

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JULY 9, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, July 9, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:29 p.m. All the Councilmembers except Councilman Dellinger were present. Also present were Jim Hines, Steve Crisman, Trey Rorie from the Northern Virginia Daily and Lt. Brent Lutz from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

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

Mayor Harshman asked the Council if he could add a closed session to the agenda to discuss a purchase as permitted by as permitted by § 2.2-3711-A-3. The Council agreed to add a closed session to the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilwoman Reistetter to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Treasurer made a list of pre-paid personal property and real estate taxes that were paid for the full year, which he provided to the Council. The mayor stated that the Treasurer is going to move the pre-paid funds to the money market account so it will earn interest.

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 for June.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is currently under a drought warning and voluntary cut back on water usage.

Mayor Harshman reported that both compressors are online. He also reported that the Town will now be working on solving the numerous air leaks that have been plaguing the filters for some time.

Mayor Harshman reported that the final cost for the trailer mounted generator at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was \$10,160. This plus the repair cost and the paving expense at the WWTP has been reimbursed by USDA.

Mayor Harshman reported that there have been a number of requests for new construction water and sewer service, which include 3 single family homes on South Grove Avenue, a single family out of town home on Manor Drive and an inquiry from the individual that owns the 3 vacant lots on Princess Caroline Court for single family homes. The mayor also spoke to one of the owners of Phase 2 of Edinburg Square and he learned that they are talking to another developer about purchasing the remainder of the duplex project. It will still be built based on the original design, but hopefully the new owner will complete it in a timely manner.

The Street Committee had no report.

The Ordinance Committee had no report.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is still waiting on the audit for 2022-2023.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the A/C is still out in the Police Department but hopefully the equipment will be arriving soon so this can be completed. He also reported that there are 2 A/C units down at the Edinburg Mill.

The Cemetery Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town will be working with Wreaths Across America to place wreaths on the graves of 200 veterans buried at Cedarwood Cemetery on December 14th. He also reported that the Town will be working on installing a pipe at each of these graves so that a flag can be placed in to identify it as that of a veteran. Some of them are from the Civil War and the Mayor Harshman asked the Council if the Town should put American flags on all the graves or use

different flags to individually identify the Civil War veterans. The mayor suggested that the “First Confederate” flag be used for the Civil War veterans like the one at the monument downtown. The Council agreed that each Civil War veteran should be individually identified and to use the First Confederate flag.

Mayor Harshman stated that the Town is going to need help to do this project every year which will include supporting the purchasing of wreaths at \$15 each and picking up the wreaths, which are packed 12 to a box and will need to be removed from the box and fluffed prior to being placed. The Town is thinking that the cemetery should be divided into 3 sections for the placement of the wreaths. The wreaths will be on 3 separate trailers/trucks and will be handed to those placing them on the graves. The wreaths will need to be removed sometime in January so they don't turn brown, but the Town Crew should be able to handle that.

Mayor Harshman reported that the mural at the pool is finished and stated that the Council should go take a look. Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar called attention to the June Park & Pool Report and stated that the pool was very busy in June and so far in July as well. She also reported that Water Days started on Monday with 17 campers and she stated that it is going really well.

Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar stated that there has been only 2 Deputies that patrol at the pool 2-3 times a day, but she has not seen any of the other ones at all. She asked the Sheriff's Department to ask the Deputies to do more patrols at the pool.

The Insurance Committee had no report

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Lt. Lutz called attention to the June Calls for Service report.

Mayor Harshman reported that he met with VDOT as part of their Rail with Trail Study and he voiced concern about the feasibility of a railroad alongside a trail in such a narrow corridor. It was also discussed how a trail would fit with Edinburg's Heritage Tourism efforts and what is happening at the Edinburg Mill. The young man that was interviewing Mayor Harshman helps lead the E-Bike Tours that begin at the Edinburg Mill on Saturday mornings, so he was familiar with the Museum and Visitor Center.

Mayor Harshman reported that he also attended the annual Trail Partnership meeting where he heard a presentation from VDOT about the Rail with Trail Study. VDOT has divided the study into 3 sections with the first one happening right now. Depending on what they find during this first stage will determine if it is even necessary to do the next stage. While they are quick to say that this is not a feasibility study, it does sound like that very thing might determine the need to go through all 3 stages.

Mayor Harshman reported that there have been some impressive increases during May and June at the Edinburg Mill compared to last year. As the mayor told the Council last month, there was an 16% increase in visitation in May compared to 2023 and June ended up even better with a 22% increase in visitation. Also, sales in the Museum Gift Shop increased 61% in May and 50% in June compared to 2023.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Faces of Tourism on June 26th went well with a group of 20 visiting the Museum at the Mill and Heritage Mill Wines. Linda Wooten ended up being on hand again to tell the attendees about some of the sites on the Walking Tour. It was way too hot for anyone to walk very far, but the Walking Tour Brochure was passed out for future self-guided tours. The lunch at the Town Hall with food from Bean's BBQ changed with the Edinburg Mill Restaurant providing appetizers for the wine tasting and the group going to Sal's Bistro for lunch. The attendees only paid \$15 for this event, so County Tourism agreed to pick up the tab for the appetizers and it was necessary for the Town to cover some of the lunch cost. Most of the attendees had never been to the Mill before and they were very impressed. Lunch at Sal's got rave reviews and it was great to include him and the Edinburg Mill Restaurant this year.

Mayor Harshman reported that a travel writer is scheduled to come to the Mill later this month for a tour set up by County Tourism.

Mayor Harshman reported that at the ShenGo Bus quarterly meeting they reported that the 3 new buses are in use, ridership continues to increase, and they are expecting a 15-20% increase for 2024. ShenGo is also working with County Parks & Rec to assist with transportation for seniors and others to get to the new facility where the rehab center used to be. The idea of going to a 0 fare is still in the works which will help a number of folks. Mayor Harshman also reminded the Council that the Town had put in for 4 benches

over a year ago that would be covered by a grant. They have the money now and should be working on getting those for the Town.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended the meeting on Water Quality that was held by the DEQ. The Project that they are working on will cover the Stony Creek, Crooked Run and Pugh's Run waterways. It is the mayor's understanding that these are being looked at for a problem with and solutions to mitigate the impact of silt.

Mayor Harshman reported that he has not received the Tourism Council minutes from the June meeting yet, but he will forward them to the Council once he receives them. Quite a few businesses were talking about things being slow and being behind in last year's numbers. While it is disappointing to hear that, it makes the increases at the Mill even more impressive. This time of year, it is always hard to have good attendance at meetings with vacations and other commitments and with that in mind, there will not be a Travel Council meeting in July.

Mayor Harshman reported that with vacations, putting up the banners and flags, ill employees and the heat, the Town is a little behind with things like weed control and placement of the new concrete planters. The weeds will be sprayed this week and the planters will be put out in the coming week.

Mayor Harshman reported that Ortt Electric began work today on the new electric service for the water pump station at the elevated tank, but because of scheduling issues with Dominion Energy, the remaining work has been pushed back to Monday, July 15th.

Mayor Harshman reported that Bushong Contracting has said that they should be starting work at Cave Spring in August. The Town will be ordering the pipe, fittings and other materials from 2 different companies soon to have everything on hand. The difference in price was very small between the suppliers, but one of the suppliers is having problems getting brass items like meter setters due to a factory fire.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

No Zoning Permits were issued.

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman reported that the new plant continues to be operating well. He also reported that he still has not heard anything from the DEQ.

Mayor Harshman reported that the repair of the diffuser along the bottom of the basin that was damaged by the Contractor while they were working on the airline leak last month has been completed.

Mayor Harshman reported that the installation of the new railing on the two clarifiers at the Plant still needs to be completed. The railings were purchased directly from the manufacturer and they will be installed by the Town. The plan is to complete this as soon as possible.

Mayor Harshman reported that the repaving of the existing roadway and parking areas that were damaged during construction work have been completed. Everything worked out well and some of the areas of the roadway were widened during this work. There has also been gravel and millings added along the edges of the pavement and establishing the areas where drainage issues exist.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has received reimbursement for the paving expenses and is looking forward to completing a number of other projects pertaining to the WWTP.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is also working with the Engineer to finalize everything with WGK Construction as far as the final completion of punch list items and final payment on the Project.

Mayor Harshman asked for a motion to allow him to read only the Title of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108, Nuisances § 108-2. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to allow Mayor Harshman to read only the Title of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108, Nuisances § 108-2.

Motion carried. Mayor Harshman read the title of an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108, Nuisances § 108-2. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to adopt an Ordinance to amend Chapter 108, Nuisances § 108-2 as an Emergency Ordinance. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar – aye, Dellinger – absent, Baird – aye, Beachy – aye, Reistetter – aye, Wood – aye, Harshman – aye.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider the reallocation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to the Cave Spring Water Line Replacement and Water Pumping Station Improvements Projects. As was discussed last month, both projects will exceed the amount of funding remaining in their respective ARPA allocations. There is still \$82,750 remaining in the category for painting the water tanks and it is going to be 1-2 years before the painting of the interior of the elevated tank. Mayor Harshman is proposing moving \$60,000 of this to the Cave Spring Water Line Replacement and the remaining \$22,750 to the Water Pumping Station improvements. The Town will still be short on the Water Pumping Station improvements, but there is revenue on hand to fund the remaining balance as well as any additional expenses for Cave Springs. These additional funds result in a remaining balance of \$231,027.20 allocated for the remaining work at Cave Springs and \$175,805 allocated for the Pumping Station Project. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood authorizing the reallocation of ARPA funding in the amount of \$60,000 to the Cave Spring Water Line Replacement and \$22,750 to the Water Pumping Station Improvements Projects. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to go into closed session to discuss a purchase as permitted by § 2.2-3711-A-3. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood 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 a purchase was discussed as permitted by 2.2-3711-A-3 in the closed session. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar – I certify, Dellinger – absent, Baird – I certify, Beachy – I certify, Reistetter – I certify, Wood – I certify, Harshman – I certify.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk