

October 7, 2025

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting October 7, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Bob Leonberg

Kathy Luek

Jim Miller, ZPD

Solicitor Matt Racunas

Kelly Sienkiewicz

Tom Thompson, Engineer

John Ziegler

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CALL TO ORDER:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the September 2, 2025 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that the Eppinger and Shields issue has been delayed due to the Borough not having a Code Officer. Matt also reported that an executive session will be needed to discuss litigation. The date for Trick or Treat needs to be set, in a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Trick or Treat to be on October 31st from 6PM until 8PM.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that he spoke to Don Pepe and Jason Sarver, Don Pepe has agreed to take Jason's seat on Council. Solicitor Matt stated that the Borough needs a letter of resignation from Jason before Don could be appointed.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Greg Such reported that Jerry Andree's meeting is tomorrow, October 8th, at 2:45PM, that meeting will include Steve Bicehouse and is at the Jackson Township building. The Stormwater Authority Meeting is at 4PM and the Southwest CoG meeting is at 5PM tomorrow.

HARB:

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

Erin Makowski – 229 Mercer Street – New sign for “The Crooked Spindle.” In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 229 Mercer Street.

Ashley Heintzi – 534 Main Street – New sign for “Lagerhaus Bakery.” In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 534 Main Street. Joe Dippold abstained.

Jeff Byko – 309 German Street - New front window. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 309 German Street.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Borough made it through the drought, even though the County has issued a voluntary drought watch. The Water Authority is working on several projects at this time and three operators have taken their test and are waiting for results.

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Parks Board:

Greg Such reported that planning for the Silvester continues, they are revising the course for the 1-mile fun run. Susie Altemus and Greg met with Kevin from the County and Lance from Butler to discuss handicapped access into the playground. Tom Thompson is to send Lance elevations. Tom Thompson reported that he did give the elevations to Lance and that Lance will give a quote.

Library Board:

John Ziegler reported that the Library submitted the grant application on November 1st. There is a Soups & Strings Event on Friday, October 17th from 5PM until 7PM, the event is outdoors and it is recommended to bring your own chair. This event will unveil the plans for the new Library Community Center, music by local instrumentalists, "16 Strings" and bowls of soup, cookies and soft drink/water can be purchased.

Planning Commission:

Frank Luek had nothing new to report for the Planning Commission.

Greg Such reported on the 2026 price increase of the Zoning Hearing Board Solicitor, Gallagher Law Group. The firm's rate for legal services will increase to \$205.00 per hour. (It is a \$5/hr. increase). In a motion made by Joe Dippold and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the rate increase for Gallagher Law Group for the ZHB.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that the administration building will be occupied in November and that planning continues on the new plant.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that the late fees on payments were waived for this year, the bills will go out again in July.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that limb pick-up has ended for the year.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Kathy Luek reported that the Christmas Market will be November 8th & 9th, volunteers will be decorating the town on Saturday, November 1st.

Harmony Business Association:

Cath Rape reported that Sleepy Hollow is this week-end, October 11th from 10AM until 4PM, Haunted Harmony will be October 25th starting at 4PM, and the next HBA meeting will be December 11th, all of the current officers will be resigning.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications Meeting was yesterday, October 6th, and discussed voting preparations. Election Day is November 4th. Harmony Borough's next

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Other Meetings Cont.:

council meeting will be Wednesday, November 12th. The Stormwater Authority Meeting will be October 8th at 4PM with the Southwest COG meeting on October 8th at 5:00PM. Those two meetings are at the Jackson Township building. The Study Group -Regional EMS meeting will be October 21st at 6PM in Cranberry Township.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Greg Such commented that a resident's garage doors were blocked, Chief Miller inquired if the resident called 911. Bob Leonberg is to paint an X by the resident's garage doors. Frank Luek commented about cars parking next to the fire hydrant on Main Street near the Rodgers Brothers.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Greg Such reported on the monument repair, the Borough received an estimate for the sandstone repair, and are to get help from Rome Monument to reset the monument. Pat Boyland and Rome suggested replacing the monument with granite. Cath Rape and Dave Szakelyhidi will meet with Pat Boylan and Rome Monuments on 10/8 at 11AM to get their ideas.

Borough Street Manager:

Bob Leonberg reported that the paving is finished, and water is flowing in the catch basins. Line painting is done. Verizon has not done too much damage on Pittsburgh Street installing fiber optics, there are a couple of holes. Bob reported Lake Forrest will charge \$2,000 for the deposit of leaves. Leaf pick-up will start October 20th and will end November 20th, after November 20th leaves can be bagged in paper bags and picked up by the Borough until December 23rd. Bob reported that storm water is coming down from Rt 68 by Robinson, the cleaned culvert is working. Bob also reported that he and Melanie will be attending a One Call class on Thursday and he will be attending another class for his water license. SEI is still waiting on sprockets for the salt spreader; we do not have a bill yet. Greg Such reported that Council needs to ratify the on-line vote for the dump truck repairs. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote for the dump truck repairs.

Zoning and Codes:

Greg Such reported that an executive session will be needed. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that HARB needs a Code Enforcement Officer, Greg Such commented that a council member can temporarily fill in. Frank Luek commented about Penny English expressing interest.

Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported on the Stormwater Project, the pre-cast concrete material is to come in mid-November. Hoping to have a price by next meeting. Don Sims inquired on an end-date. Tom Thompsons responded April or May, start-date is estimated December or early January. Regarding the RACP Project, they have two contracts in Zelig waiting to be issued on the electric portion. Armstrong is to revisit the Square, Gannett Fleming is close to getting it out to bid; there are six contracts in the package. Don Sims inquired on a timeframe. Tom Thompson

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Engineer Report Cont.:

commented four months, estimating it will be done by May. The sidewalk work will be done first. Bob Leonberg inquired if he should wait until next year on the catch basin by the old firehall and Grace Church. Greg Such commented to do it before the RACP and Don Sims commented not to be in the contractor's way.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported that ShuBrew is to host a pop-up bar at Bottlebrush during the Haunted Harmony. Chief Miller commented that they would need a special event permit and the ZPD would need a copy of that permit. A Certificate of Insurance would be needed if the pop-up bar is outside, but if it is inside, it would not matter. Phyllis Metz reported that someone with the Christmas Market inquired to have the Borough parking lot blocked off for church-goers on Sunday, Nov. 9th as the Market starts before church is over. Greg Such commented that the church allows the Borough to use their gym for the Silvester. Phyllis also reported that they asked to have cones on the right side of Wood Street. Greg suggested to wait until we know who the requests came from.

Business Development:

Cath Rape thanked the volunteers who watered the flowers in the Square: Karen Sharrar, Kristen Stumm and Susan Franz. Cath reported that she was asked if the Borough would be interested in a dumpster for recycling glass, It was decided the dumpster is large and the borough does not have space for it. Cath reported that she picked trash up twice in the parking lot on Main Street and took it over to the business and placed it in their trash can. Cath suggested getting lids for the trash cans so they do not get full of water.

Personnel:

Greg Such reported that the 2026 MMO amounts were sent out via email as they came in after our September meeting but needed to be announced, signed and returned by September 30th. The Defined Contribution 2026 MMO amount is \$43,747 and the Defined Contribution 2026 MMO amount is \$33,222. Greg reported that an executive session is needed to discuss the Zoning & Codes position, the position is still vacant.

Finance:

Greg Such reported that Ann John requested to change the Tax Collector Deputy from Tonya Reynolds to Deb Reeb who is Zelenople's Tax Collector and would be more familiar with the system. Greg also reported that the Butler County Infrastructure Bank loan payment is on the bills payable list, \$46,000 principal and \$6,310.40 interest.

Streets:

Don Sims inquired if the RACP Project would start prior to the Silvester. The Silvester will be discussed at the Pre-construction meeting. It was also recommended to look at leaf pick-up to see if it would need to be adjusted, priority is safety with snow removal.

Facilities:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported on the quote to replace the gutters on the borough building. The quote is from Performance Seamless Gutters in the amount of \$5,866.50. Dave commented that the gutter was repaired to stop water from dripping down, and suggested waiting until next year to save money. Frank Luek commented that it is a pretty good quote from what Tim Gretch told him. Don Sims suggested getting another quote/bid and revisit this next year.

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Facilities Cont.:

Cath Rape reported that someone asked her about removing the locks on the bridge (by Union Brothers). Greg Such commented that it's Locks of Love, Don Sims commented that his wife thinks it's wonderful. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that it isn't the Borough's bridge, it is a County bridge. Council agreed not to remove the locks from the bridge.

Grants:

Greg Such reported that the LSA Grant is due in November for the plow truck. The Borough has a bid from Stephenson Equipment for an F600 Gas Dump Truck with a salt spreader. Bob Leonberg inquired on the height of the truck as the skid steer can only extend a certain height to load salt into the bed, it is about 97" now. Greg will get a height on the F600. Don Sims commented that we don't want to catch something when lifting the dump bed. Greg commented that the grant money is from thoroughbred horse tracks. Tom Thompson commented about a Resolution, the LSA could be 100% or a 5% match. Tom Thompson reported on a Multimodal Grant for Spring Street on the repair needed for the culvert and roadway, the sidewalk could be replaced and drain work put in. It is a 70% grant with a 30% match and the Borough could go to the County for the 30% match, or most of the match. Cory Shaffer can work with the Borough. Greg Such commented about crossing Spring Street to put drains in along Spring and coordinate with the Water Authority. We will need to gather facts for the project and costs, there is \$100 application. Tom Thompson commented it would be good to change elevation and replace the sidewalk. Greg Such suggested possibly cutting the tree down that is causing the issue with the sidewalk. Tom Thompson will reach out to Cory Shaffer to get started.

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 **\$108,084.42**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$196.92**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$92.84**

Payroll in the amount of **\$16,107.41**

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

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$9,493.90**

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

Greg Such called for an executive session at 8:05PM. The group came out of executive session at 8:37PM.

In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to appoint Melanie Fessides as Borough Code Officer pending her acceptance of \$1/hr. raise and training as required by Council.

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Adjourned: 8:38PM

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the October 7, 2025 in-person meeting at 8:38PM. Motion to adjourn made by Don Sims and seconded by Phyllis Metz.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary