

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 14, 2025

The Edinburg Town Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2025. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All the Councilmembers were present. Also present were Trey Rorie from the Northern Virginia Daily and Lt. Robert French from the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Office.

Mayor Harshman welcomed the new council members and asked if anyone had anything that was not on the agenda.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Crisman to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Harshman called attention to Inboden's report and stated that water production and flow are still in line.

Mayor Harshman reported that there is a major problem with the new micro bar screen unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The warranty ran out in October 2024 and the Mayor isn't sure that the warranty would cover this problem anyway since it is evident that it was caused by a lack of maintenance. The mayor reported that there are two options to fix the problem: the first is to replace the parts that need to be replaced and try and straighten out some of the existing parts that have been bent and damaged at a cost of \$9,540 and the second option is to replace all of the damaged parts and return the equipment to how it was when it was brand new at a cost of \$16,617. Mayor Harshman does not feel that the Town should be responsible for this because of the lack of proper maintenance and oversight by the contract operators and he will be meeting with Mark Inboden on Thursday morning about this problem.

Mayor Harshman reported that the work is complete on the Cave Spring waterline project for the most part, but there still might be some cleanup work to be done in the spring as things settle.

Mayor Harshman reported that Patterson Construction appears to have the pumps and other items needed to complete the 200,000-gallon tank and the pump station. The mayor reported that they are still discussing a change in one of the electrical panels with the Engineer. The mayor also reported that the change was suggested by the SCADA people to make their job easier, but the mayor has said that the Town is not interested in spending any more than what is in the original contract.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town will be switching to the new upgraded system for the meter readings at the end of the month. The handheld and the cradle will not be used anymore and with the new system, the staff will now have a tablet and a belt reader that receives the information directly from the touch pad wand or radio read meters and if a meter must be read manually, the staff will enter the reading directly into the tablet. After all the meters have been read, the tablet will use Wi-Fi to send the readings to the Cloud where the readings are then sent to the Town Office to generate and print the bills.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Power Connection and Winchester Electric have done the annual maintenance on all the generators. He also reported that there is a belt that still needs to be replaced on the generator at the Water Treatment Plant which should be done this month.

The Street Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that VDOT has been billed \$5,658 so far for snow removal.

The Ordinance Committee had no report

The Personnel Committee had no report.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that Robinson, Farmer and Cox have contacted the Town Treasurer for items pertaining to the audit and as far as he knows they are still planning on completing the audit this month. Councilman Wood brought up the email sent out by the Mayor on January 3, 2025 and he recommended that the Town start charging debit/credit cards users a 2% convenience fee to cover the cost charged by the bank to the Town when someone uses a card to make payments. A motion was made by Councilman Wood and seconded by Councilwoman Strong to approve of the Town charging a 2% convenience fee for debit/credit card payments. Motion carried. The Council also concurred that the car stickers should be eliminated.

The Property Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he and Ron Ross picked up the new truck from Highway Motors and took it to Shade Equipment to have the bed installed. The truck has already been registered with the DMV and the municipal tags are ready. The mayor reported that once the new truck is in service the Town will be selling the old Volvo truck.

The Cemetery Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that everything went well with Wreaths of America. The mayor reported that a lot of volunteers and family members showed up and all the wreaths were in place by 1:00 p.m. He also reported that the wreaths will be removed sometime this month and Central's FFA students are going to assist with the removal. Councilman Wood stated that Wreaths of America this year will take place on Saturday, December 13, 2025.

The Park Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman stated that so far, there has only been one tennis court company that has given the Town a quote, but he has a meeting soon with the other towns and he is hoping to get more names from them. The mayor reported that the Old Time Festival is going to have two Party in the Park concerts again this year, the first one on June 20th and the second one on August 15th. The mayor stated that the Town gave the Ole Time Festival a donation of \$500 toward the Party in the Park concerts last year and he asked the Council to consider donating \$600 this year. A motion was made by Councilwoman Wymer-Hollar and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve a \$600 donation to the Old Time Festival for the Party in the Park concerts. Motion carried.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mayor Harshman reported that he will be attending a meeting on February 4th or 5th with the Planning District and other communities to discuss insurance rates and COLA increases for the next budget year.

The Health and Safety Committee had no report. Lt. French reported that the Calls for Service numbers increased last month.

Mayor Harshman reported that since 2002, the Town has participated in a Repair Service Insurance program with HomeServe. There are currently 20 residents enrolled for their exterior water lines and there has been 1 claim that paid \$3,540 in repairs and there are 17 residents that have the exterior sewer line policy and there have been 6 claims that paid for \$13,588 in repairs. The Town's current agreement's term was for 3 years with one-year renewals in March of each year after that. The mayor reported that this is the first time that they have ever contacted the Town prior to a 1-year renewal and he wanted to bring it up for the new council members. The program does not cost the Town anything other than agreeing that they may use the Town's name and logo on their mailings, which are reviewed prior to being sent out. The mayor also reported that they have the exclusive license for this type of program in Edinburg and they were provided addresses for the water and sewer customers back in 2020.

Mayor Harshman reported that he heard nothing during the holidays about David Madison and the work required by VDOT in Madison Village. The mayor let G.B. Foltz know that the Town will only be waiting a little bit longer before taking action on the Letter of Credit.

Mayor Harshman reported that T-Mobile was scheduled to adjust some things at the water tower last week when it snowed and he is not sure if it has been rescheduled. The mayor reported that he thinks the Town is now set up to receive the rent payments from T-Mobile and the Town Treasurer has filed

a W-9 with them and provided an address for the payments. T-Mobile currently owes the Town six months of rent.

Mayor Harshman reported that the ShenGo bus service had 1,615 riders in December and 19,212 people used the service in 2024. He also reported that the Town received notice that Edinburg's portion of the bus service will be \$5,607 for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

Mayor Harshman stated that the Tourism Council did not meet in December.

Mayor Harshman reported that visitation at the Mill and Visitor Center was in line with 2023, but the year ended with a 1 ½% increase in visitation for 2024 and the gift shop sales increased by around 3% compared to 2023. He also reported that he gave out gift certificates for the gift shop to all the 2024 Outdoor Decorating Contest winners.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Museum was chosen for the Shenandoah Valley Travel Association's Epic 100 Bucket List.

Mayor Harshman stated that the Ordinance for the Car Stickers will need to be amended for next year and the County will need to be notified about applying the \$25 charge on the tax bills next year.

The Architectural Review Board did not meet.

The Planning Commission did not meet.

There were three Zoning Permits issued:

1. Larry & Doris Atchison
112 Cooper St.
Storage Shed
2. FFC Properties, LLC
201 Water St.
Air B&B
3. FFC Properties, LLC
203 Water St.
Air B&B

There was no report from the Town Attorney.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is not sure whether or not USDA has extended the December 31, 2024 deadline to spend the remaining grant funds. The mayor also reported that the Harrisonburg USDA office received an email from the State Office stating that they would work with the Town to use up all the funds.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town is still waiting for the final approval on the reimbursement of the \$25,700 cost to tar and chip Wiers Lane. The mayor also reported that it was already determined that this work did not require an environmental impact review, but for some reason it is taking a long time to get someone to sign off on it being a categorical exclusion, which is required before the funds can be released.

Mayor Harshman reported that the Town received reimbursement of \$9,904.20 for the dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment from HACH that the Council approved in December. He also reported that the Town also put in for reimbursement of \$2,976 for the repair work that is needed on the new screening equipment at the WWTP which has not been paid to the Town yet. That amount plus the \$25,700 for Wiers Lane once it is paid should leave the Town with \$4,617.51 in remaining grant funds. The mayor stated that the metal roof at the WWTP lab needs to be painted and might be

something to consider for the remaining funds or the Town could see how far the funds would get with investigating the Inflow & Infiltration issue at some of the manholes.

Mayor Harshman reported that he provided the Council with the list of committees and asked for a motion to approve the Committees and Vice Mayor for the period of 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2026. A motion was made by Councilwoman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the Committees and Vice Mayor for the period of 1/1/2025 through 12/31/2026. 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 7:58 p.m.

Daniel J. Harshman, Mayor

Mary L. Lowerre, Town Clerk