

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 11, 2022

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2022. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:27 p.m. All Council Members were present, except for Councilman Boone. Visitors present: Greg & Paige Roberts, Capt. Kolter Stroop and Dep. Dwayne Green from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Harshman welcomed everyone and asked if anyone had anything that was not on the agenda.

Councilman Baird wanted to recognize Councilman Wood for helping him with some Council matters and wanted him to know how much he appreciated it.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2021 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman stated that he would like to discuss some issues with Delinquent Utility Bills. There is a customer that owes \$1,127.12 that lives in a house with two apartments and only one meter. The Town cannot turn the delinquent customer's water off without cutting off the other tenant's water since there is only one meter. There are several things the Town can do about this; the Town can contact the property owner and tell them the water will go off to both apartments if the bill is not paid or require the landlord to pay the bills if they will not put in another meter. Mr. Harshman asked the Council to give some guidance on this and discuss it at next month's meeting. Mr. Harshman reported that if the property owner wants to put in another meter, the Town will supply the meter and the property owner must do the re-plumbing to connect the meter. It was also discussed that the Town could require the property owner to include water and sewer in the monthly rent. then the property owner would be responsible for paying the bill. Mr. Harshman stated that the Town really does try to work with delinquent customers, but most of them don't get in touch with us. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Town has \$15,000-\$16,000 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that could be used for delinquent utility bills for those who are affected by COVID that must be used by March.

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.

The Water and Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman called attention to Inboden's Report and reported that a 2" raw water line from Well #2 at the Water Treatment Plant burst, sprayed water out and soaked all of the electric panels and the booster pumps, which caused them to be inoperable. A service tech from Ortts Electric came to wire a control jumper so the booster pumps could be operated manually. Mr. Harshman reported that Shallow Creek Electric Services came in to do the repair and everything is running well.

Mr. Harshman reported that most of the equipment for the liquid chlorine conversion at the Water Treatment Plant has arrived. The electrician is still waiting on a price for an exhaust fan to allow him to give a quote on the electrical work that needs to be done. Since the space in the Plant is rather small, the plan is to get all the electrical work done before moving in the spill containment and some other items. Mr. Harshman also reported that the hot water heater is the original install from 1998 and will be changed out.

Mr. Harshman reported that the DEQ's inspection of the underground storage tank found many items that need to be addressed due to the new regulations. The Town has told the DEQ that the plan is to replace the underground storage tank with an above ground tank.

Mr. Harshman reported that the DEQ has issued the new discharge permit for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP), which went into effect January 1, 2022 and will run until December 31, 2026.

The Street Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the repairs were done on South Whissen Street. The Town is going to get additional quotes for the other work that needs to be done and will address those in the spring.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that he and the Town Treasurer have completed some changes to the Personnel Manual. He also reported that a section was added to the Small Purchase Procedures to cover larger purchases and procurement. This change needs to be done for the spending of the ARPA funds.

The Personnel Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that Mr. Bobby Joe Jenkins, who worked part-time for the Maintenance Department has left the Town. He also reported that there is an applicant who lives in town that is going to be interviewed for the part-time position.

The Finance Committee had no report. Councilman Wood asked Mr. Harshman how the meeting about the software went. Mr. Harshman reported that it turned out to be an all-day training session and it was very interesting. He also reported that some other towns in the County use Southern Software. Mr. Harshman is going to meet with Ms. Amanda Kerns from the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission about the ARPA funds, which may be able to be used to purchase new software.

The Property Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that Shen-Paco, who currently cleans the Town Office twice a month is raising their rates from \$45 per visit to \$150 per visit, not including cleaning supplies. Mr. Harshman is checking into other cleaning companies and getting pricing.

Councilman Dellinger reported that a lot of work has been done to the house on the south end of the cemetery and Dep. Green reported that it is going to be used as a type of half-way house.

The Park Committee had no report.

The Insurance Committee had no report

Capt. Stroop from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office called attention to the Calls for Service report. Capt. Stroop reported that there have been more issues on Printz Street. Councilwoman Reistetter asked about the award that one of the Deputies received. Capt. Stroop stated that Sgt. Warren Poff received the Valor Award from the VFW.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Tourism Council did not meet in December, but he provided the Council with a copy of the November minutes. He also reported that the Tourism Council meets the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon in the County Board Room if anyone is interested in attending the meetings.

Mr. Harshman reported that he has still been attending the Shenandoah County 250th Anniversary Planning Meetings. The first event is scheduled for March and the Town could be asked to help pay for some banners and mailing.

Mr. Harshman reported that the ShenGo Bus Service had 454 riders in October, 540 riders in November and 778 riders in December. Mr. Harshman also reported that several assisted living facilities in the County would like the busses to stop there.

Mr. Harshman reported that he hasn't heard anything else from the individual that was interested in buying the Irvin Candy Company building.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Employee Christmas Lunch at the VFW was very nice and thanked Joan & Emery Reistetter for their donation of \$150 that helped pay for the lunch. Mr. Harshman also reported that the bill for the lunch was \$250 and the VFW turned around and gave the Edinburg Heritage Foundation a check for \$250 for the Mill.

There was no ARB meeting last month. Mr. Harshman reported that he met with Mr. Leon McCray, who wants to demolish the old warehouse he owns on Printz Street. Mr. McCray stated that the contractor who would do the demolition wants to salvage the wood. The Architectural Review Board will need to meet to discuss this. Mr. Harshman also reported that if the warehouse is demolished, the lot will be used for additional parking for the apartment building located on that same property.

There was no Planning Commission meeting last month.

There was no Zoning Report.

There was no Town Attorney report.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project went out to bid, with a deadline of Tuesday, January 25th to turn in the bids. The bid will be awarded on Monday, January 31st. Mr. Harshman reported that he is not seeing a lot of interest, but two reputable contractors were at the bid meeting. Mr. Harshman has not heard anything from the DEQ about the Town missing the September deadline for the Project going out to bid; the Town has asked for an extension to the deadline because of the delay in USDA approval. The WWTP has remained in compliance for the past year and a half while we have been waiting for the upgrade to begin. Mr. Harshman reported that the full set of drawings and the shop manual are available to view in the Council Chambers.

Mr. Harshman stated he sent out information about the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2022 in the Council packets and asked them what their thoughts were. Councilman Wood and Councilwoman Reistetter both stated that they thought the rate should be changed to .17 per \$100. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Baird to roll back the Town Real Estate Tax Rate to .17 per \$100. Motion carried. Mr. Harshman stated that he will work on a Public Hearing Notice for the March meeting. Councilman Wood asked that someone from the Sheriff's Department attend the Public Hearing.

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 8:13 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk