

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING APRIL 9, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 9, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present. Also present were Sgt. W.M. Poff and Deputy S.M. Storrs from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Harshman asked if anyone had anything that was not on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Baird to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the Treasurer's report and to pay all the bills as presented. Motion carried.

Councilman Beachy called attention to Inboden's report for March.

Mayor Harshman reported that water production is still good.

Mayor Harshman reported that the back-up compressor and the dryer for the Water Treatment Plant (WTP) still have not been put online since the parts have not yet arrived.

Mayor Harshman reported that the paint and other items have been removed from the pump house at Well #2 that were pointed out in the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) annual water inspection.

Mayor Harshman reported that the drawings are complete for the water line replacement in Cave Springs. Mayor Harshman hopes to get them in the hands of contractors this month to get bids for the installation of the new lines. Mayor Harshman also reported that the plan is for the Town to bid and purchase the pipe directly and only contract the installation. Mayor Harshman feels that this will save the Town money by eliminating the contractor's markup as well as the sales tax.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town will also be working on the electrical requirements for the Water Pump Station at the 200,000-gallon tank and hopes to get the completion of that project out to contractors soon. Mayor Harshman also reported that T-Mobile wanted to tie in with the Town's electricity but that will not be possible since the Town will need all the available electricity for the pump station.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that there was another accident at the intersection of Stony Creek Boulevard and Main Street that involved a vehicle running the stop sign and hitting a parked car, the Edinburg Insurance building as well as the fence and building at 201 S. Main Street. Mayor Harshman also reported that this was the 3rd incident in just a few years and he stated that it's hard to believe that it had been 50 years without this ever happening.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he still hasn't made any progress on the enforcement of the building maintenance section of the Historic Preservation section of the Zoning Ordinance. Mayor Harshman sent the Town Attorney some pictures of the property at 207 S. Main Street to see if anything can be done under Section 37-3 Removal of Dangerous Buildings of the Town Code.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Auditor was in the office last month and hopefully got what he needed to complete the audit of 2022-2023 since they should be finishing up just in time to start the audit on 2023-2024.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he contacted USDA to see if using the new stainless-steel dump bed to haul sludge would make the bed reimbursable.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar reported that she is getting the lifeguards lined up for the pool. Mayor Harshman reported that a tree fell and damaged the fence on the backside of the pool during one of the days of high winds and the Town is checking into getting it repaired as soon as possible.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he hasn't received the renewal numbers from the VML yet, so he included a 10% increase in the proposed 2024-2025 Budget. Mayor Harshman also worked on the Workers Compensation increases based on this year's audit and the proposed wage increases.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Sgt. Poff called attention to the Calls for Service report for March.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended a Rail with Trail meeting that was held in Toms Brook last month. Mayor Harshman reported that for the most part, it was just a sales pitch that gave a great number of unsubstantiated costs and facts. Mayor Harshman had hoped that they would have provided photos or artist's renderings of how the Rail and the Trail would work within the 66-foot right-of-way that makes up much of this corridor. Mayor Harshman reported that Mr. Kevin Walker with the Shenandoah Battlefield Foundation stated that they would be able to shift the track from the center of the right-of-way to one side to make room for the Trail. Mayor Harshman also reported that Mr. Walker didn't answer the question of how that would work in the areas of elevated ballast like there is in Edinburg.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Trail Partnership also had a meeting last week. Mayor Harshman reported that a VDOT representative was in attendance who told the group that they have begun the assessment study of the Rail with Trail concept, which is expected to take around 10 months to complete. Mayor Harshman reported that the VDOT representative stressed that this is not a feasibility study, but rather one to show what it will cost and what will need to be done to bring the Railroad back with a trail running beside it.

Mayor Harshman reported that the members of the Trail Partnership also met with the Rail with Trail folks prior to the meeting in Toms Brook, but the two groups came away without a consensus of how they can work together.

Mayor Harshman provided the Council with the minutes from the March Tourism Council meeting and reported that he will be out of town for the April meeting.

Mayor Harshman reported that his visit with the Senior Government Class at Central High School went well.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has been working on a number of potential sewer related projects that might be funded with the remaining USDA Grant funds from the Sewer Plant upgrade. Mayor Harshman believes that he already mentioned about the replacement of the roofing over the sludge beds and the Town will also be repaving the existing roadways at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) that were damaged during construction but were not part of the actual project. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town must either use the remaining Grant funds or the Grant money must be returned.

Mayor Harshman reported that the other projects that have already been approved are: Installing concrete floors and knee walls to use with the old RBC covers to create storage on the site, installing a backup generator at the Edinburg Manor sewer pump station and reimbursement for the repairs on the WWTP's generator and the rental cost of the trailer mounted generator that is currently at the Plant while the Town waits for the repair parts. Mayor Harshman also reported that he has sent out quotes for the backup generator at the pump station to three different contractors.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

There were no Zoning Permits issued.

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman was given an update on the WWTP upgrade and reported that the new plant continues to be operating well.

Mayor Harshman reported that most of the grading is done, the concrete sidewalks are in place and topsoiling, seeding and paving are planned for later this month. Mayor Harshman also reported that there are still a number of punch list items that the Contractor needs to complete.

Mayor Harshman reported that even though the Contractor is still working, it appears that the Town has satisfied the amended conditions of DEQ's Consent Order. Mayor Harshman reported that Pennoni Engineering stated that the Town has met the following three requirements of the Consent Order: Upgrading the Plant to a capacity of at least 0.175 MGD, obtaining a Certificate to Operate and updating the facility's O&M Manual to incorporate operation and maintenance procedures for the new treatment units. Mayor Harshman also reported that this was included as part of the latest quarterly report that is a requirement of the Consent Order and stated that the Town is in compliance with the Order.

Mayor Harshman reported that a problem with the generator at the Plant was discovered when a test was run to make sure all the new parts of the Plant would run off the generator. Mayor Harshman reported that there was a coolant leak on the unit that required a part to be ordered before the generator can run again, so a trailer mounted generator was brought in in the meantime, which actually has been needed during the recent windstorms that knocked out power. Mayor Harshman has asked USDA if these costs might be reimbursed.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town continues to track other reimbursed expenses to submit to USDA for all work the Town completes in support of the WWTP upgrade. Mayor Harshman reported that there are still grant funds remaining that will need to be spent or they will be forfeited.

Mayor Harshman reported that the renewal contract with Long Enterprises, LLC for trash collection is for only three years instead of five and includes a \$0.50 increase per household. Mayor Harshman asked the Council if they would consider authorizing him to sign the renewal contract. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger authorizing the mayor to sign the renewal contract with Long Enterprises, LLC to provide trash collection the Town for the period beginning September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2027. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider a Resolution establishing April 2024 as National Autism Awareness Month. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to adopt a Resolution establishing April 2024 as National Autism Awareness Month. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider reallocating American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to complete a water billing system upgrade at a cost of \$21,025.98. Mayor Harshman provided the Council with a copy of the explanation for this that was sent earlier as well as the quote for the upgrade. A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the use of \$20,577.20 in unused ARPA funds from the previously approved Flood Protection Project and \$448.78 in unobligated ARPA funds to complete a water billing system upgrade at a total cost of \$21,025.98. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman reported that he provided a summary as well as more detailed notes along with a copy of the Budget with amendments to the Council. The Council was in agreement with the

proposed amendments and the mayor stated that he will do the resolution adopting the amended Budget, which can be adopted after the Public Hearing for the 2024-2025 Budget.

Mayor Harshman reported that the only increases in the Proposed Budget are a \$0.50 per month increase in trash fees and a \$2 increase per 1,000 gallons of water over the monthly minimum in town and a \$3 increase per 1,000 gallons of water over the monthly minimum out of town. After some discussion, the Council was in agreement with the Proposed Budget for the period beginning July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025.

Mayor Harshman reported that a Public Hearing will need to be scheduled next month for the amended 2023-2024 Budget and the proposed 2024-2025 Budget. The Council was in agreement that the Public Hearing be held before the Regular Council meeting on May 14th at 7:15 p.m. Mayor Harshman will schedule the Public Hearing.

Councilman Beachy stated that he will not be running for re-election in November.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk