

June 3, 2025

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting June 3, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Jason Sarver

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Tim Eppinger

Sandy Ferrainola

Bob Leonberg

Jim Miller, ZPD

Matt Racunas, Solicitor - virtually

Larry Reynolds- virtually

John Ziegler

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council Vice President, Don Sims called the June 3, 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 Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the May 6, 2024 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that he is still investigating the grading and drain pipe issue that's bordering the paper alleyway from last month's meeting. Matt had some correspondence with Jackson Township, talked to the Borough Engineer, Tom Thompson, and Greg (Such). Matt has looked into some of the ordinances but does not have a response at this point, the investigation is ongoing and will update Council as it progresses.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments were needed.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Don Sims reported that Council previously approved to join the Southwest Butler Stormwater Authority and will formalize it with Resolution 2025-6-3. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Resolution 2025-6-3. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired on the Stormwater Authority loan vote. Don Sims commented that it is written in the Resolution, the amount of the loan is \$15,750. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the Borough will get that money back (that also is written in the Resolution).

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there are six Certificates of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommends to Council.

Cory & Hallie Kramer – 520 Main Street – Paint House, Sherwin-Williams Black Magic SW6991, window trim, door trim, and door; and Alabaster White SW7008, siding, front porch roof and brackets.

Cathy Gilg – 625 Wood Street – New 12'x14' breezeway, colors and materials to match existing porch and garage.

Sam Hopkins – 550 Main Street – Two 12" LED light strips at gable, two LED ground spot lights, and ten LED pathway lights.

Kasey Stewart – 428 Liberty Street – Replace existing siding with hardboard siding to match profile. Paint ivory to match existing color on porch posts.

Kasey Stewart – 430 Liberty Street – New shingle roof "Timberline Natural Shadow Slate," paint existing siding ivory to match colors on existing porch posts.

Andrew Orient – 516 Main Street – New fence – 516 & 514 side to be black aluminum, behind hedge will be chain link openings to be stained wood gates. Air conditioner compressor on northwest corner to be hidden by plantings or fence approved by HARB.

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HARB Cont.:

Jodi Correll – 614 Wood Street – New pool decking and fence, composite beach grey decking, composite grey railing with metal balusters.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luck, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all seven Certificates of Appropriateness.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported on the resignation of Pat Buckley effective June 7, 2025. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the resignation of Pat Buckley effective June 7, 2025.

Dave also reported that the Water Authority interviewed Nate Ion, he has a Class C license, and has some subclasses he needs to work towards. The Water Authority will hire Nate and ratify it at their next meeting.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the playground is close to being done, they are waiting on the cement. Cath Rape inquired if the sidewalk would be going in from the parking lot and then connect the two play areas. Susie Altemus responded that she thinks the sidewalk will go from the existing sidewalk to the swing area and then over to the other play area. Susie also reported that the first concert will be June 19th with This, That & the Other Thing at 7PM. The second concert will be June 26th with the Allegheny Brass Band at 8PM with fireworks to follow. The Parks Board is working on the Color Run for this summer, sponsors are still needed for the Color Run and the concerts. Susie inquired about placing signage for the Canoe Launch on the Stop Sign post at Mercer/Monroe Street and Monroe/Jackson Street as GPS takes you to US Liner, a picture of the proposed sign is in Council's packet. Don Sims commented that signs need to be a certain height, 7' off the ground. Susie will order two signs that can be placed on Mercer/Monroe and Monroe/Jackson Street. Susie reported that the Parks Board Members have been slowly working on spreading the mulch, the Canoe Launch is done, Wood Street Park is almost done, and Swampoodle Park still needs to be done. Susie reported that a limb needs cut at Wood Street Park.

Library Board:

John Ziegler reported that the Library is moving forward with the 3-season building, they may do 4-season. The Library will apply for a grant; it is a matching grant and requested if the Borough budgeted a donation for the Library to make that donation now.

Planning Commission:

Larry Reynolds had nothing new to report.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that occupancy for the administration building should be in September. The processing plant costs continue to go up as it moves through the design stages.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that there is a lot of work to do to get bills ready and prepped. Bonnie Forsythe is the Administrator for the Stormwater Authority and CoG. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested giving advance notice to the school to get the Stormwater fee in their budget. Greg reported letters will be sent out to larger organizations with larger bills. There is a Stormwater Authority meeting June 11th at 4PM with a Southwest Butler CoG meeting to follow. There may

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Storm Water Authority Cont.:

be discussion about how the larger organizations that are getting a larger bill can pay in installments as opposed to paying it all at once.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that limb pick-up is Thursday, June 5th.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Frank Luek reported that the Fiber Fest will be June 14th, there will be shuttle service at the Barn, the Weaver's Cabin and Stewart Hall.

Harmony Business Association:

Cath Rape reported that the next HBA meeting will be June 12th at 5PM at the Bottlebrush.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications Meeting will be June 10th at 9AM, and the Stormwater Authority Meeting will be June 11th at 4PM.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Street Manager:

Bob Leonberg reported that street sweeper will be here on June 9th and will use the hydrant at the water plant to avoid stirring up the system in town. More bolts were added to some of the street signs after the movie to make them more secure. RB Trees cut down a tree at the Canoe Launch that was rotted at the bottom and presented a safety hazard, that vote needs ratified. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the removal of the tree at the Canoe Launch by RB Trees. Mulch was delivered for the parks, the canoe launch has been cleaned again, 3 loads of salt have been ordered and 2 of those loads were delivered to Jackson Township as we are out of storage space. Penn Dot has been notified of the guardrail on Rt 68 and the bridge on Spring Street, they will look into it. Bob received a complaint about the storm drain on Rt 68 by Fox's Pizza, it is a state road but since the speed limit is under 35mph, the Borough is responsible. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if it would be the Stormwater Authority or the State that takes care of it; it is a safety hazard in the winter with the ice. Bob talked to Cory, our Penn Dot Representative. Greg Such suggested sending an email to Representative Stephanie Scialabba. Frank Luek commented that he saw something in the Borough Magazine that there is some legislation to change, that the State has to take care of more. Greg Such inquired if we should have someone camera the storm drain first to

Borough Street Manager Cont.:

see what the situation is. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that they won't camera it until they can run water through it. Bob Leonberg commented the grate is plugged, it is covered with asphalt and you can only see a little bit of the grate. Don Sims suggested that Bob get pictures of the out fall, both ends if possible. Bob reported that the catch basins on Pittsburgh Street to New Castle Street were cleaned, and still need to look at some on New Castle Street. Bob inquired if the playground can be open. Greg Such and Susie Altemus agreed to open the playground. Bob Leonberg also reported on pricing for a new dump truck, there is a hole on the siderail. For a new bed and hydraulics, it is around \$30,000.00 and for a new truck it is around \$80,000. The dump truck we have is a 2009. Don Sims suggested looking for a new bed first. Bob commented that Municipal Services recommended a heavy-duty aluminum bed, and said the new bed could be put on a new truck once the old truck goes, if the truck is another Ford. Greg Such inquired if everything was put back right after the movie, he would like to send a thank you note. Don Sims commented that he was impressed, they did a great job on the clean-up. Greg also commented that they did a great job on the clean-up and stated they asked if the Borough wanted them to do a second street sweeping. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that everyone enjoyed watching the filming. Joe Dippold inquired on the number of trucks that made the turn onto Liberty Street. There wasn't a count, but Frank Luek and Dave Szakelyhidi commented that there wasn't any damage.

Zoning and Codes:

Report submitted via email.

Jason Sarver reported that a resident tripped on a sidewalk, Larry is to move forward with sending a violation notice. Jason also commented on Tim Eppinger's property and that Matt is still researching it. Larry Reynolds commented that he sent Solicitor Matt some suggestions, Solicitor Matt commented that he received Larry's correspondence.

Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson was unable to attend. Greg Such reported that a call was put in to Jackson Township regarding the easement with Small Parts Machine but did not get a response back yet. Still waiting for the Penn Dot permit (for Zelianople) for the Square Project, maybe next month we will break it up and go out to bid separately.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that she received the Event Form for the South Division Street Block Party on July 26th starting at 2PM until dusk and requesting that Harmony's part of the street closed. This request will also be addressed at the Zelie Borough Council meeting. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the South Division Street Block Party on July 26th.

Business Development:

Cath Rape inquired on the SV Sign Project. Joe Dippold commented that it was in the newspaper. Greg Such commented that an email was sent out, the Borough was to nominate the locations for the signs and the school would give the signs to the Borough to put up. We are enclosed within Jackson Township and Zelianople Borough. Cath would like to order two banners for the Rt 68 sign to celebrate America 250 years, the cost for both banners would be \$140.

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Business Development Cont.:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Jason Sarver, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the purchase of 2 banners for \$140. Cath also reported on the Traffic Calming webinar she listened to about traffic problems; signage was suggested...drive like your kids live here; or to allow parking on one side of the road as it helps slow traffic down because two cars cannot fit. Speed bumps are for parking lots, but speed humps are ok; raised sidewalks, and bump-outs can help. Cath commented about bump-outs in front of Grace Church and the Museum; cars could make the turn but trucks could not. Don Sims inquired about school buses. The comment was made that the Engineer should know the turning radius for a school bus. Cath Rape would like to bring a program to the Borough called The Asservo Project, it is an educational event to raise awareness on human trafficking. It would be a free public program and would like have it in September. Greg Such inquired about using the Borough building for non-borough event. It was suggested to use Stewart Hall; it would also have more room. Cath commented it would be a Borough event it is a safety thing. Don Sims suggested to do a little more research on it. Cath Rape commented that anyone who is interested in looking at this can do so at Theasservoproject.org.

Personnel:

Jason Sarver had nothing new to report.

Finance:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Streets:

Don Sims had nothing new to report.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there is a hole in the gutter, Dave Wilcox came to look at it and will fix it.

Grants:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

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 **\$32,083.55**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$15,081.10**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$1,1012.14**

Payroll in the amount of **\$9,412.69**

Parks Board Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$254.70**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$3,665.56**

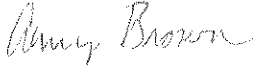
In a motion made by Jason Sarver and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved all bills for payment as presented on the lists.

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Adjourned: 8:00PM

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the June 3, 2025 in-person meeting at 8:00PM. Motion to adjourn made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek.

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 2025

Received a call from Mr. Hugh McCabe inquiring if he would need a permit to widen his driveway and take down a tree. I covered the required permit to expand the driveway and to hire a professional to take down the tree.

Received a call from Mr. Richard Shields complaining about Mr. Tim Eppinger building a pipeline from his root cellar onto Mr. Shields property. I recommended he come to the Harmony Council Meeting on Tuesday night and state his case to the Council.

Prepared a report on Tim Eppinger's property for the mayor and council.

Attended Council Meeting by Zoom.

Prepared a fire alarm permit application for Northeastern Security Systems to install at Robinson Fans.

Received a call from Mr. Steve Singer of Lancaster Township as to required permits. I referred him to the proper people in Lancaster.

Received an email from Karen Dodge inquiring why our sign ordinance limits a sign to 32 square feet. I explained that if they wished they could appeal to the Zoning Hearing Board with a \$250.00 fee.

Received a call from Joy Roland requesting the setbacks for a deck on her rear yard.

Received a complaint about overgrown lawn at 566 Main Street. Went to check and the lawn had been cut.

Received a complaint concerning overgrown lawn at log cabin at the corner of Spring & Mercer.

Prepared a Violation Notice for Mr. Matt Reisinger of 242 Mercer Street for lawn grass not cut.

Received a call from Stephanie of Fire Fighter Sales in reference to an alarm permit for US Liner. I covered all the fees involved and the inspection done by Tom McCosby. She will stop by Borough Hall to pick up paperwork.

Received a call from Deborah Schultheis concerning a phone line drooping on her property. I checked and determined she lives in Lancaster Township.

Gave her names to call to remove the line.

Prepared the Tim Eppinger report for the Mayor & Council. Picked up Grace Church Application from Amy.

Received a complaint about high grass at corner of Charles Street and North Liberty. Spoke with Amy who was able to determine the owner is Keith Pletz. I tracked him down to call his business and left a message.

Prepared Grace Church Sign Permit.

Prepared Notice of Violation for sidewalk for Bill Thomas at 735 Spring Street.

Prepared monthly report for council and time sheet.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry A. Reynolds
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer