported that the crack sealer is still available and inquired if we were in need of one. Frank Grannon responded, no. Phyllis reported that there will be an in-person meeting on June 17th. Tom Knight would like to have sub-committees with three categories to choose from, Storm Water Management, Property and Zoning Maintenance, and Bidding Processes. Greg Such recommended that Phyllis Metz be on the Storm Water Management sub-committee.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there were two Certificates of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommended to Council.

Sam Hopkins – 251 Mercer Street – Bike Rental Signage.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Bike Rental signage at 251 Mercer Street.

Sam Hopkins – Neff House 550 Main Street – Bike Rental Signage and Menu Board Signage.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Bike Rental signage and the Menu Board Signage at 550 Main Street.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the paving of waterline repairs has been scheduled.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the new park benches have been set up at Wood Street Park, the old ones will be moved to Swampoodle Park. Susie reported that she is waiting to hear from Lance from Butler County Parks and Recreation regarding the limestone for the Trail. The first concert will be July 1st sponsored by Historic Harmony; the concert is at 8:00pm with fireworks following the concert. Susie also reported that Swampoodle Park has been rented for June 5th for a party. Joe Dippold inquired if the Fire Department would have their Open House the same day as the first concert as they have done in the past. Greg Such will send an email to Kevin Behun (Fire District President) and Scott Garing (Fire District Chief).

Library Board:

Frank Luek reported that the Library is open under regular business hours with masks required. They have started their summer reading programs but not their monthly programs yet but they are on the schedule; and any money the borough could donate would be appreciated.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported there will be a meeting on June 9th at the Cranberry Municipal Building Council Chambers at 6:30pm for the four municipalities. Representatives from all four municipalities (Harmony, Jackson, Lancaster and Zelenople) are requested to be there. Solicitor Matt commented it is information only, no lawyers will be there. Engineer Tom Thompson will be at the meeting.

Shared Services:

Frank Grannon reported that limb pick up is Thursday, May 6th and will be the first Thursday of every month.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Rodney Gasch reported that the Museum opened today and will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 1:00pm until 4:00pm for tours. The Hunt for History scavenger hunt is going on and will run through the middle of June. The Historic Harmony walking tours will be on Saturdays in June at 10:00am and 1:00pm. Joe White will be leading the June 5th tour, and Kathy Luek will be leading the June 12th tour, and Keith Mann (from Ohio) will be leading the June 19th and June 26th tours; the tours will be part of the Artisans Saturdays that the HBA is planning. Rodney also reported that they are having some issues with people not cleaning up after their dogs at the Barn and will be putting some signs up. Rodney reported that Historic Harmony is looking for funding to bring back Eugene Friesen, Grammy Award winning cellist. Eugene would like to come and record a CD of Harmonist music in the wine cellar.

HBA:

Rodney Gasch reported that the Artisan Saturdays in June are co-sponsored by the Museum and the Harmony Business Association and will have tents set up at various locations. Saturday, June 5th is the Fleece to Shawl demonstration and competition at the Weaver's Cabin. There are three groups of weavers competing to make a shawl and the shawls will be sold at a silent auction at the Wunderbar the week after the event.

Greg Such inquired if the docent training could be read. Rodney Gasch responded that Kathy Luek put the script together and it would make interesting reading. Rodney also commented on John Melich's 1811 travel log that Joe White annotated a section of when John spent three days in Harmony in 1811. The Museum sells the booklet; Rodney will bring a copy for Greg Such.

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Other Meetings:

Phyllis Metz reported that the next Commissioners' Community Outreach meeting is June 17th.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email. Chief Miller also requested Phyllis Metz to remind him about the Concerts.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Greg Such purposed that the Borough building remains locked with a note on the door to call for entrance. Jason Sarver inquired if it was an inconvenience to anybody. Mayor Cathy Rape commented that she would like to see a door bell, sometimes with the a/c running you can't hear knocking on the door. There was discussion on keeping the door locked. Solicitor Matt commented that none of the municipalities he represents has opened back up, nor has WBCA opened back up.

Borough Director of Operations:

Frank Grannon reported that the vote for the underdrains and catch basins on Pittsburgh Street needs to be ratified.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote for the underdrains and catch basins on Pittsburgh Street.

Frank Luek inquired on the cost. Frank Grannon responded that the materials were \$3,822.25 and the Contractor to cut the street and put them in was \$10,000.

Frank Grannon also reported the street sweeping is done; the Borough needs to start thinking of a new dump site. There was 15 tons of debris to dump, which was down from last year. Frank commented that it is the same with limb pick up; the last load a resident wanted the wood chips. Laura at Indian Brave was taking them but getting in over there is tough when it's wet. Greg Such inquired on Lake Forest taking the wood chips. Frank Grannon commented that it would need to be cleared by Zelig because of turnaround time to go to Lake Forest. Frank also reported on limb pick up, the last pick up there was a resident who had entire trees cut down and his whole property frontage was lined, they had an hour or two picking it up. Greg Such will send a letter stating limb pick up is for limbs not entire trees. Jason Sarver commented that the borough should determine limitations. Greg Such commented that the Newsletter gives guidance. Frank Grannon commented that Zelig does not pick up if it looks like a tree service did it. Dave Szakelyhidi commented if the pile is too big, pass it up like Zelig. Frank Grannon reported that the road saw needs a new diamond blade for cutting the streets, the cost is about \$250 at SSC Tools Supply in Cranberry.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the purchase of a new diamond blade from SSC Tools in the amount of \$250.

Borough Director of Operations Cont.:

Jason Sarver reported that the borough should take into consideration that prices have increased on items regularly used by the borough and bids may need to be redone. Frank Grannon commented about using CoStars.

Cathy Rape inquired if the boat launch was cleaned out. Frank Grannon responded that it is.

Mayor Rape also commented that she would like to see the lines/crossings painted. Frank Grannon responded that it is already scheduled. Cathy Rape also inquired if Frank paints the Yield sign line on Rte. 68. Frank Grannon responded that he does not. Frank Grannon inquired if Penn Dot was doing construction on Rte. 68 this year, and if they are, should the crosswalk be painted if Penn Dot will pave it. Mayor Cathy Rape commented a lot of people cross there. Greg Such commented that we should paint it. Frank Grannon inquired if council wanted to change the crosswalk and go to the ladder. Sam Hopkins commented he would like to see the big blocks like Zelienople has on Main Street, to get drivers to see it because drivers do not yield. Frank Grannon commented that it will need to be done at night because the street will need to be shut down for the paint to dry. Cathy Rape inquired if the road work was part of the speed reduction, or where it was. Greg Such commented that the speed reduction needed a speed study down. Chief Miller commented that it was delayed because of covid.

Zoning and Codes:

Allen Bayer's report was submitted via email.

Greg Such commented that there will be a discussion on codes later.

COMMITTEE and OTHER BUSINESS:

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported on an Event Form for the Division Street block party on July 31st from 4:00pm until dusk. An event form was also sent to Zelig, there will be about 40-50 people. The block party went well last year.

In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Joe Dippold the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Division Street block party contingent on Zelienople's approval and that it does not conflict with any major events at the Zelig Park.

Business Development:

Mayor Cathy Rape commented on the nice Memorial Day service yesterday, there were no problems; the Police were present and she thanked everyone for coming. Cathy also reported that the flowers in the Square have been paid for by Mark Sapienza and the Rodgers Brothers; Cathy thanked Mark Sapienza and the Rodgers Brothers. The next HBA meeting will be Thursday at 6:30, location TBD, but they have been at the Enchanted Olive. Cathy Rape also reported on the Plant sale and exchange on June 12th, proceeds will go towards future flowers.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report.

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Finance:

Greg Such reported that the insurance renewal was accepted from the existing provider at a 4% increase. Greg Such commented that they asked to make sure the list of assets are up to date. Frank Grannon commented that Amy already gave it to him. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if the street lights were listed, Frank will double check.

Streets:

Frank Grannon had nothing new to report.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Grants:

Joe Dippold commented that they have a list of potential lenders. Mayor Cathy Rape inquired if we would start this year. Engineer Tom Thompson responded that the possibility exist, once the financing is in place, it can be put out to bid. Greg Such commented that they need to finish the packet and then make appointments and then get approval from Council. Solicitor Matt commented to check with him, he wants to make sure the bank handles the small borrowing regulations with the state. Cathy Rape inquired on the government funding the borough is to get back; it could be used for infrastructure and inquired if that could be used to put underground utilities in the Square. Tom Thompson replied that the regulations that they have seen it can be used for water, sewer or broadband; part of that would be Armstrong Cable, to work with them to potentially use some of those funds for that to pay for the utility portion of the project but it would be limited to those types of projects. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that there are two fiber optics, one is by the old Kasing's on German Street owned by Verizon and the other is on Rte. 68 by the yield sign, those are the places we would need access to if we would run the broadband through town. Greg Such commented that the \$87,000 might not go that far on underground utilities.

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 \$ **14,303.08**

Fire Tax Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **2,391.92**

Parks Board Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **269.59**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **7,784.16**

Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **9,766.09** (After HBWA \$9,479.13)

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.

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Cathy Rape reported on the new brochure that was in Council's packet. Greg Such responded to let Council proof it as they received it today. Jason Sarver commented that her goal is to make it into a brochure similar to what we already have.

Greg Such called for an executive session at 7:56pm to discuss possible litigation, out of executive session at 8:30pm.

Adjourned: 8:32pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the June 1, 2021 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 8:32 pm, motioned by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz.

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

May 2021

1. Stopped by the office periodically to pick up mail, complete Building Permits and sign violations notices.
2. Filing and administrative work.
3. Attended May HARB meeting.
4. Performed two violation inspections, both were corrected.
5. I spoke to Beth Ziegler, 724-452-9449, regarding her falling on the sidewalk at 725 Spring St. and breaking her hand. I then spoke with Greg Such and he agreed to send a violation notice since flooding at the corner of Spring and First Streets has been mitigated. I drove to the address and inspected the sidewalk. I created a sidewalk violation notice for Bill Thomas at 725 Spring St.
6. I spoke to Caroline, receptionist at US Liner, Wexford, 724-776-4044, regarding violation notice for trucks parked on Mercer St. parking lot. The trucks have been removed. This being the 5th violation of this type I warned her that future violations would result in an immediately hearing with the District Magistrate and the borough would be seeking fines. Received 3rd call from Caroline and spent 45 minutes teaching her how to use her computer to find and print the ordinance, exactly what I had put in the violation notice.
GIVE ME STRENGTH.
7. Stopped by 725 Spring St. to take pictures of sidewalk violations.
8. Received a call from Bill Thomas ranting and raving saying that he will not comply with the sidewalk violation. I sent an email to Council asking how to proceed. Discussed options for moving forward with Bill Thomas violation with Jason. Spoke with Dave Z. regarding the Bill Thomas violation

- notice. Spoke with Matt Racunas regarding the Bill Thomas violation notice.
9. Received an email from Jim Hulings regarding possible construction at 424 Center St. I contacted to Tom Tomayko to learn that the sewer line is backed up and needs to be repaired or replaced. I emailed Jim of my findings.
 10. Spoke with Chelsea, 420 Highland Ave., regarding zoning for a home-based business. Sent Chelsea an extract of the ordinance pertaining to the requirements of a home-base business.
 11. Attended June HARB meeting.
 12. I spoke with Judy Edwards regarding a sign at 408 Grandview Ave. This is photography building. She will start a notary business for tags, titles and finger printer there.
 13. Checked out the sign at 408 Grandview and notified Judy Edwards that she could use the current sign and just change the front of it.
 14. Received an email from Bob of Harmony Inn regarding work he wants to do at 714 Spring St. and then rent it out. Inspected back of property where he wants to put 2 parking spacing and shorten the guard rails. Responded to Bob that I would like to meet with him to better understand the shortening of the guard rails.
 15. Prepared May Time and Activity Reports.

Respectfully submitted,

Allen E. Bayer