

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 9, 2024

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 9, 2024. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:28 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present except for Councilman Dellinger. Also present were Mr. Steve Crisman, Capt. Glenn Ogle and Dep. Andrew Mason 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 Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2023 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.

Councilman Beachy stated that there was no report from Inboden.

Mayor Harshman reported that everything has been provided to the Attorneys for the PFAS settlement cases and the Town is waiting to see what happens next.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is still waiting on the back-up compressor at the Water Treatment Plant. The dryer has been delivered and hopefully the compressor will arrive soon. Mayor Harshman also reported that the Town is talking with Inboden about what will be needed to correct the numerous air leaks on the individual filter units.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town survived the first snowfall but there were a few mechanical issues. Mayor Harshman reported that a hydraulic hose failed on the 1-ton truck plow and there were salt spreader problems. This is the plow the Town uses on the back streets, so a plow was put on the old Dodge pickup to do that area, but it ended up having mechanical problems that sound like it is in the 4-wheel drive and is being looked at. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town was able to finish salting the back streets with the other spreader and the smaller one has been repaired.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he provided more information to the Architect that was contacted about doing the property inspections for the Maintenance Section within the Historic District. Mayor Harshman thinks that the Town will need to continue looking into other building officials since the proposed cost is considerably more than the Town would want to spend.

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he heard back from all but one of the Town Council members about moving forward with the model upgrade on the new International Dump Truck. Mayor Harshman also reported that this truck will be able to use a snow plow that VDOT will provide, so the Town will not need to purchase a new blade and mount and the savings will cover most, if not all of the price difference on the truck upgrade.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

The Park Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he has a Zoom meeting on Thursday to hear about a possible grant opportunity that is available for something called Fitness Court Studio. This is an area for outdoor exercising stations as well as for different exercise programs. Mayor Harshman is not sure if this concept will work in the Town Park, but he thought he should look into it since the Town has been talking about making some improvements at the park.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that the Town Treasurer has been working with the VML on the job breakdown for the Workman's Comp. As Mayor Harshman stated before, the insurance auditor always wants to assign all of the Town's maintenance department hours to the street category, which is the highest rate category compared to water, sewer, cemetery and park. Mayor Harshman reported that the Treasurer now has a spreadsheet from VML that breaks down the jobs based on the actual timesheets which should lower the 2022-2023 audit amount and lower future audits.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Capt. Ogle called attention to the Calls for Service report. Capt. Ogle stated that if anyone wants more information about the porch robberies in town, they can talk to the investigator.

Mayor Harshman reported that he provided the Council with the minutes from the December Tourism Council meeting. Mayor Harshman also reported that County Tourism has hired a PR firm for 12 months starting January 1st using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. They will be visiting local businesses and attractions as they collect data for the PR campaign.

Mayor Harshman reported that the County's new website is also coming to fruition and they have asked the Town to provide business email addresses so that they can begin rolling out the extranet feature. The extranet feature is where local businesses can go in and make changes to their listings.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town received a thank you note from the Central High School Marching Band for the donation that was sent to them for being in the Christmas Parade and performing at the tree lighting.

Mayor Harshman reported that attendance at the Visitor Center and Museum increased 10.5% in 2023, gift shop sales increased by 6% in 2023 and paid attendance for the Museum is also up for 2023. Mayor Harshman also reported that there has been an increase in the sale of The Burning DVD in recent months with the increase of travelers coming into the Visitor Center.

Mayor Harshman reported that earlier last year the Town signed on with Inboden to assist with the Lead Pipe Inventory requirement. Mayor Harshman reported that he heard yesterday that Inboden has completed the initial setup of the GIS database for this project and he will be scheduling a meeting to go over this and hopefully they will be ready to move forward on the next step in the project.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

There were no Zoning Permits issued.

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman stated that at this point in the project, there is not much to discuss for the upgrade meetings.

Mayor Harshman reported that the DEQ has given the Town the Certificate to Operate for the new plant and the Town is now running flow only through the new plant. Mayor Harshman also reported that the UV is on for the new plant and the samples are being monitored. Mayor Harshman is not sure what the status is, but the Town plans to continue with everything being sent to the chlorine contact tank for final treatment with chlorine and S02 before discharge until all of the gas on hand is used up since it cannot be returned.

Mayor Harshman reported that the canopy structure has been installed over the UV trough and sampler. Mayor Harshman also reported that the electrician still needs to run the permanent wiring for the sampler and lighting will also be installed under the canopy.

Mayor Harshman reported that the heater has been installed in the screen equipment room. Mayor Harshman also reported that details are still being worked out for the clarifier railings with emails going back and forth between the Engineer and the Contractor.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Contractor still has not replaced the Tee that continues to leak air in the west aeration basin. The Contractor pushed this work out until closer to Christmas and it was decided it would be better to wait until after the holidays just in case something didn't go as planned. Mayor Harshman reported that the aeration basin is still usable with the small air leak and they may wait to do the repair until warmer weather in the spring. Mr. Harshman reported that they did install aluminum grating on two concrete structures and rotated the orientation of the telescoping valve hand-wheels that he reported last month. Mayor Harshman reported that there are still some adjustments that need to be made on the telescoping valves to eliminate solids from backing up in the clarifiers.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town has not requested reimbursement for the items that the Town has paid for directly yet. The Town has asked USDA for clarification on a couple of items and hopefully a request will be made sometime in January.

Mayor Harshman asked the Council to consider reappointing Ms. Barbara Strong to the Architectural Review Board for the term starting 2/29/2024 and ending 2/29/2028. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilman Beachy to reappoint Ms. Barbara Strong to the Architectural Review Board for the term starting 2/29/2024 and ending 2/29/2028. Motion carried.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk