

January 2, 2024

HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING January 2, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus
Bob Leonberg
Kathy Luek
Patrolman Mike Kopp, ZPD
Andrew Orient - virtual

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President Greg Such called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. This meeting was held in-person and remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the December 5, 2023 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas was unable to attend. Greg Such reported that Solicitor Matt and Don Sims reviewed the SET Agreement for the Stormwater Project, both were okay with the agreement and had no comment. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the SET Agreement for the Stormwater Project to be signed by Greg Such.

Greg Such reported on the Gannett Fleming Service Agreement as the Borough Engineer, there is a 3-10% increase on some fees. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the 2024 Service Agreement with Gannett Fleming.

Greg Such also reported on the T.W. McCosby Service Agreement as the Borough Building Inspector, there is no change in fees. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the 2024 Service Agreement with T.W. McCosby.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported the appointments were done during the Reorganization meeting held prior to the council meeting.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC COG):

Greg Such reported that the next meeting will be January 16th. Greg reported that the Borough should have nominations if we wish to join them in bidding for paving projects. Don Sims commented that we will do patching until we get the drainage work done. Greg Such commented that we could put in for it but not act on it. Don Sims will talk to Bob Leonberg about the street paving.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report.

Water Authority Board:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Water Authority is working on some maintenance projects, low service chambers, an instrument in the clear well failed, the Engineer is looking for a replacement. The two new employees are doing good. Torry Jones will give a contract agreement for next year, it will still be part-time.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the Silvester went very good. There were 406 people sign up for the 5K, with 365 runners; and 75 people for the 1-mile. The fastest male runner was Zach Leachman at 15:08 and the fastest female runner was Andrea Chickness at 22:01.

Parks Board Cont.:

Susie reported there were some safety concerns with the 1-mile course, some suggestions were to move the course, have police support, and to put cones up along Liberty and Jackson and Mercer and Monroe. Susie Altemus commented that the 5K runners did not stay in the running lane. Will continue to work on grants and fundraising, concerts, weeds and mulching the parks.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that there is still time to get raffle tickets on a chance to win the "Night Out on the Town" which include two tickets for the Pens and Montreal game on January 27th, a \$150 gift certificate for Martorano's Prime in The Rivers Casino and a \$100 Uber card. On January 27th there is a drone presentation given by Dave Wagner at 2:00pm. Kathy Luek thanked Council for their donation to the Library.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that he left Chad (from Zelig) a message to see if he needed the machine for the Christmas boxes at the Park. Cath Rape commented that in 2010 there was a comprehensive steering committee and on shared services they talked about composting leaves at the Zelig airport. The airport has more acreage now, maybe Zelig and Harmony could apply for a grant to take leaves to the airport for composting. Jason Sarver commented that it's difficult with all the DEP regulations. Greg Such will send a note to Mary Hess (Zelig's Council President).

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Cath Rape commented about the article, Road Safer Traveled. The article talks about signs in town and people suing municipalities over an accident because of knocked-down signs or faded signs. Greg Such commented that signs do get hit by delivery trucks and snow plows. Don Sims inquired how many Stop signs we have in stock. Bob Leonberg responded, three. Frank Luek commented on the utility pole by the Church that has been mutilated by trucks.

Historic Harmony:

Greg Such welcomed the new President of Historic Harmony, Kathy Luek. Kathy reported that the tree toss and wreath toss were big hits at the Silvester, they served over 180 dinners, the Museum was packed for the three hours it was open. There will be an event planning meeting on January 16th. The Museum will sponsor the first summer concert on June 27th. Kathy talked about a Historic Focus Group that was suggested by Cath Rape. The Historic Focus Group would help educate residents, shop owners, HBA members, employees at the Harmony Inn and Union Brothers about the history of the town and what the town is about. Kathy Luek will try to put together a couple days to give tours.

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HBA:

Cath Rape reported that there wasn't a meeting, it will be sometime in January.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications meeting is January 9th at 2pm. Phyllis Metz commented that at the December 7th meeting Kevin (Boozel) reported that out of the 40 bridges in the county that needed repaired, over 20 of them have been repaired. The first female Zoning Officer for the County was in attendance at the December meeting and she talked about hoarding. She said you must have zoning and ordinances in place before you do anything, do not be confrontational with hoarders, try to work with them. Jason Sarver commented that our property maintenance code covers the Borough for the outside of it, and the rental fire inspections will help with the health issue side of it.

Greg Such reported that the Tourism Open House is January 10th from 7am-11am; and the Stormwater Meeting is January 10th at 1:15pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mike Kopp, ZPD – Patrolman Kopp commented that the Zelig Police Department is happy to work with Harmony Borough and serve the community.

Executive Session at 7:45pm, out of executive at 7:54pm.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Office:

Amy Brown reported the audit is scheduled to start February 23rd.

Borough Director of Operations:

Bob Leonberg reported that the dog signs need to be redone, the vinyl cracked. Bob repaired the sign at Jackson and Main, a truck took it out. Bob also reported that he received a bid today for the snow plow, the bid is \$800 from Bob Barbish. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously accepted the \$800 bid for the snow plow. Bob Leonberg will let Barbish know he won the bid. Bob Leonberg reported he put a sign up for the zero turn, accepting bids until the next meeting on February 6th. Greg Such suggested putting it out on the Spring Street side of the garage, it is more visible, Bob will try to put it on Spring Street. John Rice ordered a new carburetor for the snowblower. Bob commented about how to get the snowblower to the bridge. Jason Sarver commented that John Rice suggested a ramp that fits in the hitch, it would probably cost \$300. Bob Leonberg commented the ramp he saw was \$400 or \$500. Jason commented that it is something to look into. Greg Such reported that he asked Rob from RB Trees for a quote to plow snow, in case we need back up.

Zoning and Codes:

Larry Reynolds was unable to attend, the monthly report was submitted via email.

Engineer Report:

Tom Thompson was unable to attend.

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Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz had nothing new to report.

Business Development:

Mayor Cathy Rape reported that US Liner has moved out of Cranberry Township, and a new company has taken over the facility in Harmony and inquired if any of the signs need changed. Greg Such commented that we could talk to Chuck Ertzberger. Cath reported that she went to the Harmony-Evans City VFW Grand Opening, it was very nice. St. Peter's Church is having a Venison Dinner on February 24th, they are accepting donations at the door. Cath reported she went to the Jackson Township meeting; they bought the Brenckle property and Jackson's Stormwater Project is there; they are having trails and possibly playing fields. Cath wanted to know what kind of play fields; Jackson wasn't sure yet. Cath commented at the Jackson meeting that Spring Street is a residential area with no base under the street and it would not hold that kind of traffic going to playing fields. Jackson assured her that if that is what happens somebody will make that street nice. Cath doesn't feel the tax payers of Harmony should be paying for it. Cath Rape also reported that John Helbling passed away, he owned the Opera House which was Ott & Gerts and had donated all the Christmas decorations to the Borough. Cath also commented that she would like to see another newsletter sent out in February or March with a donation letter for the Parks, and Fire Safety Tips. Cath reported that another committee the Borough had back in 2015 was Truck Traffic, and one of the suggestions that the Borough have Penn Dot classify our area as a Historical Destination which would go into the GPS. Cath also inquired about putting cameras for the Square in the budget. Greg Such commented that Chief Miller had a camera program, Dave Szakelyhidi commented that Chief Miller will be getting back in touch with us. Cath Rape commented that she would like to see a speed hump bought for Mercer Street. The speed hump is 20' long x 3' wide, it is especially for traffic going 25mph. A speed hump is nailed into the pavement but could be picked up in the winter for snow plowing. Cath commented once Mercer Street is paved, they will be going faster. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he is against it. Don Sims commented that he agrees with the Chief of Police, it is a road hazard and the speed has been maintained by our police at an adequate rate. Jason Sarver inquired if it would be considered historic aesthetic. Patrolman Kopp suggested having another speed study done once the street is paved.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver reported that council needs to ratify the email vote for Amy's pay raise. In a motion made by Jason Sarver, and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council approved to ratify the email vote to raise Amy's (Brown) pay to \$26.00/hr. Jason also reported that council needs to vote on the Water Authority's recommendation of a 3% raise for the Water Authority Secretary, Cathy (Funkhouser). In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the 3% raise for the Water Secretary, Cathy (Funkhouser). Joe Dippold reported that the Water Authority in an email vote approved giving Cathy (Funkhouser) a \$500 bonus, the same as the operators received. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the \$500 bonus for Cathy (Funkhouser). Greg Such reported that the part-time candidate did not accept our offer. We continue to look for a part-time employee, 20-30 per week

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Personnel Cont.:

at \$18.00 per hour, available to work between 7am-3:30pm Monday through Friday, no week-ends, or holidays.

Finance:

Joe Dippold reported that the Workers' Comp insurance for the Fire Department is now through the State, which is called SWIF. Greg Such commented that it is \$52,000/year which was \$30,000 less than the prior carrier. Greg Such also reported on the Storm Water Group fee, last year it was \$2000, this year it is \$2500. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to rejoin the Southwest Storm Water Group for \$2,500 for 2024. Greg Such commented that he looked at the financial reports and we are in the black and will finish the year in good shape.

Streets:

Don Sims had nothing new to report.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report.

Grants:

Cath Rape commented that the DCNR Grant is open January 16th. Greg Such commented that is what funded the bigger Parks Board/playground grant. The Parks Board will apply for the Butler County Reno Grant to help with the match on the DCNR Grant. Cath Rape reported that Sam Hopkins contacted her about the Safe Route to School Grant that is coming up in May, Sam suggested getting all the handicap ramps from Harmony to CVE School done with that grant.

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Scholars Run Conservancy 501C received money from the Bantam Jeep Festival, the funds will be used for signage, wooden bridges, and trails.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

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 \$ **16,129.85**

Silvester Fund Bills Payable in the amount of \$ **2,499.75**

Payroll in the amount of \$ **8,213.38**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of \$ **11,048.11**

Silvester Fund Bills Already Paid in amount of \$ **300.00**

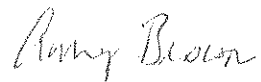
In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

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Adjourned: 8:27pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the January 2, 2024 In-person and Zoom virtual meeting at 8:27pm.

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

December 2023

Spoke with a Real Estate Agent as to requirements to reinstate a vacant part of existing two-family home in a R-1 zone. He will get back to me if he wishes to proceed. Spoke with Mr. Rodriguez at 610 Wood Street in the Historical District wishing to install a new roof. He will attend HARB meeting with samples of the materials he wishes to use.

Prepared email to Matt Racunas and Greg Such requesting guidance on a possible grandfather situation for 211 1/2 Pittsburgh Street.

Attended HARB meeting. Discussed the Parking Lot in back of Harmony Center and Robinson sign.

Emailed Matt with further information on the 211 1/2 Pittsburgh Street situation. Attended Council Meeting. Presented copies of proposed Robinson sign. Prepared Robinson Fan sign application and dropped paperwork off to Amy. Responded to an email regarding the Robinson Fan application.

Spoke with representative of Vogel Sanitation in reference to complaint about truck operating at 2:20 AM.

Requested additional information on Robinson Fan Application. Determined that Robinson Fan new sign does not need an inspection by Tom McCosby as they are reusing the existing foundation and supports. Received a call from the owner of 429 Center Street inquiring about the stakes on his neighbor's property at 427 Center Street, I explained that they were installing a new gravel driveway. He was satisfied with the project.

Attended Online Zoning Seminar. Gleaned many useful ideas to implement into Harmony.

Stopped by office to pick up mail.

Spoke with Candy concerning her application for gravel driveway and possible fence along her property line.

Spoke with Miranda a real estate agent who is assisting a new tenant in Creekside Plaza. I referred her to the Jackson Township Zoning Officer.
Received a phone call from Mr. Kay Kaholii owner of construction company requesting requirements for permit for two an addition to two separate houses.

The first at 325 Monroe Street is in a flood plain and will be a second story addition on stilts to the back of the house. Met with the owner Spencer Faruquee and walked around the property. Received a sketch of the proposed layout. It may also be within the Harmony Historic District. I will attend the HARB meeting to determine if HARB has jurisdiction. The second home is at 836 First Street. The owner wishes to build a 15-foot addition to side of the entire house. I want to see plans and setbacks.

Attended the HARB Meeting. Questioned if 325 Monroe is in the Historic District.
Prepared December Time Sheet and Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Reynolds
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer