

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 13, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present. Also present were Capt. Glenn Ogle and Dep. Travis Justice from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

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

Mayor Harshman gave an update on the Rails to Trails project.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the minutes of the January 9, 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 the Inboden report for December and January.

Mayor Harshman reported that the back-up compressor has been delivered to the Water Treatment Plant and the dryer has been mounted on the wall and is waiting to be connected to the compressor.

Mayor Harshman reported that the air switches to correct the air leaks on the 3 smaller filter units have been ordered. Mayor Harshman reported that Memcor replaced all the switches on the large filter when they were here last year. Mayor Harshman reported that the large unit uses a different switch so an additional back-up unit will be ordered for that. Mayor Harshman also reported that the plan is to also replace the air lines and fittings that connect these switches to all the other valves and actuators on the filters once the switches are on hand. Mayor Harshman stated that there is a 16–18-week lead time on the switches.

Mayor Harshman reported that the annual Virginia Department of Health water inspection was last week and this inspection consisted of going to each well and tank for a visual inspection in addition to answering 30 plus questions on the operation of the water system.

Mayor Harshman reported that the DEQ has lifted the drought warning, but even though the water levels are up, there is still a drought watch in effect and the Town is still asking residents to do voluntary conservation.

Mayor Harshman reported that Inboden Environmental prepared the renewal application to authorize Coleman Microwave to discharge to the Town's sewer system under the Pretreatment Ordinance. Mayor Harshman reported that an invoice for the renewal was sent to Coleman Microwave and they will be issued a new permit that will run until February 2029.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that so far, the Town has requested reimbursement for snow removal from VDOT totaling \$37,627.50 which already exceeds the budget amount of \$35,000.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he is still working on the enforcement of the building maintenance section of the Historic Preservation Zoning Ordinance.

The Personnel Committee had no report. Councilwoman Reistetter would like to schedule a meeting regarding cell phone use.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer have been working on collecting past due taxes. Mayor Harshman also reported that the Treasurer has started doing DMV stops and is signing the Town up for the State debt set-off program, which can be used to collect past due taxes and utility bills. Mayor Harshman stated that this Program is tied to Virginia Income Tax Returns and notifies the Town when a tax refund is due to someone that

has a past due account and once someone has been placed in the system, the Town is notified that they will be getting a State Tax Refund and they are contacted again about the past due bill giving them 30 days to pay. Mayor Harshman reported that if they do not pay the Town after the 30 days, the State will send a portion of their refund to the Town.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that everything is still moving forward on the new dump truck.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

The Park Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he had a Zoom meeting with the Fitness Court Studio people that he mentioned at last month's meeting, but it turns out it will cost too much to do right now with all the other needs at the Town Park. Mayor Harshman also reported that Rinker and Frye are working on the tee blocks for the Disc Golf Course and they should be done in time for Spring.

The Insurance Committee had no report.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Capt. Ogle called attention to the January Calls for Service report and stated that there was nothing that stood out to him. Capt. Ogle also stated that Investigator Himelright can be contacted about the porch thefts in town.

Mayor Harshman reported that he did not attend the January Tourism Council meeting, but he provided the Council with the minutes.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Lead Pipe Inventory project is going well. Mayor Harshman reported that anything built after 1986 is considered okay and neither he nor Mr. Ron Ross have ever come across lead pipes in the Town. Mayor Harshman also reported that the Town tests for lead every quarter and there has never been a problem.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Maintenance Department is doing visual inspections which can range from just opening a meter crock to having to dig to inspect the service.

Mayor Harshman also reported that there is a 6-inch iron pipe that runs out to the reservoir tank that probably has lead joints, but this pipe has been in place long enough that the normal corrosion inside the pipe has encapsulated the lead so that it cannot leach into the water. Mayor Harshman reported that it has not yet been determined if that will exempt this type of pipe from needing replacement and the thought is that it will only need to be addressed if there is a reason to disturb it.

Mayor Harshman reported that he met with a representative from Shentel to discuss the property that they own along Center Street and South High Street. Mayor Harshman heard that they were talking about selling the property and he also has had someone ask about building on these lots. Mayor Harshman is concerned about the impact this would have on Theatre Shenandoah if Shentel's parking lots were not there and he was hoping that the Town might be able to secure some of the property so that it would remain parking.

Mayor Harshman reported an issue that needs a solution is the rental house next to Theatre Shenandoah that is now surrounded by parking area. Mayor Harshman stated that the Town obviously does not want to be in the rental business and it would require a subdivision to allow the rental house to be sold separately from the parking area. Mayor Harshman reported that the problem is that the rental house would need a minimum of a 7,500 square foot lot to meet the zoning requirements and a variance from this requirement cannot be granted because Shentel created the hardship. Mayor Harshman stated that there might be a way to carve out the required square footage and still make the parking areas work, but he hasn't looked into it yet.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council if they wanted him to continue looking into the possibility of securing these parking areas to be used as town parking. The Council agreed that they would like Mayor Harshman to look further into this.

Mayor Harshman reported that Shentel is also trying to sell the old Bank Building on Main Street if anyone knows someone who might be interested.

Mayor Harshman reported that Shen-Paco has notified the Town that they will not be doing cleaning services anymore, so he has asked Ms. Judy Ritchie, who works at the Edinburg Mill if she would be interested in cleaning the Town Office twice a month. Ms. Ritchie stated that she was interested and she will be charging \$25 an hour. Mayor Harshman reported that Shen-Paco was charging \$150 to clean once a month. The Council was fine with this.

Mayor Harshman reported that it has been a while since he has heard anything from T-Mobile. Mayor Harshman also reported that they never responded to the changes to the original contract that was sent to them and he thought it was not going to happen since they are limited to only the 9 antennas. Mayor Harshman reported that someone contacted Mr. Ron Ross recently about looking at the water tower about the installation, but the Town has not signed a contract with them.

Mayor Harshman reported that the electric service at the Christmas Tree lot has finally been converted to underground.

Mayor Harshman reported that the generators at Well #2 and the Edinburg Mill are waiting for start-up.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town's 5-year trash contract with Long Enterprises expires on September 1, 2024. Mayor Harshman heard rumors that Mr. Long was either going to sell the business or retire and the Town reached out to him about the renewal and he informed the Town that he was planning on submitting a new contract to continue service with Long Enterprises.

Mayor Harshman also heard from 2 other companies about providing trash service and they have also heard rumors that the Town might be looking for a new provider. Mayor Harshman reported that over the years, the Town has renewed the 5-year contract with Long Enterprises 5 times after the initial contract. Mayor Harshman reported that while the Town did not go out for bids, he was aware of the fees the other towns were paying and the contract rates have always come in considerably less.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council if they would like to renew the contract with Long Enterprises for trash service and they agreed that the Town should stay with Long Enterprises.

Mayor Harshman reported that New Market will be hosting the next Town & County Dinner on April 3, 2024.

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 reported that the new plant is in full operation and some details are still being worked out as the operators get used to the new process.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is still waiting for the clarifier railings and the Contractor still has not replaced the Tee that continues to be leaking air in the west aeration basin. Mayor Harshman reported that the adjustments that need to be made on the telescoping valves to eliminate solids backing up in the clarifiers also still need to be done.

Mayor Harshman reported that WGK has been back on site since last Tuesday to begin demolition of the old plant structures. Mayor Harshman also reported that the fiberglass covers from the 2 RBC's have been removed and are going to be used for storage. Mayor Harshman reported that WGK has removed the rotating interior equipment from both RBC's and are now moving on to the clarifier equipment. Mayor Harshman reported that the plan is to remove all the actual equipment and then start breaking down the concrete structures.

Mayor Harshman reported that he brought up the age and condition of the sludge bed's roof structure as a possible use for the remaining USDA funds. Mayor Harshman reported that this was installed in the late 1980s and years of sun and weather have started to breakdown the translucent fiberglass roofing material. Mayor Harshman reported that this is an eligible expense, so the Town will be seeking quotes to replace the roof material.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council if they were comfortable with the Town seeking bids to replace the roofing material on the sludge beds and authorizing the Mayor to review and approve the work using the remaining USDA contingency funds. The Council agreed that this was okay.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has received \$29,689.66 so far in reimbursed expenses from USDA for the work the Town has completed in support of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk