

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 10, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present. Also present were Steve Crisman, Trey Rorie from the Northern Virginia Daily and Lt. Brent Lutz and Dep. Patchrick Kennedy from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

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

Councilman Beachy called attention to the Inboden report for November.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Cave Spring waterline replacement is almost completed and almost all of the service connections are done. The mayor believes that they are waiting until the last minute to make a couple of connections before disconnecting the old main since the exact location and depth of the old line is questionable and there is a chance of hitting it while doing these last service connections. The mayor stated that leaving this for last won't impact the rest of the community if the old line is damaged during the final installation.

Mayor Harshman reported that Patterson Construction is still waiting on the pumps and other items needed to complete the 200,000-gallon tank and pump station project. This project is being partially paid with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and the mayor reported that the deadline to spend the ARPA funds is December 31, 2024, but since the funds are already obligated to the Town, they don't have to be spent until December 2025.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Crew will be doing training tomorrow on how to use the new water billing software & equipment.

Mayor Harshman reported that the fence posts that separate the Sewer Plant from the cattle on Irvin's Farm need to be replaced along with the barbed wire. The total amount of fence repair is \$2,791 and since it is on the property line, the mayor asked the Council if they were okay with the Town paying half of the cost for the fence repair. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and Councilman Beachy to pay half of the cost for the fence. Motion carried.

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 new auditors Robinson, Farmer & Cox have contacted the Town Treasurer looking for items for the audit and their plan is to complete the audit in January 2025. The mayor also reported that the Town received comments from USDA about the previous audit's Decision Letter and they asked that the Town provide them with a copy of the new Procurement Policy that was adopted in October. Mayor Harshman reported that they were satisfied with the Town's efforts to work within the limitations of QuickBooks, but they did question the lateness of submitting the audit. The mayor provided an explanation of the challenges with getting a finished product from the auditor and informed them that the Town changed auditors.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider purchasing the new truck without a bank loan and instead paying for the truck outright and putting \$1,800 a month in the Town's Money Market account, which will save the Town \$18,000 in interest. The mayor also stated that the Town will be selling the old truck. The Council was okay with this.

The Cemetery Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the wreaths for the cemetery came in this morning and anyone interested in helping on Saturday should be at the cemetery at 11:45 a.m. and park in the grass area behind the Edinburg Mill. There will be 3 trailers with wreaths for each section and 273 veterans to be honored with a wreath. The mayor also reported that permanent markers with reflectors for each section have been installed at the cemetery.

The Park Committee had no report.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Sunlife policy renewal came in and the rates remain the same. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the Sunlife policy renewal. Motion carried.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Lt. Lutz stated that the calls for service were down and November was a quiet month. Councilman Wood thanked the Sheriff's Department for their assistance during the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Attorney talked to another representative from the Bank and it appears that the Bank's goal is to get David Madison motivated to do what is required. The Town Attorney told the Bank that the Town is willing to work with them, but something needs to happen soon. The mayor stated that the Bank has been told that the Town will notify them prior to calling the Letter of Credit.

Mayor Harshman reported that the T-Mobile antenna installation is 90% complete, but the Town is still waiting for them to begin paying rent since the contract stated that rent would begin on the first of the month following the start of construction, which began in July. The mayor reported that they owe the Town rent for August through December and email inquiries have been sent, but as of the first week of December they have not told the Town what the holdup is.

Mayor Harshman reported that ShenGo had 1,987 riders in November and 17,597 have used the service so far this year as of the end of November.

Mayor Harshman stated that there will not be a Tourism Council meeting in December.

Mayor Harshman reported that visitation at the Mill has increased 7.5% and there was a 39% increase in paid visitors to the Museum. He also reported that 2024 sales at the gift shop are up from 2023.

Mayor Harshman hopes that everyone saw the Edinburg, Mt. Jackson and New Market comic strips in the December issue of the Mountain Courier. The comic strip mentioned Beans BBQ, Sal's, the Edinburg Mill Restaurant, Murray's Fly Shop, Heritage Mill Wines, the gift shop at the Mill and the lighting of the Christmas Tree and the Parade.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Christmas Parade had a fairly good turnout and there were 65 kids at the Christmas Party. He also reported that the Mt. Jackson/Edinburg Rotary helped out again with the food and the Town received \$2,175 in donations for the Party.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Architectural Review Board (ARB) met on November 18th to review the proposed plans for an addition to the Edinburg VFW. The contractors attended the meeting and stated that this will be an addition to the dining area to the right of the building and will mirror the current building. The mayor reported that the ARB recommended approval of the addition to the VFW to the Zoning Administrator.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

There was one Zoning Permit issued:

1. Edinburg VFW
100 Veterans Way
Addition

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman stated that this will probably be the last update on the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade. The mayor reported that things continue to be operating as expected and operations going forward will be covered in Inboden's monthly reports. The mayor also reported that the Town is still going back and forth with USDA on what can be done with the remaining contingency funds. They are looking into an extension of the December 31, 2024 deadline to spend the remaining funds.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council if he could just read the title of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 31, Animals, Article II Pigs and Hogs, § 31-5, Prohibition. A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Beachy to allow the mayor to read only the title of the proposed Amendment. The mayor read the title of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 31, Animals, Article II Pigs and Hogs, § 31-5, Prohibition. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adopt the Ordinance to Amend Chapter 31, Animals, Article II Pigs and Hogs, § 31-5, Prohibition. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Wymer-Hollar - aye, Dellinger - aye, Baird - aye, Beachy - aye, Reistetter - aye, Wood - aye, Harshman - aye.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider a quote for the purchase of dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment for the aeration basins at the WWTP. The mayor stated that he didn't know why this was not part of the plant upgrade project, but the quote is from HACH at a cost of \$9,904.20 plus shipping. This will be a reimbursed expense covered by remaining contingency funds from the plant upgrade. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to authorize Mayor Harshman to order this equipment. Motion carried.

Councilman Wood thanked the outgoing council members for their service and the mayor stated that he enjoyed working with all of them.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk