

Corporation of Harpers Ferry Ordinance Review Committee
Minutes of Special Meeting, August 31, 2026
Town Hall, Harpers Ferry

Members present: Kevin Carden, Chair
Christian Pechuekonis
Chris Craig, Taking minutes
Others present: None

Call to order: Kevin Carden called the meeting to order at 6:31 pm.

Agenda: *Mr. Craig moved to accept the agenda as presented. Mr. Pechuekonis seconded; passed 3-0.*

Approval of minutes: *Mr. Pechuekonis moved to approve the July 9, 2026 minutes as presented. Mr. Craig seconded; passed 3-0.*

Unfinished business –

- 1. Discussion and Action on nomination, appointment, and terms of town boards, commissions, and committees.**
Mr. Craig presented his draft of amendments to the various articles. A few alterations were made related to the wording for rotation of terms.
Mr. Craig moved to authorize Mr. Carden to prepare the various articles, amended according to the draft as presented and altered, to the town council for first reading. Mr. Pechuekonis seconded; passed 3-0.
- 2. Discussion and Action on changes to Section 1303.07 concerning expiration of signed permits.**
Mr. Carden will prepare the amended article for first reading, as was authorized at the last ORC meeting.
- 3. Discussion and action on Section 1109.02(a)(1), to define “brush pile” and amend the definition of “debris.”**
Mr. Carden reported he had been unable to schedule a meeting with the Mayor to discuss this request for ORC. He hopes to get clarification on the need and the request in the near future and bring to the next ORC meeting.
- 4. Discussion and action on 2026 Senate Bill 659, which enacted West Virginia Code § 8-42.**
There was discussion on how to find Harpers Ferry ordinances that may conflict or may need strengthening after the passage of this State code. The possible use of AI to help in the search was discussed. Mr. Craig presented Town Article numbers he felt would need investigating. These included Articles 320 (Parking), 905, 907, and 911 (water and other utilities), all of Parts 13 (including Appendix A) and 17. Members will begin investigating before the next ORC meeting.

New business –

- 1. Discussion on future meetings and topics.**

There was discussion on possible future topics for ORC. There was general agreement that these might include Certificates of Appropriateness, a Parking Committee ordinance, and town elections. Mr. Carden reported that the State will be requiring all town elections to be held in sync with county commission elections. Towns may choose whether town council elections are held during the primaries or general elections and the date that new terms begin. This led to a discussion about the possibility of rotating terms for council members, which would require the development of a town charter. Mr. Carden agreed to place this topic on the town council agenda to determine whether the council wished ORC to investigate further.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Ordinance Review Committee will be at 6:30 pm, Thurs., September 24.

Adjournment. *Mr. Craig moved to adjourn. Mr. Pechuekonis seconded; passed 3-0.*

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Minutes approved on _____.

Kevin Carden, ORC Chair