

## REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 8, 2022

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. All the Council Members were present, except for Councilwoman Reistetter. Visitors present: Mr. Nick Harpold of the Northern Virginia Daily, Capt. Kolter Stroop and Dep. Brady Pellath from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Baird and seconded by Councilman Boone to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2022 regular meeting. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Baird 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 there was a major leak at the Dollar General store due to a 6" cracked line, which has been repaired.

Mr. Harshman reported that the annual water inspection with the Virginia Department of Health was earlier this month and everything seemed to go well.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Town is still waiting on the electrical work to be done at the Water Treatment Plant for the liquid chlorine conversion. The exhaust fan and some other parts will hopefully be arriving soon so this work can be completed.

Mr. Harshman reported that he heard from the Engineer and he has stated that a wood door for the hot water heater closet can be used instead of a metal one. The old water heater has been replaced and work should begin on the door as soon as possible. Mr. Harshman also reported that Inboden has installed the new lines, pump and monitoring equipment and have placed one of the spill containers and 2 tanks in the room.

Mr. Harshman also reported that the 1,000 gallon above ground fuel tank was installed on Monday and H.N. Funkhouser has pumped the fuel from the old tank into the new one. They are going to return on Thursday to top the tank off. We still need to install the pump on top of the tank for the Town's off-road equipment.

Mr. Harshman reported that there was a clogged sewer line on Water Street, and the Maintenance Department is replacing 200 or more feet of pipe.

The Street Committee had no report.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that postcards will be mailed out notifying residents that the Town is going to start putting DMV stops on those with past due personal property taxes and those that have not purchased vehicle decals. The Town will begin placing the stops on delinquent accounts beginning April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that he is still getting the budget information together and should be sending the proposed budget information out to the Council at least a week before the next meeting. If all goes as planned, the Public Hearing for the budget will be held prior to the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting and the budget will be adopted at the June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Harshman also reported that the Town had heard from the State Retirement System that the employer rate would increase from .55 to .58 for next year, but the Town heard today that the Town's rate will drop to .00.

The Property Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town is going to stay with Shen-Paco Cleaning Services, but they will only be cleaning the Town Hall once a month.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

The Park Committee had no report.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town received the renewal information from VML and there was a slight increase of \$1,198. He provided the Council with a breakdown of the various costs and stated that the \$1,250 above the total is a credit that the Town received because of a number of things done each year to help lower the Town's risk. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the renewal of the Town's VML Insurance. Motion carried.

Capt. Stroop called attention to the February Calls for Service report. He also introduced Mr. Brady Pellath, who is one of the new Deputies in Edinburg and reported that the other new Town Deputy is Mr. Andrew Mason.

Mr. Harshman reported he provided the Council with a copy of the February Tourism Council minutes.

Mr. Harshman reported that he sent an email out to the Council about the first event of Shenandoah County's 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, scheduled for Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Civil War in New Market. There is also an event earlier in the day from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. that will feature exhibits from throughout the County, including the Edinburg Mill.

Mr. Harshman reported that the ShenGo Bus had a total of 690 riders in January and he has heard many good comments about the service.

Mr. Harshman reported that the individual who has been looking at the Irvin Candy Company building has been back in touch, and it looks like the Town will not be able to work with him on the water and sewer. He is now estimating that their water usage would possibly be 50,000 gallons a day. This would greatly impact the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) with the amount they would be sending, as well as putting the Town at around 90% of total capacity. Mr. Harshman has talked to Ms. Jenna French with the County Development office and there is a chance that they may be able to possibly haul or run a pump line to the old Aileen Plant.

There was no Architectural Review Board meeting.

There was no Planning Commission meeting last month.

There was no Zoning Report.

There was no Town Attorney Report.

Mr. Harshman reported that USDA has finally approved the low bidder for the WWTP upgrade, WGK Construction. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town will be getting a loan for \$494,000 at 1.25% and will be receiving a grant for \$328,400 to cover the increase in construction costs. He also reported that the Town has supplied everything to USDA for the Letter of Conditions, so the Bond Counsel work will soon begin and the pre-construction conference should also be scheduled soon.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Town is moving forward slowly with the budget items to be funded with the American Rescue Plan Funds (ARPA). The line replacement work that was done at Cave Spring last year is reimbursable, the contract for the Town Code re-do has been signed and the computer equipment for the new software has been ordered. Mr. Harshman stated that there is an 8-10 week wait time on some of the items, so he asked Council if they would approve of him going ahead with the rest of the budget items. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by

Councilman Boone to approve of Mr. Harshman going ahead with the rest of the proposed budget items to be funded with the ARPA funds. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman asked the Council to consider the reappointments of Mr. Michael Franklin and Ms. Barbara Strong to the Board of Zoning Appeals for 5-year terms. A motion was made by Councilman Boone and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the reappointment of Mr. Michael Franklin for a 5-year term starting 4/21/22 and to approve the reappointment of Ms. Barbara Strong for a 5-year term starting 6/20/22. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman asked the Council to consider the renewal of a 5-year contract for the Town Office copier. Mr. Harshman reported that the current copier contract with Ricoh runs out on 5/18/22 and the new contract amount for 10 years will be \$116.77 per month. The Town also received a quote from another company for a Toshiba copier for \$100 a month. Mr. Harshman stated that the Town has been very satisfied with the Ricoh copier and the service. Councilman Wood stated that he thinks the Town should stay with Ricoh since they have provided good service and the past experience the Town has had with them. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Boone to renew the 5-year Ricoh Town Office copier contract. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman reported that at the last meeting, the Council decided to lower the Real Estate Tax Rate from \$0.19 to \$0.17 per \$100 based on the new assessments, but due to the large decrease in Business License fees, municipal electric rates increasing and rising fuel costs, the Council may need to reconsider the rate decrease. Councilman Wood stated that due to these matters, the Council should reconsider and let the tax rate remain at \$0.19 per \$100. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Boone to leave the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2022 at \$0.19 per \$100. Motion carried.

Mr. Harshman stated that he would schedule and advertise a Public Hearing for the Real Estate Tax Rate for 2022 at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> before the Regular Council Meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Boone to go into closed session to discuss the acquisition of property for public purposes as permitted by §2.2-3707 and §2.2-3711 subsection A 3. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Boone and seconded by Councilman Wood to come out of closed session and return to regular session. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Wood that to the best of each member's knowledge, they certify that only business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under §2.2-3707 and only matters pertaining to the acquisition of property for public purposes were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar – I certify, Dellinger – I certify, Baird – I certify, Boone – I certify, Reistetter – absent, Wood – I certify, Harshman – I certify.

A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Dellinger authorizing the Mayor to work with the Town Attorney to make a formal offer to purchase real property located in the Town of Edinburg for public purpose. Motion carried.

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 8:10 p.m.

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Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

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Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk