

July 1, 2025

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting July 1, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Bob Leonberg

Jim Miller, ZPD

Solicitor Jeff Ries - virtually

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President, Greg Such called the July 1, 2025 Council Meeting to order at 7:00PM. This meeting was held in-person and remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the June 3, 2024 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas was unable to attend, Solicitor Jeff Ries joined virtually. Greg Such reported that Matt is reviewing the Small Parts Easement and Contract. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to accept assignment of the Small Parts Easement from Jackson Township. Greg also reported that Matt would like Tom Thompson, Engineer to look at the Eppinger and Shields property issue with regard to a possible easement violation.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Greg Such reported that the Harmony Fire District sold an apparatus, they sold one of the trucks for \$600,000.00 and plan to buy a less expensive unit for around \$200,000. Greg also reported on the Resolution that was voted on in May approving a Joint Purchasing Program for the paving with CoG, Greg signed that Resolution at tonight's meeting.

HARB:

Greg Such reported that there wasn't any new business at last night's HARB meeting, HARB ratified the vote for the Grace Church signage Certificate of Appropriateness. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for Grace Church signage.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there was a filter plant performance review by DEP at the water plant and everything is in DEP compliance.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the next concert is July 17th with James Tobin & The Dewey Decimators, and July 31st will be the last concert with the John Burgh Band. There was a large tree that fell at Wood Street Park, RB Tree will take care of it. The fall chips and liner have been installed at Swampoodle Park. The Color Run is coming along; sponsors are still needed. The DCNR Grant requires the playground to be ADA compliant. Frank Luek made a drawing, Brett, the architect for HARB suggested putting handrails on each side to possibly be compliant. Dave Szakelyhidi commented on the handicap parking space. Tom Thompson commented that our

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Parks Board Cont.:

current handicap space is not compliant; you are only allowed a 2% slope difference on the pad. Tom Thompson and Frank Luek will come up with a plan.

Library Board:

Greg Such reported that the lobby of the Library is being remodeled with a new circulation desk and countertop; and they continue to work on the grant they have been working on.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that it takes WBCA three days to read the water meters for Harmony Borough and with additional houses in the new plan they estimate another half day. Dave Szakelyhid commented that the Water Authority discussed this and Cathy (Funkhouser) will negotiate a price with WBCA. The Water Authority supplies, repairs or replaces the meters. The Water Authority also discussed using radio reads but the cost would be \$71,000 and the Water Authority cannot afford it. Dave added that our guys are willing to read our meters and charge for the readings.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that the bills will be mailed out this month. The logo and brochure have been set up.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that the next limb pick-up is Thursday, July 17th.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such reported that there was a complaint about a dog going to the bathroom in the borough building playground area and it not being cleaned up. Greg asked Bob to put up a sign. It was also suggested that Bob put a sign up at Wood Street Park as well. Cath Rape reported that she received an email from Elena Donahue, she is a student involved with the sign project. Cath explained to Elena that Harmony Borough does not want to duplicate signs as we are surrounded by other municipalities. Elena would like to have signs on Seneca School Road and by the off ramps of I79. Cath suggested Elena talk to Jackson Township as those locations are in Jackson Township. Don Sims commented that Harmony Borough could put a sign in the Borough Office.

Historic Harmony:

Frank Luek reported that they are waiting for the contractor to begin painting the outside of the Museum.

Harmony Business Association:

Cath Rape reported that My Dog's Care Center is looking for sponsors for the for the Dog Park that will be on Spring Street. Sleepy Hollow will be October 11th which coincides with Zelie's Fall Festival. Haunted Harmony will be November 1st which is the same day as when the Museum will be decorating for Christmas, the Christmas Market is November 8th and 9th.

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Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications Meeting will be July 7th at 1PM, and the Stormwater Authority Meeting will be July 9th at 4PM with the Southwest COG meeting on July 9th at 5PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Chief Miller commented on the 3-day event at Union Brothers, August 1st thru August 3rd, it is supposed to be a pretty big event with a lot of different bands, it is a fundraiser for First Responders. Harmony Borough cannot approve the event as Union Brothers is located in Jackson Township. Cath Rape reported she received complaints on borough parking adding that people need to get tickets. There were two cars passed the sign that read "No Parking From Here To Corner" on Spring Street; and on Wood Street people park up to the Stop sign. Mark Sapienza would like a meeting with Chief Miller. Cath commented on music nights the parking is atrocious. Greg Such suggested giving warning tickets, Cath Rape opposed warning tickets stating it is different people every time. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that people are running stop signs and need to be ticketed.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Street Manager:

Bob Leonberg reported on repairing the catch basin on Mercer Street, paving will be in August. Cath Rape inquired if the stop lines, crosswalks and double lines would be painted. Don Sims replied that once Bob gets a paving date, he will contact the striper to see what their availability is. Greg Such reported that he has the letter written and has videos ready to send to the State Rep, Stephanie Scialabba regarding the water on Rt. 68. There is an issue with background noise/talk on one of the videos. Greg will try to strip the audio off of the video. Bob reported that the Canoe Launch signs are up, Melanie continues to mow grass, they will drop signs off on Thursday for the 4th of July parade. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired about the catch basin by Grace Church and if it should be relocated, the whistle pipe needs replaced. Don Sims inquired on the timeframe for the Square Project, Don will discuss this with Dave and Tom Thompson after the meeting.

Zoning and Codes:

Larry Reynolds was unable to attend. Greg Such reported that Mr. Thomas relayed that he will not fix his sidewalk until the Borough stops the flooding on the street. The street really hasn't flooded very much in the last couple of years, but people have fallen on the sidewalk. Greg inquired if Council wanted to vote on taking Mr. Thomas to court to repair his sidewalk. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved for Solicitor Matt Racunas to prepare a complaint about Mr. Thomas's sidewalk. Greg also reported that Larry sent Mr. Mantia a letter on high grass. Tom Thompson will look at Mr. Eppinger's property and work with Matt to get the issue resolved.

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Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported that the easement issue has been worked out and are waiting on the contractor to give a change order for all of the materials that were rerouted, once we have all of that done, we will be able to start moving forward. Jackson Township is working on the revised easement for Union Brothers. Still waiting for the Penn Dot permit (for Zelianople) for the Square Project on the RACP Grant.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she left a voice message for Dan Fritch letting him know they were good with everything they want to do for the July 4th parade, Bob and/or Melanie will put signs out Thursday to block off Bluff Street during the parade.

Business Development:

Cath Rape showed the two banners she ordered for the Rt 68 sign to celebrate America 250 years. Cath inquired if anyone made a flow chart from the Hershey movie that John Rice suggested. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he thinks the movie company did an excellent job. Greg Such commented that he thinks there were some out of town matrons that were upset because of traffic related issues. Cath Rape inquired if anyone was contacted about the guardrail on Rt. 68. Bob Leonberg called our Penn Dot Rep, Cory Shaffer. Cathy also inquired on the Asservo Project about human trafficking, she would like to pursue asking the Museum if they would give Sewart Hall in October, but be sponsored by the Borough as a public safety program. We could publicize it in the newspaper, Facebook, and the Borough website. The newspaper might do an article as there was a human traffic incident by Young's Custard Stand about two months ago, where some guys from out of town lured a teenage girl to Ohio. Council approved Cath doing a public safety program with the Asservo Project sponsored by the Borough at Stewart Hall.

Personnel:

Greg Such asked for a motion to increase the employee boot allowance from \$50 to \$100. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved increasing the employee boot allowance to \$100. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote to hire Nathan Ion.

Finance:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Streets:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote on the storm drain repair on Mercer Street by Wunderbar.

Facilities:

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote on the gutter repair at the Borough Building in the amount of \$500. The Borough received a quote from Dave Wilcox to coat the gutters, the quote is in the amount of \$1,500. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if it would be better to wait and replace the gutters with ½ round galvanized gutters. Frank will get a quote to replace the gutters.

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Grants:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

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 **\$10,534.86**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$184.08**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$2,544.48**

Payroll in the amount of **\$11,668.84**

Parks Board Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$600.00**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$13,125.87**

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

Adjourned: 7:56PM

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the July 1, 2025 in-person meeting at 7:56PM. Motion to adjourn made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary