

August 6, 2024

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting August 6, 2024

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Sam Hopkins

Bob Leonberg

Chief Jim Miller-ZPD

Hunter Muro, Butler Eagle Reporter

Matt Racunas

Larry Reynolds

Tom Thompson

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council Vice President, Don Sims called the August 6, 2024 Council Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. This meeting was held in-person at Stewart Hall, 218 Mercer Street due to no air conditioning in the council room at the Borough building.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the July 2, 2024, Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported on the Right-To-Know request from FOIA Buddy which stands for Freedom Of Information Act Buddy stating they have sent requests to a number of clients seeking various information from internet and phone services. The request to WBCA was more in-depth and it was denied. The request to Harmony Borough was for internet and phone invoices, any identifying information will be redacted from those invoices such as the account number which is restrictive and the request will be granted.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Don Sims reported that no appointments were needed.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Don Sims reported no meeting was held.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that Council did not receive the Certificate of Appropriateness for Rodgers Brothers at 223 Mercer Street, paint building a slate gray with white trim. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approve the Certificate of Appropriateness contingent upon receiving the appropriate document. Joe Dippold abstained.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there will be a discussion about an employee under Personnel.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the concerts were a great success. Frank Luek, Jessica Flamos, and Susie Altemus will be attending the Jackson Township meeting on Friday, August 9th. The Color Run is August 17th. Susie also reported that the kiosk by the Walking Trail was vandalized, the plexiglass was broken, it is being repaired.

Library Board:

Kathy Luek reported that the ZelianApple Fun Fest will be on September 21st at Sippel Park from 3-7PM with apple themed activities for all ages. This event is a fundraiser for the Library.

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Planning Commission:

Larry Reynolds had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Don Sims reported that the site prep for the admin building is proceeding. Two weeks ago, a delegation from WBCA and HRG toured a plant in FonDuLac, Wisconsin that used similar technology as WBCA's new plant is planning. It went very well.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that limb pick-up will be Thursday, August 8th.

Parking and Signage:

Cath Rape inquired if Jackson Township was contacted yet to see if they would put a sign near the round-about that says Mercer Street is Local Deliveries Only as discussed two months ago. Don Sims responded not that he was aware of, and thanked Cath for bringing it up so it would be in the minutes again. Frank Luek inquired if the Borough could get some Thru Traffic Signs to be placed by the Harmony Inn to direct traffic on the Truck Route, and coming from Zelig, to direct traffic on the Truck Route to keep some of the traffic out of the Square. Don Sims commented that it would need a Traffic Engineer to look at it. Tom Thompson suggested contacting our Penn Dot Municipal Services Representative to look at it and make recommendations. Bob Leonberg is to talk to Cory Shaffer. Cath Rape also inquired about Slow Signs for Wood Street. Bob Leonberg commented the Slow Signs were put up on Jackson Street and by the Canoe Launch. Cath commented that the minutes from last month say to purchase some Slow Signs. Bob Leonberg commented that the Slow Signs were purchased and placed on the other end of Jackson by the Canoe Launch. Cath inquired if the signs were expensive. Amy Brown responded they are plastic double sided signs; 2 signs were around \$30.00. Don Sims suggested waiting. Frank Luek inquired about painting SLOW on Wood Street.

Historic Harmony:

Kathy Luek reported that there will be a reception on August 21st at Stewart Hall for the official opening of the Washington Trail Cabin, Butler County Tourism is helping to fund that. The Christmas Market will be on Saturday, November 9th from 10AM-6PM and Sunday, November 10th from 10AM-4PM. Kathy forgot about the Event Form but has it filled out, street closures will be Main Street at German Street to the Northside of the Square; and Mercer Street from Wilson Alley to Wood Street. The Police Request form is also filled out, requesting two Police Officers and the Certificate of Insurance is coming. Don Sims suggested approving the Event in September or October when the paperwork is turned in.

HBA:

Cath Rape reported that there will be a meeting August 7th at 6:30PM at the Harmony Inn. Cath also reported that nobody is getting back to her about the sandbags.

Other Meetings:

Don Sims reported August 12th at 2:00PM is the US Liner Reception, also on August 12th at 2:00PM is the Commissioners Communication Meeting and August 14th at 1:15PM is the Stormwater Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No Public Comment

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:

Bob Leonberg reported that they straightened some signs in town, two by the Inn. They also placed No Parking Signs up along German Street by the Borough Garage. The top of the catch basin at the end of Main Street caved in, they reinforced it with a steel grate. They painted some lines by CVE School, there is still more to do.

Bob also reported that the bid opening for the trailer was earlier today. The first bid was Sam Shirey for \$525.00, the second bid was Craig Steeb for \$780.00; and the last bid was Pat Buckley for \$800.00. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the sale of the trailer as-is to Pat Buckley for \$800.00. Amy Brown asked Solicitor Matt who should sign off on the trailer title. Matt responded Greg (Such). Bob reported that the cost to dump leaves at Lake Forest Gardens is \$2,000 and increase of \$500 from last year. Frank Luek suggested getting a quote from Vogel to take them to the dump. Bob commented that the Borough dump truck does not have a US Dot# and cannot dump at Vogel's without one. Cath Rape suggested asking Cory our Penn Dot Rep what is involved in getting a US Dot#. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to dump leaves at Lake Forest Garden for \$2,000. Bob Leonberg also reported they repaired two sinkholes one on German Street and one on Parkway, he believes the round stone used to backfill rolled and caused the sinkhole. Bob inquired if he could purchase a battery powered pole saw, the cost is \$300 for a DeWalt. Don Sims responded that Bob has a discretionary (up to \$500).

Zoning and Codes:

Larry Reynolds reported that Mr. Mantia has until the 15th and inquired what happens after that. Larry is to talk to Matt after the 15th of August. Cath Rape inquired if Mr. Mantia can be told to not park on the sidewalk in front of the building, it is hard for trucks to make the bend off of Spring Street. Mr. Mantia can park in back of his property and walk around. Chief Miller commented that the Police told him to move off the sidewalk last week. If he parks on the sidewalk again, just call the Police and they will tell him to move. Larry inquired on the Street Opening Permit inspection fee. Solicitor Matt inquired who does the inspection, some have the Engineer inspect as there are certain specs that need met. Larry Reynolds commented that the Ordinance gives the specs. The inspection fee will be the inspectors hourly rate x number of hours and the inspections will be done by Bob and/or Larry. Larry Reynolds also reported that Peoples Gas opened the street without a permit on Liberty Street. Larry contacted Peoples Gas, they sent a permit but listed the wrong house numbers in the area; in talking to Amy, she told him where the Gas Company cut into the street. Bob Leonberg commented that he received a PA One Call, Robinson is doing the same thing. Don Sims commented that the main issue is to get the aggerate in as the subbase and getting it compacted, then top with asphalt, you get some impaction happen over time, it is when the aggerate settles that you end up with a dip. Larry Reynolds commented that the Ordinance does not specify how long the Borough keeps the bond, and recommends holding back 50% for 6 months.

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Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported that they are waiting on one easement before they can kick off the project, they are in negotiations, it seems favorable but are waiting for final layout drawing, then we should be able to process that easement. Don Sims inquired how long it would take to close that easement, Tom responded within a month. Don commented that we are going out of summer right into fall. Don also inquired on the duration of the Stormwater Project. Tom Thompson commented 2 to 3 months total. Tom reported that the RACP Project, the HOP Permit has not been issued yet for Zelig. Frank Luek inquired on the RACP Project timeframe, concerned the Square would be tore up for the Christmas Market. Tom Thompson responded that we could restrict not do it during that time. Dave Szakelyhidi asked Tom to coordinate with Rodgers Brothers, they want to replace their sewer lateral. Cath Rape commented that we've been waiting a long time on the RACP Grant and inquired if we are on Zelig's timeframe. Tom Thompson responded that it is one grant and it makes more sense to wait as you get better pricing. Tom Thompson also reported on working with the County on the DCNR Grant for the Parks Board Project and getting it out to bid.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she had an Event Form for Drew Kirchner's Senior Project. The Labor Day 5k Fun Run will be on September 2nd from 9AM-11AM streets affected is Division Street and up near the Park, it is the same route as the Reindeer Run. Zeligople already approved the Event. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Labor Day 5K Fun Run pending the Certificate of Insurance.

Business Development:

Cath Rape had nothing new to report.

Phyllis Metz reported on an email she received for the 2025 PSAB Calendar, if we would like to submit a photo of town by October 1st. Cath Rape reported that she took it to HBA for photographic experience. MJ couldn't do it. Joe Dippold suggested sending the email to Greg (Such).

Personnel:

Joe Dippold reported that the Water Board voted to hire Melanie Feesides as a part-time water employee, she would work 20 hours with the Borough and 20 hours with the Water. The hourly rate would go from \$18.00/her to \$20.00 until she gets a water license. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the hiring of Melanie Feesides at \$20.00 for 20 hours per week with the Water and 20 hours per week with the Borough.

Finance:

Joe Dippold had nothing new to report.

Streets:

Don Sims had nothing new to report.

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Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the air conditioning was broken in the council room, we are waiting for bids. Solicitor Matt commented that an email vote could be done and ratified at the next meeting

Grants:

Don Sims had nothing new to report.

Cathy Rape inquired on the agenda for Jackson Township's Park meeting. Susie Altemus responded that it is a comprehensive planning meeting.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Listed on the Correspondence List.

BILLS PAYABLE:

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

General Bills Payable in the amount of **\$28,868.63**

Payroll in the amount of **\$9,232.40**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$7,202.71**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$1,289.37**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$1,435.47**

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

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

Adjourned: 7:45pm

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the August 6, 2024 In-person meeting at 7:45pm. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

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

July 2024

Prepared June Timesheet and Zoning & Code Report and forwarded to Amy. Attended HARB Meeting.

Attended Council Meeting.

Spoke with Mr. Lee Smith of 418 Center Street in reference to required permits for a new fence. He will get back to me when ready to proceed.

Spoke with Sandy Rothwell of 1124 Seneca Drive concerning a lack of the orange permit card for her Gazebo Project. Dropped another copy off to her.

Worked on revamping the road opening permit application. Forwarded copy to Tom Thompson and Greg Such.

Attended Zoning Webinar. Was rather basic but a good refresher

Inspected eleven (11) apartments with Pat Murray. Passed all of them and prepared letters and certificates for all 11 and sent to Amy.

Stopped by the office to sign Pat Murray letters and pick up mail.

Reinspected 434 Liberty Street and passed both apartments. Created passed letter and Certificate and forwarded to Amy.

Spoke with Tom Thompson to create the final form of the Street Opening Permit. Sent final copy to Tom Thompson for his review. Stopped by office to sign letter and Certificate for 434 Liberty St.

Finished revamping the Street Opening Permit and forwarded copies to Amy, Greg and Jason.

Received the completed three (3) street opening applications from WBCA. Forwarded copies to Greg Such, Tom Thompson, Amy, Don Sims and Jason Sarver. Spoke at length with Lee Smith of 418 Center Street as to requirements to install a new fence on his property. Received request from HRG for a Permit Application for the Sewer Pump Station. Prepared a letter and sent to Amy for the HRG Permit.

Visited 151 North Charles Street to follow up on complaint as to excessive grass clipping in pile and overgrown weeds on the property. Photographed the area and prepared a notice of violation for Elaine Pietrcollo and sent to Amy along with photos. Stopped by office to sign HRG letter with Permit Application

Spoke with Mike Francic of 313 Monroe Street as to required permits to demolish a shed and modify his garage. We set up a visit to the property next week.

Received a rather lengthy phone call from Mr. Mantia filled with lots of excuses as to no work being done on his building. He has until August 14th to get everything done.

Spoke at length with Ms. Pietrcollo of 151 North Charles Street in reference to a Violation Notice that was sent to her concerning the large pile of grass clippings piled up at the back of her property. My Master Gardener wife explained to her the simple way to build a compost pile with three (3) pallets. She promised to correct the problem as soon as she can. I also explained that the compost pile must be set back a minimum of 10 feet.

Met with Mike Francic at 313 Monroe Street to determine the required permits for his car port improvement project. He is enclosing one wall with a non structural partition wall and removing a closet at the back of the car port. Gave him the permit to proceed and since there is no structural involved, the final inspection will be my responsibility.

Visited Keith Tilton' home 114 North Pittsburgh Street on the complaint of excessive grass, stick piles and debris in his back yard.. His back yard goes all the way to North Charles Street. I took several photographs of the debris. I prepared a Violation Notice for the debris, stick piles and grass clippings. Set the Notice and Photographs to Amy.

Stopped by the office to sign Keith Tilton Letter. Prepared July Timesheet and Code Enforcement Report.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Reynolds
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer