

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 13, 2021

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 2021. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All Council Members were present. Also present were Major Scott Proctor, Captain Kolter Stroop, Deputy Tyler Jobe and Sheriff Tim Carter from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Harshman reported that Councilman Van Stee is leaving the Council and is moving to Waynesboro, but he will be staying on until after the June meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Baird and seconded by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Van Stee to approve the Treasurer's Report and the bills to be paid. Motion carried.

The Water and Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the State currently has a ban on disconnecting customers for non-payment of their utility bills, but the Town can declare an exemption from the ban if the delinquent amounts are in excess of 1% of the operating costs. The Town has twice the allowable amount. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town must have a Public Hearing about this and must show that the amounts are in excess of the 1%. The Council would like to move forward on this, so Mr. Harshman will advertise a Public Hearing along with the Budget Public Hearing notice.

Mr. Harshman reported that water production is still good. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Health Department's inspection went well, but the Town has not received the final report yet. Mr. Harshman reported that the elevated storage tank needs to be pressure washed, so he has contacted the company that painted the Mill and the Town Hall about pricing

Mr. Harshman reported that the Permit for the WWTP expires on December 31, 2021 and the deadline to submit the reissuance application is July 4th. Inboden Environmental is assisting with this and Mr. Harshman signed off on the completed application earlier this month and it has been submitted to the DEQ. The reissuance process requires public notification in the Northern Virginia Daily and Mr. Harshman has authorized the DEQ to put this announcement in the newspaper.

Mr. Harshman reported that a check valve has been installed on a sewer line that serves 404 Water Street. This property has had several backups over the years whenever there is a sewer clog in that area. This last happened in December 2020 and the installation of this check valve should solve the problem.

Mr. Harshman reported that another round of the Service Line Warranty mailings have been sent out. Mr. Harshman has heard from some residents that have signed up for the program but has not heard of anyone that has used it for repairs yet.

Mr. Harshman reported that a new 2" water line is being installed by the Maintenance Department at Cave Spring.

The Street Committee had no report, but Councilman Baird asked if a pipe could be placed on his and Mr. Jerry Wealthy's properties so that after heavy rains the water will go in another direction to prevent flooding his driveway and Mr. Wealthy's basement. Mr. Harshman stated that he will have this checked out.

Mr. Harshman reported last month about his meeting with Mr. Ed Carter from VDOT and as a result of this meeting, he was contacted by Mr. Adam Campbell, who is the Assistant District Planner for the Staunton District. Mr. Harshman reported that Mr. Campbell is putting together some information on funding sources that might be helpful to the Town.

Mr. Harshman reported that the VFW is going to pay for the banner brackets for 40 utility poles. The addition of these brackets will allow the Town to extend the Veteran's Banners further north and south on Route 11.

The Ordinance Committee had no report.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report.

The Property Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that James Riffey is doing some painting inside the Town Hall. He stated that it has been 22 years since the Town Hall moved into this building and this is the first time any interior painting has been done.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

The Park Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Ole Time Festival is planning on holding a dance at the Town Park and they asked him if selling alcohol would be permitted. Mr. Harshman reported that there was a fundraising event several years ago at the Park that had alcohol. Councilman Boone asked how it would be contained. Mr. Harshman stated that it would be up to the Ole Time Festival and the Woodstock Brewhouse (who would be providing the alcohol) to set a perimeter. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town does not have an ordinance about alcoholic beverages, but he will check with the other towns about liability.

Mr. Harshman reported that the pool company came to take samples of the tiles that need to be replaced at the pool. Mr. Harshman also reported that the other towns think that they will be opening their pools on Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Harshman reported that if the pool opens, the Patrons will be asked about COVID symptoms before they go in and a lot of sanitizing will need to be done. The Patrons must also follow the Governor's Guidelines for social distancing. Mr. Harshman reported extra staff, extra cleaning and limited patrons will have a negative impact on what is already a losing proposition, but the residents will be pleased to see the pool open. Mr. Harshman asked Councilman Wymer-Hollar and the Park Committee to come up with a plan as to how they see this working and to make a list of what the Town needs to have on hand to accomplish this.

Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar reported that there has been a lot of interest in the pool opening back up and she would also like to see the Edinburg Ducks being able to use the pool for practicing. Councilman Wymer-Hollar reported that she will check into the current Guidelines and determine what is required to safely open the pool.

The Insurance Committee had no report.

Captain Kolter Stroop the Control Division Chief from the Sheriff's Department introduced Deputy Tyler Jobe, who is replacing Deputy Kayla Williams in Edinburg. Captain Stroop called attention to the Calls for Service Report for last month.

Mr. Harshman stated that he would like to move up the discussion about the 3-year renewal of the Contract for Law Enforcement Services Agreement from New Business on the Agenda.

Mr. Harshman reported that he sent out the proposed renewal of the Contract for Law Enforcement Services to the Council. The contract dates and the fee increase are the only changes. Sheriff Carter stated that the Sheriff's Department had its own pay system when they started with Edinburg but have since gone with the Shenandoah County pay system. This change caused the higher-than-normal increase in the fee. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the 3-year renewal of the Contract for Law Enforcement Services Agreement. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Tourism Council had another virtual meeting in March. The Tourism Council discussed broadening the areas that they represent and proposed adding Craft Beverage, Outdoor Recreation, Arts & Culture, Unique Lodging and Retail Tourism.

Mr. Harshman reported that the applications for the COVID Grant Small Business applications are coming in slowly. With the funds coming from the CDBG received by the County, the approval criteria has become so narrow that it is very hard to award the up to \$15,000 to the individual businesses.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Rain Garden work party at the Mill went well. He also reported that the Mill's Rain Garden will be one of the featured sites on the Gardening in the Valley Tour in June.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Route 11 Bus Service is on schedule and RFPs to operate the actual business part of the Bus Service have been sent out.

Mr. Harshman reported that he was contacted by someone from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) who is working with VDOT and an engineering firm to identify potential trailhead locations along the proposed Shenandoah Valley Rail Trail. Mr. Harshman passed on a few ideas about locations in Edinburg.

Mr. Harshman reported he is still waiting to hear from the State as to when they will be visiting the Edinburg Mill to complete the Certification to make the Mill a State Visitor Center.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) has had several email conversations with Mr. David Flack, who is planning on purchasing 310 North Main Street (the Beehive) about what he plans to do with the building. Mr. Flack at first wanted to do 8 apartments but has decided to just do 5. The ARB felt that what Mr. Flack proposed was worthy of a Certificate of Appropriateness.

The Planning Commission did not meet last month.

The Zoning Report showed that two permits were issued:

1. Ed Kelly
108 W. Hisey St.
Shed

2. Kelly Day
108 Palmyra Rd.
Deck

There was no Town Attorney report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Rose Hill Settlement has finally been completed and a check has been issued to them.

Mr. Harshman reported that the only thing different on the WWTP upgrade from last month is that the electrical contractor came by and said that they are going to use what electric is already there. There also will be a new electric room for the new Plant to allow for the running of the existing Plant along with the upgrade until the switch over takes place.

Mr. Harshman asked the Council if he could just read the title for the second reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 175, Zoning, Article II District Regulations, Section 175-8, Residential District R-2, sub-section C, Uses permitted by special permit to add (7) Certain Commercial Uses within the Designated Historic District. A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Wood to allow Mr. Harshman to just read the title of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 175, Zoning, Article II District Regulations, Section 175-8, Residential District R-2, sub-section C, Uses permitted by special permit to add (7) Certain Commercial Uses within the Designated Historic

District. Motion carried. Mr. Harshman read the title of the Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 175, Zoning, Article II District Regulations, Section 175-8, Residential District R-2, sub-section C, Uses permitted by special permit to add (7) Certain Commercial Uses within the Designated Historic District. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Van Stee - aye, Dellinger - aye, Baird - aye, Wymer-Hollar - aye, Boone - aye, Wood - aye, Harshman – aye.

Mr. Harshman asked the Council to consider a Resolution to support the acquisition and conversion of out-of-service railroad right-of-way to a trail for alternative transportation and recreation. Mr. Harshman asked the Council if he could just read the title of the Resolution and the Council agreed. Mr. Harshman read the title of the Resolution. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Van Stee to adopt the Resolution to support the acquisition and conversion of out-of-service railroad right-of-way to a trail for alternative transportation and recreation. Councilman Baird stated that he was not in support of this Resolution. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman reported that every time the Town changes the Water, Sewer or Trash Fees at Budget time, all the new rates in the Ordinance that adopts the new Budget must be listed and Chapter 68, Article II, § 68-3 must also be amended. Another section in Chapter 156 of the Town Code, § 156-11 Rates, states: “Water rates shall be as stated in the schedule of water rates on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.” Mr. Harshman asked how the Council felt about amending Chapter 68, Article II, Water, Sewer and Trash Fees § 68, Rates Established to read: “Water, Sewer and Trash Fees shall be as stated in the schedule of Water, Sewer and Trash Rates posted in the Town Office.” This would eliminate the need to Amend Chapter 68 any time rates are changed. The Council agreed that yes, this would be okay, and Mr. Harshman stated that he will work on this.

Town Clerk, Ms. Mary Lowerre read the first reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160, Vehicles and Traffic, § 160.1. Adoption of State Law. The second reading will be at the next meeting.

Mr. Harshman stated that the proposed amendments to the 2020-2021 Budget and the proposed Budget for the period starting on July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 needed to be discussed. Mr. Harshman reported that the proposed amended budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 results in Total Revenues for the General Fund of \$958,590 and Total Revenues for the Enterprise Fund of \$1,016,800. The Council stated that they were fine with the Amended Budget. Mr. Harshman reported that the only increases in the Proposed Budget were a \$0.25 increase in the monthly trash rate and a 2% sewer fee increase to the monthly minimum for the first 3,000 gallons. The sewer fee increase is part of a required increase that is part of the Rural Development loan for the WWTP upgrade. The minimum sewer rate is proposed at \$36.40 in town and \$54.60 out of town. A 3% increase in pay for full-time and a 2% increase for part-time employees is included in the Proposed Budget. Mr. Harshman reported that the total General Fund Revenues are proposed at \$906,778 and the total Enterprise Fund Revenues are proposed at \$2,632,334. Mr. Harshman asked Finance Committee Chairman, Councilman Wood if he thought the Finance Committee needed to have a meeting about the Proposed Budget. Councilman Wood stated no.

Mr. Harshman stated that he will schedule a Public Hearing to receive comments on Amending the 2020-2021 Budget and the proposed Budget for the year beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022 before the May 11, 2021 Council Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk