

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, October 8, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present except Councilwoman Reistetter and Councilman Dellinger. Also present were Jeremiah & Ivy Bennett, Trey Rorie from the Northern Virginia Daily and Capt. Glenn Ogle from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

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

Jeremiah Bennett stated that he knows that pigs are not allowed in town, but he wants to be able to keep his mini pot-bellied pig. He stated that the pig is his pet, and it does not cause harm to anyone, stays outside during the day and comes inside at night to sleep. The consensus of the Council was that they had no problem with residents keeping pigs as pets, having a Public Hearing before the next meeting to hear comments on amending the Ordinance to allow residents to keep pet pigs in town and allowing Mr. Bennett to keep his pet pig while this is being worked on.

A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Baird to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2024 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.

Mayor Harshman stated that he did not receive a report from Inboden yet.

Mayor Harshman reported that the letters along with the lead pipe information have been sent out to the 60 property owners that have galvanized service lines that may need to be replaced. The mayor reported that the notification included the offer for a lead test paid for by the Town to determine if anything is present in the plumbing that will require action. This test is not required, and it is up to the property owner to request it.

Mayor Harshman stated that it is his understanding that everything required for the lead pipe inventory has been completed and accepted by the state. The mayor reported that the next step will be to complete a plan for replacing the 60 galvanized service lines on the Town's side of the meter and he believes that this is not due until October 2027.

Mayor Harshman reported that work is continuing on the Cave Spring waterline replacement. The mayor reported that they should be able to charge the 6-inch main, which runs all the way up to a fire hydrant along Cave Spring Lane and at that point, the line will drop to a 4-inch main running along Lake Drive and finally connect to the new line the Town Crew installed in 2022.

Mayor Harshman reported that Patterson Construction has begun ordering the pumps and other materials needed to complete the 200,000-gallon pump station and the plan is to have this completed around the end of the year.

Mayor Harshman reported that there was another water leak in Edinburg Manor which was a 6-inch main that split along the underside. The mayor stated that the Town suspected that there was a substantial leak somewhere because of lower-than-normal water levels in the storage tanks. The mayor reported that the leak finally surfaced by way of a sink hole showing up downstream and regrettably the leak detection equipment did not hear the leak prior to that.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has ordered a new ClaVal rate of flow valve for the Water Treatment Plant. He also reported that this is an important component to the Plant, so he authorized the \$5,346 purchase to expedite its arrival.

Mayor Harshman reported that he is going to be meeting with Southern Corrosion on Friday to discuss placing the Town tanks under a service agreement going forward. The mayor stated that this was suggested as an alternative to paying \$90,000 to paint the inside of the elevated tank next year. The

mayor reported that his understanding at this point is that the Town will enter into a monthly payment that ultimately covers all ongoing painting and maintenance as required and this eliminates the need to come up with the large amounts when tank painting is required. The mayor stated this had been looked into before, but the Town was not in the position to take on the payment at that time. The mayor believes that the Town is in a better position now to consider this, especially if it will immediately soften the potential cost of painting the interior of the elevated tank.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman stated that he is sure that everyone has noticed the work on the front porch of the Mason building on the corner of Main and Center Streets and he reported that they are going to start holding their meetings on the first floor of the building instead of the second floor. The mayor also reported that a year or two ago the Masons asked if the Town could provide handicapped parking on Center Street near the old entrance and the Town did this with the understanding that it would be handicapped parking for anyone eligible to use that type of parking and not limited to Mason use only. Mayor Harshman reported that they have now asked if handicapped parking can be placed in front of the building on Main Street. Councilman Wood asked if they will be putting up a ramp since there are only steps there now. The mayor stated that he did not think there was room for a ramp, and he suggested waiting to see how using the new entrance plays out.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the owner of the trailer on Water Street has not taken the requested steps to stop using the trailer and properly stowing it for storage, so he asked the Deputies to take the necessary steps to enforce the Town Ordinance. The mayor reported that the owner of the trailer told the Deputy on duty that it would be moved by October 26th.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report. The mayor reported that everything has been sent to the Auditor for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

The Property Committee had no report.

The Cemetery Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the First Confederate flags and U.S. flags have been purchased and the VFW reimbursed the Town \$619.40 toward the purchase of the flags. The mayor reported that the plan is to place the flags for Veteran's Day in November and leave them in place through December for the placement of the Christmas Wreaths.

The Park Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the tennis court paving is scheduled for October 16th.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman stated that some of the Council may remember the VML grant program that helped pay for safety equipment. The mayor reported that the Town is hoping to apply for this grant again to purchase safety cones and hard hats.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

There were three Zoning Permits issued:

1. Nezar M. Yamani
Edinburg Square Lot #18
House

2. Abdulkadir Alaydarous
Edinburg Square Lot #19
House
3. Brian Fitchett
109 S. Grove Ave.
Single Family Home

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman reported that G.B. Foltz prepared a quote of \$289,464.70 to complete the work required to return Kadie's Lane and Rose Drive to state standards based on VDOT's report. He also reported that the Letter of Credit is only \$233,000, so if it ends up being called, Mr. Madison is going to be billed for the difference. The mayor shared this information with the Town Attorney and the Bank representatives who have been in touch with Mr. Madison. The Bank representative was surprised by the amount of the quote but said that he knew enough about G.B. Foltz to be satisfied that it is a fair estimate. It is the mayor's understanding that the Bank and Mr. Madison's Attorney have told him that he should consider doing what needs to be done rather than having the Town move on the Letter of Credit. The Town Attorney has told the mayor that he is in regular touch with the Bank and at this point, the Town is waiting to hear what Mr. Madison's plans to do, and the mayor does not plan on waiting too much longer.

Mayor Harshman reported that he met with the welders who will be doing the work for T-Mobile at the water tank, and they went up on the tank and determined that the brackets that are currently on top of the tank will not work for the antenna installation. He also reported that this work will require a large crane, which may damage the road, so the Town is going to ask the contractor to wait on resurfacing the roadway at Wiers Lane until they have completed the antenna work. The mayor reported that they plan to do the welding on the tank brackets on November 4th and the Town will be limiting the water coming into the tank to 50% to facilitate the work. He also reported that the T-Mobile's contractor has been in touch with Southern Corrosion, the firm that recently painted the tank, to do the paint touch-up once they are done with the welding.

Mayor Harshman reported that a Theatre Shenandoah board member contacted him for information on the history of the building. He was inquiring because he is looking into having the building placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The mayor let him know that the building is considered a contributing resource within the Designated Historic District and as such on the National Register. This does not mean that the building itself cannot be placed on the Register and could possibly also receive designation as a Virginia Historic Landmark and the mayor suggested that he start by contacting the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The mayor stated that since the Town still owns the theater building, he wanted to make sure that the Town Council didn't have any problem with them pursuing this. The council saw no problem.

Mayor Harshman reported that he attended the quarterly ShenGo bus meeting. He also reported that ridership continues to grow, and the north and south routes are starting to even out as far as the number of riders and the service is now provided at no charge to riders. The mayor reported that they also have a service now for folks off the Route 11 route who have special needs. He also reported that the group is discussing applying for a grant to complete a study on what would be the best next step for bus service. The Grant is a 50/50 split, and they estimate that the cost of the study will be \$50,000 with the State paying \$25,000 and the other \$25,000 will be split based on population, which would make the Town's portion \$750. The mayor stated that he has given them the okay to proceed.

Mayor Harshman reported that he has not received the minutes from the last Tourism Council meeting yet. The mayor stated that the Chamber reported that the Yard Crawl was slower in the middle of the County compared to the north and south ends.

Mayor Harshman reported that visitation at the Mill and Visitor Center for September was fairly level with last year, but the gift shop sales continue to be strong.

Mayor Harshman reported that the D-Day 80th Anniversary event is underway at the Woodstock Amory until October 20th.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Towns, County and Chamber holiday advertising is coming together and as he reported that month, they are working with a couple of local artists on creating a comic strip to promote shopping local for the holidays.

Mayor Harshman reported that several Council Members are due for the Freedom of Information and Conflict of Interest training before the end of the year.

Mayor Harshman reported that he still hasn't heard about any of the final details about Strasburg's Town & County Dinner on Wednesday, October 23rd at Box Office Brewery. The mayor asked the Council to let the Town Clerk know if they are planning on attending.

Mayor Harshman reported that the final change order has been approved with a final payment due to WGK Construction of \$80,032 and the USDA is going to let the Town know how much is left in grant funds.

Mayor Harshman stated that he reached out to the Council prior to the meeting about replacing the 7.5-ton HVAC rooftop unit at the Edinburg Mill since he hoped it would be covered by insurance, but he received notice that it would not be shortly after the last meeting. The mayor reported that the Council had already discussed having Ortt's Electric replace the unit at a cost of \$18,000 rather than putting \$7,500 into repairing the 20-year-old unit and he received the go ahead from a majority of the Council to proceed with ordering the new unit. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to ratify the approval to replace the unit at a cost of \$18,000. Motion carried.

Mayor Harshman reported that when the Town first received the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, a section was added to the Purchasing Procedures to address the use of federal funds. The mayor also reported that what was added covered what the Feds refer to as a small purchase for projects less than \$250,000.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Federal funds from USDA for the sewer plant project came with a list of requirements that the Town had to meet to be permitted to go out for bids on the project. This project exceeded the less than \$250,000 limit in the Purchasing Procedures but was closely controlled by Rural Development to ensure that federal guidelines for procurement were followed. The mayor stated that despite this, the Auditor identified the lack of a Federal Procurement Policy as a material weakness and the Town's required action is to adopt a Procurement Policy for the use of Federal Funding. The mayor reported that the Federal Awards Administration Policy being considered today also covers how Grant Applications will be handled in addition to covering procurement procedures. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to adopt the Town of Edinburg Federal Awards Administration Policy. Motion carried.

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 8:16 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk