

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 11, 2023

The Edinburg Town Council met for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Mayor Harshman called the Public Hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present except for Councilman Dellinger and Councilman Baird. Also present was Ms. Tabatha Dellinger and Mr. Steve Crisman.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive comments on the Revision and Codification of the Town's Ordinances including changes to Chapter 141, Subdivision of Land and Chapter 175, Zoning.

There were no comments.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to adjourn the Public Hearing at 7:16 p.m.

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 11, 2023. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present except for Councilman Dellinger and Councilman Baird. Also present were Ms. Tabatha Dellinger, Mr. Steve Crisman and Dep. Robert Taylor and Dep. Dwayne Green from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department.

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

Ms. Tabatha Dellinger asked the Council if they would consider placing a trash can somewhere between Charterhouse School and Cook's Shell and stated that she thought that a good place would be in front of the Library. She also suggested that the Town put recycling bins next to all of the trash cans in town.

A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilwoman Reistetter to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2023 regular meeting. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Beachy called attention to Inboden's report.

Mayor Harshman reported that water usage is still up, but a number of leaks have been fixed in the last few days.

Mayor Harshman reported that he received the Memcor US Filter Technician's report from the 3-day visit to the Water Treatment Plant (WTP). One of the items that was found is that there is an excessive amount of oil getting into the air lines and valves that is coming from the compressors. Mayor Harshman reported that he met with the compressor man last week to discuss a solution and to get a quote for a service contract on the compressors. Mayor Harshman also reported that the Memcor filter units have a number of air leaks that cause the compressors to run 24/7. When the compressors run all the time, they tend to push more oil into the air lines and the Town will be looking at improving the oil filters on the air lines and correcting the air leaks on the Memcor filter units.

Mayor Harshman reported that the report also stated that the membrane are in excellent shape, but the 12 new membrane for filter #4 that were ordered months ago arrived last week. Mayor Harshman also reported that the membrane in filter #2 was replaced recently, and like filter #4, the membrane were showing all the signs of breaking down with excessive air bubbles showing up in the inspection blocks. The Memcor tech thought that there was a problem and tested a number of membranes while he was here and what they found was that the original end caps on the membrane housings were worn out and are causing the air bubbles to appear. Mayor Harshman reported that new end caps have been ordered.

Mayor Harshman reported that there is also a broken water union on filter #4 that needs to be replaced and the plan is to do this repair while the end caps on the 12-membrane housing are changed. Since the filters are here and cannot be returned, the membrane will be changed out while the filter is out of service. The new membrane only have a one year shelf life, so they will need to be used. Mayor Harshman stated that while it hurts to replace the membrane that still have usable life, it makes sense to do it while the unit is torn apart for the other repairs and there will be 2 filters with all new membrane and 2 with 5-year-old membrane, which should stagger the need to replace all 4 units at the same time.

Mayor Harshman reported that the filter unit valves and actuators are nearing the end of their usable life and some of them date back to the 1998 start-up of the Plant. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town plans to begin ordering these parts and will hopefully be able to stagger the replacement so that all the new parts are not going in at the same time and then wearing out at the same time down the road.

Mayor Harshman reported that there are a number of other individual parts that need to be replaced, which are being ordered and there will be a number of other purchases in the coming months for the WTP.

Mayor Harshman also reported that there hasn't been much progress on the Cave Spring water line replacement or the Virginia Department of Health's (VDH) approval to move forward on the water pump station. The 200,000-gallon tank has been sanitized and sealed up and is waiting to be connected to the water pump station once it is completed.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has supplied Inboden with data from building records for the Lead Pipe Inventory and they have someone assisting them with the GIS Interface that will ultimately identify the buildings by date of construction and/or renovation as to what properties will need to be checked for lead.

Inboden has also learned that there are now preapproved methods of water sampling to identify if there is lead within a structure's water system. These tests will require permission from the VDH and will probably only be needed when the physical field check cannot identify lead for some reason.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is using some outside help to catch up with trimming of the weeds and hopefully the sidewalks and curbs will be able to be sprayed to control the weeds going forward.

The Ordinance Committee had no report.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Council had already agreed to fund the 10-20% match to the Grant funding for the bus shelters and benches. The Grant will not be available until 2024, but they are asking how many items the Town might be interested in. Mayor Harshman isn't sure that the Town is ready for shelters, but he is thinking that the Town should put in for benches at Rose Hill, Dollar General, the Library and at the B&B on North Main Street. Mayor Harshman stated that there is already a bench at the old bank lot on Main Street, one at the Post Office and there really isn't enough room for one on the sidewalk at the Mill. The Council was okay with the placement of the 4 benches.

Mayor Harshman reported that the map at the gazebo blew down and he got a quote from Fine Line Printing for a 4' x 8' Walking Tour Map to replace it for \$850. Mayor Harshman passed out a drawing of the Map and asked if the Council would consider approving this purchase. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood approving the purchase of the 4' x 8' Walking Tour Map for \$850. Motion carried.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar called attention to June's Park and Pool Report. Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar reported that the pool has been busy and there are 15 campers attending Water Days this week. She also reported that there are more and more people using the park.

Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar reported that there have been some questionable people at the pool and asked the Sheriff's Department to get out of their vehicles and walk around the area, especially at lunch time. She stated that she wants the pool and park to be a safe family environment. Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar thanked everyone that helps her out with the pool.

Mayor Harshman reported that he has reached out to another tennis court company but has not heard anything back yet.

The Insurance Committee had no report.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Dep. Green called attention to the June Calls for Service Report. Councilman Wood thanked the Sheriff's Department for changing the report as he requested last month.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended the last Tourism Council meeting and he will provide the minutes to the Council when he receives them. Mayor Harshman also reported that the Shenandoah Tours event went well. There were 20 in the group and a lot of them had never been to the locations they visited in Edinburg and said they would be back with their families.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended the quarterly ShenGo Bus meeting and the numbers for May were up to 1,470 riders and they said that the southern route is starting to catch up with the northern route. He also reported that no one used the buses for free rides to the polls.

Mayor Harshman also reported that the current Bus Grant ends in December, but the funds will probably be used up by September. The new Grant Cycle will begin in October and Mayor Harshman learned back in May that due to a contract extension agreement between the Northern Shenandoah Valley Regional Commission and Virginia Regional Transit, there will be a reduction in the local match for FY24. They are anticipating that the first quarter of the local match will not be necessary, and the second quarter will be billed for only November and December.

Mayor Harshman reported that bus passes were also discussed and they may do something like 10 rides for the cost of 9. Tokens can currently be purchased at the Bus Office in Woodstock. Mayor Harshman also reported that they are checking into the cost of printing passes and where they might be sold and one suggestion was at the Town Offices.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended the Shenandoah Rails to Trails Partnership annual meeting. The Partnership has continued to work with VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) and other state agencies to move the project forward. Mayor Harshman reported that the CTB was allocated approximately \$89 million in the State's 2-year budget for the establishment of a new State Office of Trails. They released \$5 million back in December, \$1 million each for the 5 trails that are proposed across the State to further investigate the scope, design and estimated cost of each of the trail projects.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Partnership also received \$3 million from the Federal Government which were used for a VDOT preliminary design study that will be completed this year and VDOT presented some of their findings at the annual meeting. Mayor Harshman stated that there were some things that stood out to him. While they weren't looking into the possible reestablishment of the rails, they did find that the current level of neglect of the rail corridor would require a total redo to put trains back on it and they did not see any safe way to create a rail with trail situation since the corridor is too narrow and much of it is high up on steep sided ballasts. Mayor Harshman reported that Norfolk

Southern is willing to sell to the highest bidder and they are not interested in reconstructing the corridor or maintaining it going forward. They also have not received any interest from short freight lines to take it on.

Mayor Harshman reported that if the CTB decides to back the Trail, there could be as much as \$35 million available to purchase the rail right-of-way and to begin design and construction and the estimated purchase price is \$15-20 million. If purchased, it will be placed in something called "Railbanking". Railbanking will allow for the building of the Trail with the understanding that the Railroad can buy it back if they feel that it economically makes sense to have a train operating again along this route.

Mayor Harshman also reported that when the Trail moves forward, the first segment that will be built starts in Broadway and will run for 11 miles to Cavern Road. This section was chosen because there are no bridges. VDOT has estimated that it will cost about \$3 million per mile and this includes the work on bridges, so these 11 miles should be some of the least expensive. Mayor Harshman reported that they have said that much of the Trail is going to need railings because so much of it will be atop the steep embankments of the current railroad.

Mayor Harshman reported that the 2 days that the office was closed for clean up went well. Councilman Wood and Mrs. Sue Harshman volunteered to help the Mayor, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer and 2,000 pounds of old files and other items were disposed of. Mayor Harshman stated that he thinks this needs to be done once a year.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

The Zoning Report showed that three permits were issued:

1. Michael Jenkins  
138 Kadies Ln.  
Storage Building
2. Rusty & Christee Padgett  
200 Princess Caroline Ct.  
Deck
3. Regina Freestone  
112 Kadies Ln.  
Deck

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Construction Progress meeting will be sometime the week of July 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall since the first Tuesday of the month was July 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Engineers had a conversation with the DEQ about the Consent Order's June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline for the substantial completion of the construction of the new Plant. The DEQ agreed to amend the Consent Order and with that in mind, the Engineers asked that the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline be moved to September 30<sup>th</sup> and the total completion of the new Plant and the demolition of the old Plant be moved out to December 30<sup>th</sup>. The 3-month time period for these extensions aligned with the 3-month delay caused by USDA at the start of the project. Mayor Harshman reported that DEQ's amendment set the completion date as March 31, 2024 and at that time, the construction is to be completed, the Town has secured the Certificate to Operate from the DEQ and the Operation and Maintenance Manual for the Plant has been revised.

Mayor Harshman reported that the 3 aeration blowers and the screening equipment have been installed in the headworks building and the Electrician has been running all of the necessary conduit in the building as well as throughout the site. This includes burying conduit running down to the current lab building to tie in with the existing electric service.

Mayor Harshman reported that they had been planning on using stainless steel piping running across the top of the aeration basin to supply air to the far side from the headworks building. Stainless steel pipe has not been available and they are not sure when it will be, so the air lines will be buried around the outside edge of the basin using iron pipe. Mayor Harshman reported that this was the original plan, so it doesn't impact the operation in any way.

Mayor Harshman reported that the grout has been installed in the bottom of the clarifiers and the clarifier mechanisms have been sand blasted, reprimed and painted. There were some issues with the painting, but Mayor Harshman believes that everything has been worked out. Mayor Harshman also reported that the manholes and piping that connects everything together are getting installed and backfilled.

Mayor Harshman reported that there have been some electrical problems with the new digester blowers, influent pumps and VFDs. The problems seem to be with restarting after events like the loss of power that happened last week and these types of shutdowns require the equipment to be manually started. Mayor Harshman also reported that they are changing the float switches that operate the influent pumps from mercury switches to mechanical switches which should get things functioning properly with the influent pumps.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider adopting the Revision and Codification of the Ordinances of the Town of Edinburg. Mayor Harshman read the adopting paragraph of the Ordinance and reported that only one person stopped in the office to look at the changes. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to adopt the Revision and Codification of the Ordinances of the Town of Edinburg. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar – aye, Dellinger – absent, Baird – absent, Beachy – aye, Reistetter – aye, Wood – aye, Harshman – aye. Mayor Harshman stated that the new Code will take effect on August 10, 2023.

Mayor Harshman reported that he and the Council had originally talked about setting aside 10% of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Shenandoah Rails to Trails, which would be \$111,000 of the remaining undesignated ARPA funding of around \$134,000. Mayor Harshman got the feeling from some of the Council that this has probably changed and they would rather spend the money on other things.

Mayor Harshman reported that the first item is for a new sewer camera with a locator attachment at a cost of \$12,000. The Town currently has to borrow a sewer camera from another town and the camera is used a lot. A motion was made by Councilwoman Reistetter and seconded Councilman Beachy to approve the purchase of a new sewer camera at a cost of \$12,000 using ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman stated that the balance of the ARPA funds might be better used for improvements at the WTP and to assist with the work that is planned to replace the water lines at Cave Springs. Mayor Harshman reported that he should be receiving quotes for the work needed at the WTP by the next meeting.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Council is going to have to come up with a portion of the funding for the Rails to Trails project at some point and will need to start budgeting some amount going forward to set aside for this. Mayor Harshman also reported that he still has not heard anything back from the tennis court company and he thinks that they feel that the Town probably isn't going to do anything.

Mayor Harshman reported that T-Mobile has offered the Town \$2,500 a month to place their antennas on the water tank if the Town agrees to the first term being for 10 years and having 5 additional 5-year options after that. There would be a 10% increase at the end of each term. Mayor Harshman sent the

contract to the Town Attorney to review, but he has not gotten back to him yet. The Council agreed to move forward on this.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider reappointing Mr. Paul J. Neal, Jr. as the Town Attorney, Ms. Mary Lowerre as the Town Clerk and Mrs. Michelle Heier as the acting Town Treasurer. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Charter states that the Council may appoint these and any other required positions every 2 years at the July meeting. Mayor Harshman listed Mrs. Heier as the acting Town Treasurer because there will actually be 2 Treasurers for a short time when someone is hired to take her place. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to reappoint Mr. Paul J. Neal, Jr. as the Town Attorney, Ms. Mary Lowerre as the Town Clerk and Mrs. Michelle Heier as the acting Town Treasurer for the next two years. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider approving the purchase of historic style streetlights, poles and replacement globes from Holophane at a cost of \$15,280. Because of the lead time on orders, these items were ordered after Mayor Harshman received approval from a majority of the Council by e-mail. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the purchase of historic style streetlights, poles and replacement globes from Holophane at a cost of \$15,280. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to go into closed session to discuss Personnel Matters as permitted by § 2.2-3711. A-1. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilwoman Reistetter to come out of closed session and return to regular session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy that to the best of each member's knowledge, they certify that only personnel matters were discussed as permitted by 2.2-3711. A-1 in the closed session. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar – I certify, Dellinger – absent, Baird – absent, Beachy – I certify, Reistetter – I certify, Wood – I certify, Harshman – I certify.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilwoman Reistetter to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

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Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

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Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk