

September 2, 2025

HARMONY BOROUGH Council Meeting September 2, 2025

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Joe Dippold

Frank Luek

Phyllis Metz

Don Sims

Dave Szakelyhidi

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Sandy Ferrainola

Sam Hopkins

Bob Leonberg

Kathy Luek

Jim Miller, ZPD

Solicitor Matt Racunas- virtually

Tom Thompson, Engineer

John Ziegler

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CALL TO ORDER:

Council President, Greg Such called the September 2, 2025 Council Meeting to order at 7:00PM. This meeting was held in-person and remotely through Zoom virtual meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLIGANCE:

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Harold Herr, former Harmony Borough Councilman and Harmony Borough Water Authority Board Member who passed away on August 20th.

MINUTES:

In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the August 5, 2025 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas commented that he was unaware that Harold Herr passed away, and was very sorry to hear of his passing, he knew Harold for many, many years, both on Council and the Water Authority, he was a great man and great public servant and will definitely be missed; and to please pass his condolences on to Harold's family.

Matt reported that he and Tom Thompson, the Borough Engineer, continue to work on the Eppinger and Shields issue. Matt also reported that he was okay with the voting location agreement from Butler County. It is a lease agreement to use our municipal building for voting as they have in past years. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the lease agreement from Butler County as the voting location for Harmony Borough. Solicitor Matt reported on the Parking Ordinance, Matt talked to Chief Miller and Greg (Such) about it, it has been advertised and is ready for adoption. Greg Such commented that the Ordinance is that Zelienople Police can write a \$25 ticket to people that violate parking. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Parking Ordinance #445. Greg Such inquired if Jason (Sarver) moved forward on the Thomas sidewalk issue. Solicitor Matt responded no.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that no appointments are needed.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Greg Such reported that Quality EMS gave a presentation about finances.

HARB:

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

Bonnie Nolan-638 Wood Street - Complete roof replacement, gutters, soffit, fascia, and metal roof. All colors to remain the same. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 638 Wood Street.

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HARB Cont.:

Delsa White-521 Main Street – Paint staircase and trim red clay, same as existing color; and replace two lower-level front windows white vinyl with white grill. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Phyllis Metz, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for 521 Main Street.

Richard and Susan Webb-229 Mercer Street – Repaint existing dark green trim in-kind, Billiard Green. 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.

Harmony Water Authority:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that DEP approved the capacity increase of the plant once the chlorine loop is installed. The new development on Little Creek, by the red light by Seneca School, will be Harmony Borough Water Authority customers. They are starting to bore under the road for the sewer lines now.

Parks Board:

Susie Altemus reported that the Color Run was a big success and thanked everyone that volunteered and helped fund it. The Parks Board has started working on the Silvester celebration. Jackson Township mowed the side of the Trail. The trees that the Parks Board planted a year ago are doing great. Tom Thompson reported that he is working with Lance on the DCNR Grant. Greg Such reported they need to ratify the email vote to replace the park steps, the cost for the steps from TSH was \$4,000 and \$200 to put the curb in on Mercer in front of the Wunder Bar where the catch basin was repaired for the paving. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote for TSH to replace the steps by the park for \$4,000 and replace the curb on Mercer Street by Wunderbar for \$200.

Library Board:

John Ziegler thanked Harmony Borough for the donation of \$1,000 to the Library. They are moving ahead with the grant application. The architect submitted the drawings for the community center, there will be an extra storage area, two bathrooms, and the plan is to have an outside kitchen.

Planning Commission:

Greg Such reported that our Planning Commission Chair is currently vacant.

WBCA:

Greg Such reported that the administration building is coming along nicely. Planning is also in place for the plant that processes all the waste.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that 5 or 6 people attended the Storm Water Authority meeting to question their bills, most of those were amicably resolved. For this year only, the late fees on payments will be waived. Greg also reported that the Borough will need to submit bills to get reimbursed for our operations and maintenance. Greg reported that the Lost Railway Park made it on the long-term project list, the plan is to do a study for it. The Capital Improvement Projects were emailed to Council for review; Greg asked for a motion to accept those projects listed on our plan. In a motion made Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough

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Storm Water Authority Cont.:

Council unanimously approved Harmony Borough's Capital Improvement Projects listed by the Storm Water Authority.

Shared Services:

Bob Leonberg reported that the next and last limb pick-up will be Thursday, September 11th.

Parking and Signage:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Historic Harmony:

Kathy Luek reported that she submitted the Event Form for the Christmas Market. Phyllis Metz will present it to Council during the Public Safety section.

Harmony Business Association:

Cath Rape reported that there is a new music lessons store that opened upstairs of the Emporium. The next meeting will be in October.

Other Meetings:

Greg Such reported that the Commissioners Communications Meeting will be September 8th at 2PM, and the Stormwater Authority Meeting will be September 10th at 4PM with the Southwest COG meeting on September 10th at 5:00PM. Those two meetings are at the Jackson Township building.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:

Police Report:

Report submitted via email.

Chief Miller reported that the Rodgers are having an event on September 19th and 20th, there will be more traffic, and there will be a lot of VIPs in town. Greg Such asked Bob (Leonberg) to make sure the Square looks as good as it can on the 17th and 18th.

Office:

Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Street Manager:

Bob Leonberg reported pavers are coming next week. The road is starting to sink on First Street by the stop bar and catch basin. They put up a new light at Riggins, Melanie put top soil, grass seed, and straw down by the top of steps by the park and has been watering it. Bob will take the cones down and open the steps back up. Bob reported that SEI checked out the salt spreader and is looking for parts, the chain and one of the sprockets were bad. Bob reported that there was a One Call for Verizon for the upper part of town that covers a lot of areas. Tom Thompson reported that he is waiting for a return call, they had told the facility that they are putting new fiber optic lines underground but couldn't say where. Bob reported that a metal beam was rotting out in the borough garage, he and Melanie put some cement around it. Bob also reported that Council needs to ratify the email vote for the pick-up truck repairs. In a motion made Phyllis

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Borough Street Manager Cont.:

Metz and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to ratify the vote for the pick-up truck repairs in the amount of \$1,230. Bob reported that he and Melanie painted the yellow lines around the Inn. Chief Miller suggested painting a large X on the street in front of Mark's (Sapienza) garage. Bob also reported that he received a new quote from Sure Line for line striping, it is \$2,735 for the stop lines and crosswalks on Mercer, Spring & Wood; \$450 for the Rt 68 crosswalk; and \$650 for the double yellow line on Mercer Street. The original quote was \$4,880. Council agreed to have the line painting done after the paving was complete.

Zoning and Codes:

Greg Such reported that the Borough has a new applicant or volunteer for Zoning and Codes, his name is Craig Klingler. Craig and his wife, Cheryl Chalmers live on Monroe Street. Craig is an engineer and will be retiring in January, and will need to be brought up to speed on all the borough side of how things work.

Engineer Report:

Engineer Tom Thompson reported on the Stormwater Project, they are on schedule for next month to come in. Tom does not have the revised cost, but will hopefully have that for next month's council meeting. The RACP Project, they have the specifications completed and are working and waiting on the electrical drawing for Zelie and then will go out to bid. Don Sims commented that he wants it entered into the meeting minutes the stormwater contractor says he is going to mobilize to the site on the 25th of October and he is going to be complete on the 19th of December. The Canoe Launch or Swampoodle Park could be used to store materials if necessary.

Public Safety:

Phyllis Metz reported on the revised Event Form for Sleepy Hollow, it will be on October 11th from 10AM-4PM, they are asking for restriction on the street to accommodate pedestrians, not a full street closure. There will be saw horses at each end of Wood Street at Mercer Street and Foundry Alley that can be moved if needed. The Certificate of Insurance has been submitted with the original Event Form. In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the revised Sleepy Hollow Event Form. Phyllis Metz also reported on German Christmas Market on November 8th and November 9th from 10AM-6PM on Saturday and from 11AM-4PM on Sunday. The Certificate of Insurance and the Request for Police Service has been submitted. They are requesting no parking on part of Liberty Street (from Mercer Street to German Street). In a motion made by Phyllis Metz and seconded by Frank Luek, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the German Christmas Market Event Form.

Business Development:

Cath Rape commented that she would like to promote the Asservo Project, which is the human trafficking meeting that Harmony Borough is sponsoring at Harmony Museum this month on the 25th at 7:00PM. Please come and hear the program. Susie Altemus suggested posting a flyer on the kiosk at the trailhead.

Personnel:

Greg Such reported that Craig Klingler has agreed to be the Borough's Zoning and Codes person and attend the HARB meetings. The plan was to have him sit with Amy and then with Jason, and

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Personnel Cont.:

also review Larry's materials, there are a number of PSAB webinars as well. Greg asked for a motion to bring Craig on and at \$20/hour. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously agreed to hire Craig Klingler as the Zoning and Codes Officer starting at \$20/hour.

Greg also reported that when Ron Zinkham passed, the Borough donated \$75 to the library for a book in memorial, Greg would like the Borough to make a \$75 donation to the library on behalf of Harold Herr as well. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved a \$75 donation to the Zelig Library for a book in memory of Harold Herr.

Greg Such reported on the renewal of the UniFirst Service Agreement, this is for the uniforms and some of the mats in the borough building, the prices remain the same. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved to renew the Service Agreement with UniFirst for the uniforms and mats.

Finance:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Streets:

Don Sims reported on the paving schedule, 9/9 is the milling and we were able to get them to tighten up their schedule and come back in on 9/11 to pave. The pavers are going to fix any soft spot areas, and backfill with binder. Don reminded the contractor that once they pull off the site, that the responsibility for the care of the subbase was going to be theirs. The Borough cannot be held responsible for it for days on end, and so they decided to come back in two days. Don spoke to Greg about his concern with heavy trucks coming through town on the truck route. Greg Such reported that there wasn't enough time to temporarily suspend the truck route by ordinance because of time requirement for posting in the Butler Eagle. Greg prepared a Resolution that basically says, whereas the Council of Harmony Borough acknowledges the upcoming paving schedule for Mercer Street from the bridge at the Connoquenessing Creek to Main Street as part of the 2025 Butler County Joint Purchasing Program. Whereas the Council of Harmony Borough deems it necessary to reduce truck traffic on Mercer Street during paving, currently scheduled to be from September 9th to September 11th. Now, therefore, it be resolved that the Council of Harmony Borough have agreed to temporarily suspend the posted truck route that has one end at the Mercer Street Bridge over the Connoquenessing Creek and traverses Mercer Street, Spring Street, and German Street, with the other end at German and Main Street. The truck route will be reinstated when Mercer Street paving is completed by the contractor and accepted by Harmony Borough, or when this resolution is amended or rescinded. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Resolution 2025-9-2 that temporarily suspends the truck route. Greg reported that he emailed US Liner and some other businesses, Bob Leoberg reported that he will take letters around to businesses and residents affected by the paving project. Joe Dippold suggested taking a letter to JADCO, Don Sims suggested posting signs NO TRUCKS with the dates. School buses can go through.

Facilities:

Frank Luek is work on getting a quote to replace the gutters with ½ round galvanized gutters for the borough building. There isn't an update on the monument, still waiting for masons to get back to us. Dave Szakelyhidi suggested contacting Gropelli in Pittsburgh, they have worked on

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Facilities Cont.:

the monument before. Cath Rape inquired if the trucking company's insurance was invoiced, Amy commented that she is still waiting to get a quote/bid to know how much the repair will be to invoice the insurance company. Cath Rape reported that she put in a request with the Zelenople Post Office to move the blue mailbox from the Museum back to the Borough Building. Cath also commented that she would like Council to contemplate some ideas to help keep trucks out of the Square. Cath would like to get professional advice to help keep trucks out of the Square, and suggested an 11' barrier that goes across the road that would allow buses and fire trucks through but not tractor trailers. Dave Szakelyhidi commented about tractor trailers coming into the Square and then people need to back them up. Don Sims commented that their GPS tells them to go that way. Cath Rape commented they need to use a truck GPS. Don Sims suggested an illuminated flashing sign like Prospect has. Solicitor Matt commented that he does not like the idea of something that could intentionally cause damage or injury. Joe Dippold commented since we do not have a monument on the one side of the Square, move the flagpole to the other side and giving the Square up to the trucks. Greg Such commented that we could close the Square to all traffic. Don Sims commented on a cover over the bridge.

Grants:

Greg Such had nothing new to report.

Training & Conferences & Correspondence:

Greg Such reported the PSAB fall conference is in October.

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 **\$12,505.12**

Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **\$30.08**

Parks Board Bills Payable in the amount of **\$134.58**

Payroll in the amount of **\$10,235.50**

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

General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **\$7,048.78**

In a motion made by Frank Luek 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 8:08PM. The group came out of executive session at 8:20PM.

Adjourned: 8:20PM

As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the September 2, 2025 in-person meeting at 8:20PM. Motion to adjourn made by Frank Luek and seconded by Joe Dippold.

Respectfully Submitted,



Amy Brown, Recording Secretary