HARMONY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING June 2, 2026

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Greg Such

Phyllis Metz

Frank Luek

Dave Szakelyhidi

Joe Dippold

Don Sims

Mayor Cathy Rape

OTHERS PRESENT:

Susie Altemus

Jim John

Bob Leonberg

Chief Jim Miller, ZPD

Solicitor Matt Racunas

Denise Rodgers

Tom Thompson

Bob Ziegler

John Ziegler

CALL TO ORDER:

Council President, Greg Such called the June 2, 2026, 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 Joe Dippold, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the May 5, 2026 Council meeting minutes.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Matt Racunas reported that the Truck Route Ordinance has been advertised and is ready for adoption. In a motion made by Frank Luek and seconded by Don Sims, Harmony Borough Council approved the Truck Route Ordinance after a roll call vote was taken. Greg Such opposed the vote, stating that the verbiage on the ordinance was not clear.
Roll call vote: Phyllis Metz-yes, Frank Luek-yes, Dave Szakelyhidi-yes, Joe Dippold-yes, Joe Dippold-yes, Don Sims-yes, Greg Such – no. Solicitor Matt also reported that an executive session will be needed.

BOARD REPORTS/APPOINTMENTS:

Appointments:

Greg Such reported that there are no appointments at this time, but the Borough does need a Planning Commission member and a Zoning Hearing Board member.

HARB:

Dave Szakelyhidi reported that HARB approved a solar light on an existing sign post at the Weaver's Cabin. In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved the Certificate of Appropriateness for the Weaver's Cabin. The Certificate was not yet submitted to Council.

Southwest Butler County Council of Governments (SWBC CoG):

Greg Such reported that the Stormwater Authority has hired an Executive Director, Jane Menchik. Jane came from the Pittsburgh Conservancy and has a strong background in fundraising and managing projects in terms of land transition. Jane will start in July and will focus on project reviews and the capital improvement plan. Jackson Township will be our community EMA director. Greg would like Joe Dippold to remain the Borough's point of contact. Joe Dippold reported that all of our surveys are completed regarding the Butler County Hazard Mitigation Plan. Greg Such reported that the Fire District needs to switch their call reporting system. The one they have is not working properly, they cannot print out the tally of calls. Greg also reported that there was discussion about sharing the cost on a boom mower, and during the meeting Greg pointed out that the borough does not really have use for a boom mower. Cathy Rape inquired if the SWBC CoG would oversee the ambulance funding. Greg Such responded that they will, there is an agreement that needs to be signed. The agreement is similar to the COG agreement.

Storm Water Authority:

Greg Such reported that the billing file is being updated with Berkheimer to get the latest bills out. Greg also reported that Ms. Menchik's salary is higher than the previous administrator. There is money to cover 2026 and 2027, and then there will be some shift of

Storm Water Authority Cont.:
how the compensation gets accounted for between the Fire District and the Stormwater Authority. Jane is on board; there was discussion of the capital improvement plan and we plan to have a more complete plan next month to vote on and approve.

Harmony Water Authority:
Dave Szakelyhidi reported that the Chlorine Loop Project is basically complete. It will be ready to fill as soon as they get one more air relief fitting installed and then the contractor can sanitize the whole thing and bring it online. It will up the plant's capacity and ability to take on future customers. The loan for it closing is on Friday.

Parks Board:
Susie Altemus reported that the first concert is June 18th with This, That & The Other Thing. The Parks Board is still looking for bids on the ADA portion of the park renovation. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that TSH should be submitting a bid. Susie also reported that the Seneca Valley students are coming tomorrow, they are expecting about 120 students. Cath Rape inquired on who was buying water for the students. Susie commented that the Parks Board had cases of water and would take them to Stewart Hall in the morning. Susie also reported on the joint meeting with Jackson Township to discuss possible improvements to the Swampoodle area.

Library Board:
John Ziegler reported that the Library is selling the same number of tickets for the Wine Walk, last month he reported that the Library increased the number of tickets. The groundbreaking on the three-season facility should begin by the middle of July. John also reported that the Library plans to remodel the basement bathrooms and do some painting.

Planning Commission/Zoning Hearing Board:
Greg Such reported that a Zoning Hearing Board member is needed.

WBCA:
Greg Such reported that WBCA continues to work on designs for the new plant, and financing for the new plant. They continue to lay pipe starting at the WBCA building, it will be crossing Main Street Zelie in the next couple of months.

Shared Services:
Bob Leonberg reported that limb pick-up will be Thursday, June 4th.

Parking and Signage:
Greg Such reported that Bob (Leonberg) ordered DETOUR signs but they are not in yet.

Historic Harmony:
Denise Rodgers reported that the annual report from the Pittsburgh History and Landmark Foundation came back with three potential discrepancies. The discrepancies are: Rapp Seat, because of the graffiti, the Harmonist Cemetery because of a wall that is deteriorating; and the Harmony Museum building because the windows that were just replaced are already peeling. Greg Such thanked Denise for the use of Stewart Hall for the Seneca Valley students coming tomorrow.

Harmony Business Association:
Cath Rape reported that as far as she knows it dissolved. Phyllis Metz reported that they gave a monetary donation to the food cupboard, it is dissolved.

Other Meetings:
Greg Such reported that the CoG Meeting will be on June 10th at 3:00PM. The Stormwater Authority Meeting will be on June 10th at 4:00PM. The Commissioners Communications Meeting will be on June 18th at 9:30AM and the Butler County UCC Meeting will be on June 11th at 10:00AM. Cath Rape reported that the Transportation Improvement Meeting at Forward Township will be on June 3rd from 4:00PM to 6:00PM. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that someone was inspecting the railroad bridge on Saturday, not sure if it was the Railroad or PennDOT but we may be getting a report.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
Jim John-334 Second Street – Jim commented that last month he inquired about repairing the temporary patch on Edmund Street and Second Street from the Water Authority's waterline repair a couple of years ago. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the Water Authority will cover the cost. It will need to be a separate project as the Borough doesn't have any paving projects. Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the Water Authority is replacing the hydrant on Spring Street and could put it on with that.

Bob Ziegler – 774 Spring Street – Bob inquired about getting a grate at Dambach's, similar to the one at Tod's shop. Bob would like a grate to help keep debris out before it gets into the new system. Bob commented that Tim Eppinger made the grate at Tod's. Tom Thompson will talk to Dambach's about putting a grate on and will get a price, it should be under the bid threshold and will present it as a change order to Council for approval and then have it put on. Bob also inquired about catch basin by Thomas' on Spring Street, adding that it is collapsing. Greg Such commented that we are getting bids. Bob also inquired about Thomas' sidewalk stating that a couple people have fallen on it. Greg Such commented that the sidewalk is part of the project for a multimodal grant that the borough is applying for.

BOROUGH STAFF REPORTS:
Police Report:
Report submitted via email.

Office:
Amy Brown had nothing new to report.

Borough Director of Operations:
Bob Leonberg reported that they patched the hole on Mercer Road, ordered signs for the truck route, and moved the signs last month on Main Street. He and Melanie did a walk through with S.E.T. on the stormwater project. They picked up mulch for the parks and got a quote from RB Tree to remove the tree at Swampoodle. The quote is $800 to remove deadwood and any damaged branches, and $2,400 to remove the tree, chip brush and haul all wood and debris away. Cory Shaffer will work with Jackson Township's Engineer on signage for the truck route by the roundabout.

Zoning and Codes:
Report submitted. (attached)

Zoning and Codes Cont.:
Greg Such reported that a resident asked about traffic on Oak Alley between Second Street and Third Street. The regulation is that because that is a developed plan of lots, anybody that lives in Swampoodle is eligible to use it.

Engineer:
Tom Thompson reported on the Stormwater Project, S.E.T. has finished their work. They came back to do the rest of the inlets, everything worked well. Tom reported they did a walk through, as Bob mentioned. There are minor punch list items that are being worked on. The estimate from S.E.T. has a couple of discrepancies with some of the numbers, that invoice will not be submitted for approval tonight. Tom reported that he will need to discuss an item in executive session. The cost of project is close to the estimate, within $100 give or take. Tom also reported that the check valves on the storm sewer lines are now installed. Tom reported on the RACP Project stating the cost for Verizon to bury their utility is $59,000. Armstrong will not charge, and we have not received a price from Penn Power yet. Tom recommends that the utility poles stay in place, they are boxed out and can be removed when the Borough has funding. Tom presented a drawing to Council of the Square; the drawing showed the school bus turning radius. The turning radius is close to the monument, but it is workable. Don Sims inquired about sidewalk extensions/bump outs on the northside.
Joe Dippold suggested pulling back the sidewalk in front of Grace Church as they use that area for funerals and weddings. Cath Rape inquired about the bluestone for sidewalks, Tom responded that for the sidewalks there will be 3 options, the bluestone, brick, and concrete. Don Sims inquired about bollards. Tom Thompson commented that this is part of Zelienople's project and they have 2 bollards in their project. Tom will add 4 bollards in quote and council can decide if they want the bollards. Zelie has bollards by the Kaufman House if anyone would like to look at the design. Greg Such distributed an article to Council regarding bell-shaped bollards. Tom also reported that he is working with Cory Shaffer on the Multimodal Grant Project and will have everything ready to submit in July.

Public Safety:
Phyllis Metz reported that Neil Jackson contacted her about what the Rotary would like to do for the Fourth of July parade. They want to make Pittsburgh Street one-way going north during the hours of the parade and immediately after, which would be from 10:45AM to 1:30PM, this is to help with traffic. The Rotary would like Pittsburgh Street posted for no parking. They also want to close Division Street at Spring and Center from 10:45AM until after the parade, and to close Bluff Street at Center from 10:45AM to 1:30PM. They will need cones and barriers from the Borough. Chief Miller suggested that Neil Jackson contact him at the station. Phyllis Metz also reported on the Event Form for Shu Brew's Father's Day BBQ on June 21st from 1:00PM to 7:00PM. They have requested street closures of First Street between Edmond Street and Spring Street. Don Sims inquired where people would park. The Borough parking lot and the Cemetery lot could be used. In a motion made by Don Sims and seconded by Dave Szakelyhidi the Harmony Borough Council unanimously approved Shu Brew's Father's Day BBQ on June 21st.

Business Development:
Cath Rape had nothing new to report.

Personnel:
Beth Bruker-Walos was unable to attend.

Finance:
Joe Dippold had nothing new to report.

Streets:
Cath Rape proposed to close the southside of the Square after school is out of session to all traffic, adding that she is tired of all the trucks. Cath suggested putting signs at Spring Street 'Thru Traffic Turn Left.' Dave Szakelyhidi commented that the old planning commission report says that the two railroad crossings are dangerous because they are on a limited site distance, on a bend. The only safe one is the Main Street bridge. Don Sims inquired about fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. Frank Luek suggested permanent Thru Traffic signs at German/Main Streets and Mercer/Spring Streets.
Cath Rape reported that Rome Monuments was in yesterday and looked at the monument to see if they needed a crane or their big truck to move it. They will bring their biggest truck and move it hopefully sometime this month.
Cath also reported that she received numerous complaints about e-bikes, e-scooters, and e-skateboards; they're on the sidewalks and in the streets. They need to follow traffic laws if they're on the streets. They are not allowed to be on the sidewalk, according to our ordinance. Cath inquired if a 12-year-old is allowed to ride a e-bicycle? Matt thought it depended on the class of the bike and how fast it can go. Solicitor Matt commented that it is problematic and out of general concern for the public, encouraged parents to have conversations with their child and remind them of safety guidelines. Chief Miller commented that to operate an e-bike the driver should be at least 16 years old.

Facilities:
Dave Szakelyhidi had nothing new to report. Frank Luek reported that the back door at the borough building is sticking. Frank will grind it down.

Grants:
Greg Such reported that there is an invoice for the Safe Streets Grant that we need to pay, it is on the bills list.

Training & Conferences:
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 **$17,971.78**
Payroll in the amount of **$12,727.01**
Parks Board Fund Bills Payable in the amount of **$463.96**
General Bills Already Paid in the amount of **$2,088.56**
Parks Board Already Paid in the amount of **$125.00**
Fire Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **$14,681.35**
EMS Tax Bills Payable in the amount of **$2,445.91**

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 8:17PM to discuss on-going litigation, Council came out of executive session at 8:48PM.

In a motion made by Dave Szakelyhidi and seconded by Don Sims, the Harmony Borough unanimously approved Docket #AD 25-11308.

Adjourned: 8:49pm
As there was no further business to discuss, the Harmony Borough Council adjourned the June 2, 2026, In-person and Teams virtual meeting at 8:49pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Brown

Amy Brown, Recording Secretary

Zoning Report - May 2026

- A vegetation violation notice was sent for the Mantia property for excessively long grass. The grass was cut promptly.
- A second violation notice was sent to 1123 Seneca Dr. for debris and trash being stored on the property. No cleanup efforts were made after the initial violation notice. As of 5/27 cleanup efforts were being made and the lean-to on the shed was cleaned out.
- The resident at 268 S. Liberty made a complaint of his neighbor dumping trash and burying it in the ground. Exact dates as to when this occurred were not reported. No dumping can be seen from the street. Any further complaints can be made to the DEP to investigate further as the borough/zoning officer is not authorized to begin digging up private property.
- A resident of New Castle St. had some questions regarding fencing and a driveway he would like to install in the future. I answered his driveway questions and encouraged him to have the property surveyed before installing a new fence as there is question as to who owns a 3 foot space between his fence and the neighbors' fence to ensure no property lines are being encroached.
- A vegetation violation notice was sent to 109 S. Pittsburgh for excessively long grass. The grass was cut within a few days of the letter being sent.
- A vegetation violation notice was sent to 510 Main St. for excessively long grass.

- Melanie Fessides