

November 12, 2025

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting November 12, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Melanie Fessides

Sandy Ferrainola

Bob Leonberg

Kathy Luek

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President, Greg Such called the November 12, 2025 Council Meeting to order at 7:00PM.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Dave Rogers, former Harmony Borough Council President who passed away on October 7th. Dave worked with Roger Weaver to get the historic lights in town. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved a \$75 donation to the Zelig Library for a book in memory of Dave Rogers.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the October 7, 2025 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas was unable to attend the meeting. Greg Such reported that he has been working on a PA DCED Local Share Account (LSA) Grant. As part of the grant a Council Resolution is required. The Resolution reads:

Be it RESOLVED, that the Borough of Harmony of County of Butler hereby requests a Statewide Local Share Assessment grant of \$143,950 from the Commonwealth Financing Authority to be used for the purchase of snowplow/street salting equipment.

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Applicant does hereby designate Gregory Such, Borough Council President, and Donald Sims, Borough Vice Council President, as the official(s) to execute all documents and agreements between the Borough of Harmony and the Commonwealth Financing Authority to facilitate and assist in obtaining the requested grant.

I, Amy Brown, duly qualified Secretary of the Borough of Harmony, County of Butler, PA, hereby certify that the forgoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted by a majority vote of the Harmony Borough Council at a regular meeting held November 12th, 2025 and said Resolution has been recorded in the Minutes of the Harmony Borough Council and remains in effect as of this date.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I affix my hand and attach the seal of the Borough of Harmony this 13th day of November 2025.

Amy Brown, Secretary

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Resolution 2025-11-2 for the LSA Grant.

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SOLICITOR’S REPORT CONT.:

As additional work on the grant request, Greg has been working on a required narrative with Tom Thompson, getting letters of support from Senator Vogel, Representative Stephanie Scialabba and Mark Gordon. Greg also has a traffic count from US Liner, and a bus count from Seneca Valley School. Greg reported that once submitted approval will take about a year. Additionally, Greg Such commented that an executive session is needed for litigation.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that Don Pepe had agreed to finish Jason Sarver’s term, however, the Diocese does not allow clergyman to hold an elected position.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

At the CoG meeting, Greg Such reported that CoG agreed to pay the Shields paving bills. Harmony Borough was invited to participate in the Jackson Parks plan; they are building a community center at Sipple Park. The community center will include a kitchen, restroom, and a small social room. The consensus for the EMS is to add a half mill to our real estate tax and make that an EMS contribution. Maor Cathy Rape inquired on what kind of salaries are the EMS Board members making. The EMS did provide a spreadsheet on the finances. Dave Szakelyhidi inquired if it is legal to use tax money to pay a private ambulance service? Dave also suggested not to approve the half mill unless all the municipalities served by that ambulance service approve it; just like we did for the fireman and waited for all the other municipalities to sign off on it. Greg reported that the County Commissioners gave money to Butler Community College to start a paramedic and EMT class.

Greg also reported that Kevin Behun reported that the Fire District will be voting for a new Chief, and that getting volunteers for the Fire District is going well.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that there is one Certificate of Appropriateness that HARB approved and recommends to Council.

Harmony Museum – 222 Mercer Street – New bronze plaque for Tim Shffer on the Wagner House. “In grateful appreciation to Tim Shaffer for his faithful, commitment to Historic Harmony. “In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 222 Mercer Street.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Water Authority Engineer has assured him that the Water Authority will be able to supply water to the 157-unit Shipley development and the Seneca Valley expansion project, adding that the Chlorine Loop Project will help increase the plant pumping capacity.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported she filled out the Event Form for the Silvester but she needs to finalize it. Greg Such reported that we are still waiting for approval from DCNR for the concrete work on the playground. Susie reported that the Rotary contacted her to use the Wood Street Park for Shamrock Shuffle on March 21, 2026.

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Library Board:

John Ziegler was unable to attend the meeting.

Planning Commission:

Greg Such reported that the Planning Commission chair is vacant.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that the administration building is done and there was an open house on the 29th of October that was well attended. Mark Gordon gave the building a shout out at the Commissioners Communications meeting and talked about how nice you can develop something when everyone works together.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that the meeting was today, yearly fee collections were at the 2/3 of the way point. Harmony is leading the way with an 80% participation payment rate. The big holdouts are the industrials and institutions. Greg also reported that he and Tom Thompson need to fine tune estimates for the Borough's stormwater capital improvement plan. They need a narrative for each project cost and how it will be funded from the borough side, and if there is possible grant funding available. Evans City has at least 1 project done, maybe 2. For those projects, Evans City was dispersed \$25k for FY24-25 projects. Evans City is also ahead of us in terms of having shovel-ready projects. Jackson Township submitted O&M expenses for Swain Hill; those expenses were \$36,767 and were approved for disbursement. Harmony Borough can submit somewhere between \$6,700 to \$8,600 for O&M work this year. Greg commented we are using ranges, as there was some thinking that if not all of the fees were collected the total share should be reduced accordingly, which the representatives agreed with. Greg also reported that the money does carry forward, if we do not spend it this year, we can spend it next year. Harmony Borough had around \$5500 in stormwater repairs this year. Greg Such reported that Jackson Township's Swampoodle Stormwater Project is being held up pending an artifact study on farmland. Greg reported that there was a suggestion to add a stormwater section to the newsletter for each community that puts one out, the Stormwater Authority will post a quarterly newsletter as well.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that he and Melanie have helped Zelig with pickup some of their leaves on High Street and Beaver Street. Cath Rape commented that Jason from Zelig was happy to come over to hang the banners in the Square.

Parking and Signage:

Phyllis Metz reported on a courtesy handicap sign that the Borough previously put up on German Street for the woman who lived in the second house on Main Street, the woman passed away and her daughter lives in the house on the corner. During the Christmas Market somebody parked there thinking it was a Borough handicap spot. The homeowner requested the handicap sign be removed. Council requested Bob to remove it.

Historic Harmony:

Kathy Luek thanked everyone on Council for helping with the Christmas Market. Saturday was a great day, Sunday was not so great. Some people still parked on Liberty Street but the corners were open, making it easier for buses to get through. Closing the Borough lot did not work for

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Historic Harmony Cont.:

handicap parking, people moved the barriers and parked. Kathy Luek also reported on the Heritage Awards that Historic Harmony has been giving the award since 1992 to local restorations. Kathy would like to nominate two properties on Division Street, one used to be Leopold, now Tom Thompson's and the other was also Leopold's. If anyone has any other nominees, let Kathy Luek know.

Harmony Business Association:

Cath Rape reported there will be a meeting in December at Bottlebrush but that might be the end.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications Meeting was this morning, Dr. Rottinghaus reported that the finances are now about break-even for Independence Health System, which means that that merger might be working. They have 7,300 total employees now. IHS is concerned about changes in the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid, which will mostly impact them in 2028. Dr. Rottinghaus said to get your maintenance screenings and talk to your doctor about vaccinations. Mike Mattis, from Penn Dot, talked about their annual outreach meeting that they hold on the 18th of November and gave a phone number that the PennDot Butler Maintenance Organization publishes for Dead Deer Collection, that number is 724-284-8800.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kathy Luek inquired how much it would be for the ½ mill for the EMS. Greg Such commented that he didn't know but could find out. Don Sims commented that on average the houses on his end of town, a mill is about \$100.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Office:

Greg Such reported that we received a check for the damage to the monument. There is a piece of stone outside Rome Monument that Pat Boylan recommended as a possible design for a new one. Cath Rape inquired if Council wants the war monuments in the Square and commented that a monument could be placed at the borough building, the concern is the monument getting hit again. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that he asked Tom Thompson to give barrier ideas and Tom gave the idea of a bell and added that there was a report of one getting caught in between the wheels of a truck and dragging it down the street. Greg Such commented that Mark Rodgers is in Germany and will look at town squares for some ideas. Greg Such suggested Council think about it over the winter and recommended having some meetings to discuss ideas. Mayor Cath Rape commented that she is meeting with our Penn Dot Rep, Cory Shaffer tomorrow morning at 9:00AM here in the borough building. Cath stated that she documented every sign coming into town from the round-about, and from Rt. 68 and will ask Cory to give us ideas of what we need to change in signage or something better. Cath suggested a sign at Evergreen Mill Road stating 'No Left Turn' for trucks, the truck route should be right turn. Don Sims commented that Council opened that up as the truck route through the lower part of town. Don would like to remove that ordinance. It was stated that trucks deliver to Small Parts, Wunderbar and Union Brothers. The truck that delivers to Small Parts comes in off of Spring Street and the trucks that deliver to Wunderbar and Union Brothers are not full-size tractor trailers. Frank Luek

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Office Cont.:

commented that Andrew Orient suggested a long time ago to put up a sign that says the speed limit through the Historic District 15mph and thru traffic use Spring Street and German Street. Greg Such suggested to ask Cory his opinion of lowering the speed limit to 15mph. Don Sims suggested to ask Cory Shaffer about the Square and barriers too.

Borough Street Manager:

Bob Leonberg reported that they fixed a sign on Highland that was knocked over. Voelker was in and patched Mercer Street from last month's water leak. Bob also reported that the leaf machine blew a water pump last week, Council needs to ratify the repair. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the water pump repair on the leaf machine. Don Sims commented that he and Bob discussed the possibility of extending leaf season but with Bob taking vacation, it will remain as is. The last day for curbside pick-up will be November 20th and bagged leaves can be pick-up until December 23rd.

Zoning and Codes:

Report submitted. (attached)

Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson was unable to attend. Greg Such reported that he spoke to Ben Gilberti form HRG about the multimodal grant for Spring Street. Greg suggested asking Cory Shaffer at tomorrow's meeting if Tom (Thompson) has talked to him about the Spring Street drainage.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz had nothing new to report.

Business Development:

Cath Rape had nothing new to report.

Phyllis Metz reported at the Butler County Borough's Association meeting, Kevin Boozle gave information about America 250 PA. Butler County has money allocated for anniversary events. There is a Resolution and if the Borough passes the resolution we get a star. Phyllis will give Amy the information for Amy to send out to Council via email and it can be discussed at next month's meeting.

Personnel:

Greg Such reported that health care renewal is due, it needs to be signed before the end of the month in order not to remain on the prior healthcare plan, which increased by 11%. We met with the healthcare rep and picked a plan that only increased 5%, the downside of it is that the deductible increases. In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the EPO healthcare plan with the higher deductible.

Finance:

Greg Such reported that the 2026 Preliminary Budget was sent out to Council and asked for a motion to advertise the Preliminary Budget. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to advertise the Preliminary Budget for 2026. Greg commented that 2026 is a reorganization year and Council could reopen the budget if they wish to do so. Joe Dippold complimented Greg on doing a great job with the budget.

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Streets:

Don Sims reiterated that the leaf season will remain on the original schedule until November 20th and can be bagged after that. T&M Hardware and Home Depot sell the paper bags.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing to report. Dave inquired on the street lights. Bob Leonberg commented we need 8 total. Dave inquired if the lights should be ordered at the beginning of the year as it takes awhile to get them vs waiting until the tax money comes in. Dave commented that if the lights were here and the employees didn't have something to do in the middle of winter and the weather was decent, maybe they could put lights up. Frank Luek commented about not having anything in the budget for the gutters and down spouts. It was asked when the gutters were replaced previously and how much those gutters cost. The gutters were replaced in early 2000. Tim Grech's (Performance Seamless Gutters) quote was \$5,600. Greg Such suggested to look for some money for the gutter repair, and next year decide if we want to replace them.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that there is a Butler County Tourism Grant open, Historic Harmony didn't seem interested to pursue that grant as they weren't done with the prior grant they were awarded.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Greg Such reported that training and conferences are 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 **\$19,606.98**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$20.39**

Liquid Fuels Bills Payable in the amount of **\$42,032.00**

Silvester Fund Bills Payable in the amount of **\$400.00**

Payroll in the amount of **\$10,300.26**

Parks Board Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$425.00**

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$8,880.40**

Frank Luek questioned Solicitor's Matt bill. Greg Such commented that Council can discuss it in executive session pointing out the last item on Melanie's Zoning Report. Melanie Feesides commented that Tom McCosby stated that a temporary electrical service does not require a permit only an inspection.

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.

Greg Such called for an executive session at 8:06PM. The group came out of executive session at 8:20PM.

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Adjourned: 8:20PM

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the November 12, 2025 meeting at 8:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Brown".

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Zoning Report - October 2025

- Issued building permit for a resident on Bluff St.
- Issued building permit for Rome Monument to add an awning sign for their business.
- Sent a violation to 1115 Seneca Dr. for a downspout pipe directing stormwater onto neighboring property 1113 Seneca Dr. The homeowner dug up the pipe which was actually coming out of a gravel pit in the backyard installed for drainage. The pipe was removed. The homeowner ran water into their downspout for several minutes and no water was detected running on to neighboring property. Issue is considered resolved.
- Received several inquiries regarding shed placements but no requests for permits were filed.
- 274 Mercer St. inquired about placing a flagpole in their yard. They are not in the historic district and no ordinance in regards to flagpoles could be found. I told him not to exceed 20ft in height/any taller than his house. He stated that the pole he wanted to install was about 15 feet tall.
- A street opening permit was issued for 763/764 Spring St. to run conduit under the road to install temporary electrical service to the property across the street.