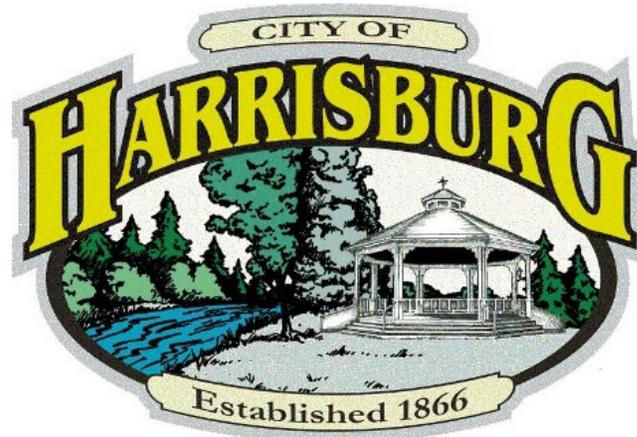


This document is supplemented by agenda packet materials, meeting materials distributed and audio recordings of the meeting and may be reviewed upon request to the City Recorder.



City Council Minutes January 13, 2026

Mayor: Robert Duncan, Absent (Excused)
Council President: Mike Caughey, Presiding
Councilors Present: Kimberly Downey, Randy Klemm, Cindy Knox, and Dana Henry
Councilors Absent: Charlotte Thomas (Excused)
Staff Present: City Administrator Michele Eldridge, Public Works Director Chuck Scholz, Finance Director/Deputy City Recorder Cathy Nelson and City Recorder/Municipal Court Administrator Lori Ross
Meeting Location: Harrisburg Municipal Center Located at 354 Smith St

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President Mike Caughey

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL by Council President Mike Caughey at the hour of 6:34pm

CONCERNED CITIZEN(S) IN THE AUDIENCE: All in attendance were there for items on the agenda.

THE MATTER OF REVIEWING THE PROPOSED HARRISBURG HOMETOWN HERO BANNER PROGRAM; AND APPROVING RESOLUTION NO. 1313: Eldridge reviewed the staff report with Council. Discussions included:

- Eldridge asked Council if the City would want to have a sponsor for the program, whether the City would like to pay half of the first 25 applicants out of the Veterans Program Fund at a cost of \$156 and if the City would pay to honor staff or public servants who are veterans.
- Eldridge pointed out design options as shown on pages 4 and 5 and noted it would take 3-6 weeks to process a request.

- Scholz pointed out that Exhibit B on page 10 lists eight branches of the US Military Service and the US only recognizes six branches of the military. Scholz reviewed with Council his list of concerns, including pros and cons as shown in **Addendum 1**.
- Downey liked the idea at first but is concerned about the limited amount of room. Downey recommended a simple alternative like “Harrisburg Loves our Veterans” banners.
- Henry commented on the amount of 4th of July Shield in place each year. Scholz informed Council that shields are put up each year by a committee and are two to a pole adding that banners have limitations due to the wind.
- Klemm inquired about Sweet Home and if they have issues. Nelson, who is from Sweet Home, informed Council that they have permanently removed their banners due to the public outcry in relation to fairness.
- Knox also liked the idea but is concerned about space as well.
- Scholz commented that he may be able to submit a request to Pacific Power but it would most likely involve moving the banners into residential areas.
- Caughey feels the program will cause problems for the City.
- Eldridge will work on putting something general together and bring back to Council.
- *The consensus from Scholz and Council was to look into a more general way to honor our veterans.*
 - Downey **motioned to not go forward with the proposed banner as presented and to look into a more generic program and was seconded by Henry. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Downey, Henry, Caughey, Klemm, and Knox. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF DISCUSSION IN RELATION TO ADDING A MONUMENT TO RIVERFRONT PARK: Eldridge reviewed the staff report noting family members of Mr. Slonecker were present this evening.

- Jenna Owens, niece of Mr. Slonecker, approached Council and stated that having monument to memorialize her uncle would be nice for the family.
- Downey asked what they had in mind. Owen replied that it would be a knee high cross, similar to what you see on the side of roads.
- Scholz stated there would be issues with electricity, sprinklers and roots in the area of consideration. Scholz also added that this area is considered to be a public right away and was concerned who would be responsible if someone tripped over it.
- Downey suggested a small plaque option and to see if the community would get involved to help with funding.
- Scholz suggested adding a plaque to the base of a light pole in that area. Knox, Henry and Klemm liked that idea and suggested contacting the City for wording guidelines.
- Bobby Demaris, relative of Mr. Slonecker approached and inquired about having a plaque added to the table by the restrooms. Scholz to check if that table has been accounted for.

THE MATTER OF APPROVING A LIQUOR LICENSE FOR NUESTRO SABOR: Eldridge reviewed the staff report noting the applicant was not present.

- Downey asked about outside seating as mentioned to her previously by Eldridge. Eldridge replied if the applicant is going to move forward with that request, they would need to expand their license request.
- Caughey pointed out page 23 of the agenda noting that neither the indoor nor outdoor boxes were checked.
- Klemm would like the applicant to be present to address questions.

- Henry asked if there was a limitation on the number of liquor licenses issued by the City. Eldridge replied there was not and that we can't deny an applicant, unless there is some concern that we're aware of.
 - Klemm **motioned to table until the next meeting set for January 27, 2026 and to have the applicant present and was seconded by Downey. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Klemm, Downey, Caughey, Knox, and Henry. No: None.)

THE MATTER OF APPROVING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT (IGA) FOR GRANT SUPPORT AND PLANNING SERVICES, WHEN NEEDED, WITH THE OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (OCWCOG): Eldridge reviewed the staff report adding that having this relationship in place would be beneficial to the City in assisting with grants when staff is not able to due to work load. Eldridge added that it's a good IGA to have in place for both grant support and planning.

- Henry pointed out the staff report states 25 hours was listed for grant support. Henry then referred to page 31, and noted only 10 hours was listed, under task 1.1. Eldridge thought maybe it was in relation to another grant and suggested completely removing that portion of the contract and recommended approving as amended.
- Henry then referred to page 29 and asked to have the term end date confirmed for the contract as it's blocked out by the page number. Ross informed Council the end date is June 30, 2027.
- Henry also referred to pages 33 and 34, and the wording allowing a rate change to occur during the contract period. Henry would prefer the rates to stay the same through the contract term and if a rate change is suggested, it would generate a new contract take effect. Klemm and Caughey are in agreement with Henry and would like this portion removed from the contract and replaced with wording that includes the right to renegotiate a rate, verses this language. Scholz and Knox were concerned about no time period notification given for a potential rate increase included in the contract.
- Eldridge to address changes to the CWCOG and bring back to a future meeting.
 - Henry **motioned to direct the City Administrator to go back to the OCWCOG to negotiate a time frame for notification of rate increase for the contract and was seconded by Downey. The motion was approved unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Henry, Downey, Caughey, Klemm, and Knox. No: None.)
- After the motion, Caughey referred to page 34, noting that the asterisk under rates doesn't seem to reference to anything on the page and assumed it was for the statement on the bottom.

THE MATTER OF APPROVING THE CONSENT LIST:

- Downey inquired about why there were so many water refunds as listed on page 50. Nelson replied it was due to residents moving that resulted in credit account balances.
- Henry asked about the charge for Mr. Tree on page 47. Scholz stated it was for the tree removal on Smith St. Chuck added there was some damage to the storm water line from the tree, but the main cause of the line needing repair was due to age.
- Henry asked about the power pole replacement on page 48 and where they were located. Scholz replied it was for two power poles, one on 9th and Sommerville Lp, which needed a street light, and the other for the illumination project for the Rapid Flash Beacon crosswalk by Subway. Scholz added the City purchased the pole, which belongs to Lumen, and a street light has to be present to provide the light for the crosswalk.

- Henry asked about the Polard Water listed on page 49. Scholz replied it's specialized water tool company.
 - Henry **motioned to approve the consent list and was seconded by** Downey. **The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.** (Yes: Henry, Downey, Caughey, Klemm, and Knox. No: None.) **A motion to approve the consent list will approve the following:**
 - **City Council Minutes for October 28, 2025 & December 9, 2025**
 - **The Payment Approval Report for December 2025**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR VERBAL REPORT:

- The City received a notice to proceed for the RTP Grant (Recreational Trails Program) allowing us to move forward with the additional 1.8 miles of trails.
- Our Sister City, Breal-sous-Montfort, put a request for our local school soccer team to fly to France and participate in the King Arthur Tournament. All expenses besides airfare to be provided. Unfortunately, Harrisburg School District doesn't have a soccer team.
- Eldridge and City Attorney Sean Kidd will be meeting the BNSF Grant team on Thursday. The next regular meeting will be in February. Eldridge added she is currently working on a letter to residents on 4th St informing them of the status with BNSF. Scholz and Council like the idea of not sending the letter out until June when we have more information.
- Caughey believes there is a problem with communication within the City and would like to have information available at City Hall about being added to the City Administrator Friday Update. Caughey would like staff to keep track of the new additions.
- Henry updated Council on the progress with Life Bible, stating they started the work which includes several truckloads of rock and putting in place 56, Z-Pile sheets. They hope to be completed by April.
- Eldridge has asked Senators Hayden, Prozanski and Anderson to co-sponsor along with Senator Manning, HB 3654; the Small City Grant Program.
- Castleberry Crossings will be submitting a new application and asking for an extension to address a zone change.
- Sommerville Meadows will be pulling their subdivision application at this time and will be focusing on minor partitions and a phased approach.
- Henry added that the river by Life Bible has already started to change its projectory and added the cost of the project is at \$2.5M so they are currently working on fundraising.

With no further business, the City Council Meeting adjourned at the hour of 8:27pm to begin the HRA Board Meeting.

Mayor

City Recorder

Policy Issues

Banner Notes

Despite good intentions, problems have been arising across the country and in this state.

- There is limited space/number of poles 24 poles
- Limited public Works capacity/no bucket truck
- More than twice that many in local cemetery, not counting alive and active veterans
- Rotation of Banners must be of equal time for each (staff time and costs)
- Pole banner use is limited to one Banner per pole by the city
- Only families of Veterans who can afford it get to use it, leaves some out
- Specific Veteran Banners are not inclusive for all groups/organizations causing legal challenges
- Anti-donation Clause could leave the city vulnerable to having to also support other community organizations wishing to have banners put up
- Violation Policy to donate *134 Memorial Policy - Ethics Cost of 25 or MORE*
- **Liability Issues:** Various State officials worry that allowing specific picture banners for veterans sets a legal precedent that would force them to allow other, potentially controversial, political or social messages that the city may deal with to avoid First Amendment lawsuits.
- Removal would be a "Slap in the Face" sign of disrespect
- Damage by vandal or domestic terrorism (who pays)
- **Newport, KY:** Limited Lawsuit and Faced backlash for removing banners due to high demand and limited space, but clarified they rotate them to honor more veterans and return them to families.
- **Whitehall Township, PA:** Criticized for replacing banners with holiday decorations
- **Santa Fe, NM:** Ran into issues with city pole access for safety reasons and funding responsibilities, requiring renegotiation with veterans' groups.
- **Bradford, PA:** Had to restrict banners from prime spots due to drives
- Phillipsburg New Jersey, The program was discontinued after banners that were meant to be displayed for only one month stayed up much longer, leading to lawsuit from other organizations who wanted their time/banners on the poles
- Cooperstown, NY Removed banners due to it being a driver distraction possibly making the city liable for motoring public , agreement it, were a violation of Planning code. Union City PA Lawsuit damage, Essex, OH removed program as banner costs continued to rise, **Knoxville, IA (2025):** Americans United for Separation of Church and State threatened action over banners with crosses, citing church-state separation