

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING SEPTEMBER 13, 2011

The Edinburg Town Council met in regular session on September 13, 2011. Mayor Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All Council Members were present. Visitors included: Town Police Chief, Michael Clem, Town Maintenance Supervisor, Ron Ross, Ms. Kathy Turner and Ms. Liz Williams.

A motion was made by Councilman Dellinger and seconded by Councilman Beachy to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. 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.

The Water and Sewer Committee Chairman, Councilwoman Minnick called attention to EEMA's report and to Ron Ross's Maintenance Department report. Councilwoman Minnick asked Mr. Ross how the new meters being installed were different from the old ones. Mr. Ross stated that the new meters can be read with a wand and touch pad and the old meters had to be manually read. Mr. Harshman reported that the repair of the RBC unit at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been completed and that the treatment process is returning to normal. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Town received another warning letter from DEQ that the Town was confused about since it appears to be a duplicate of the earlier letter listing the effluent problems caused by the RBC being offline. The Town is checking into what DEQ wants as a response to this second warning letter. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Town has been experiencing equipment problems at the WTP with air pressure regulators on the filter units. The new parts that were ordered were faulty and the Town is now waiting on the replacement parts. This has caused one or two of the filter units to shut down, but that has not affected production. Mr. Harshman also reported that there was a little turbidity spike due to the recent earthquake, but it didn't affect anything else.

The Street Committee had no report.

The Ordinance Committee had no report.

The Personnel Committee had no report. Councilman Hite asked Mr. Harshman if David Kent from the Maintenance Department was back at work yet. Mr. Harshman stated that yes, he was back to work and his surgery seemed to be successful.

The Finance Committee had no report.

Health & Safety Committee Chairman, Councilman Wood called attention to Chief Clem's report. Councilman Wood reported that the Police Department was very active in August and he was thankful that there were no accidents during the Yard Crawl. Councilman Wood reminded everyone of the Ole Time Festival this coming weekend and that the parade will be on Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Councilman Wood thanked Chief Clem for his report.

The Property Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town received a Safety Grant from VML in the amount of \$1,000 that the Town is using to purchase a fuel cabinet and fuel cans for the maintenance shop.

The Cemetery Committee had no report.

Park Committee Chairman, Councilman Wood reported that the park and the pool had a very successful summer. Councilman Wood thanked the residents and guests for supporting the park and pool.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Fire Department contacted him a few months ago about plans to replace their old buildings at the Town Park. During that discussion it was mentioned that the Fire

Department might be interested in enlarging their facilities onto a section of the County's land that adjoins the Town Park. They requested that Mr. Harshman contact the County on their behalf to see about the possibility of acquiring additional land for the Park. Mr. Harshman reported that he set up a meeting with County Administrator, Doug Walker and Fire Company representatives. Mr. Harshman also asked Steve Wood to attend the meeting as Chair of the Town's Park Committee. Mr. Walker stated that the County did not have any immediate plans for the land and would consider a request to expand the Town Park area. Mr. Walker felt that the County would be more inclined to do a forty year lease rather than giving the Town the property. Mr. Harshman reported that at this point, he wasn't sure if, or when, the Fire Company will do anything on this additional land. However, since the conversation has been initiated, Mr. Harshman thinks we should continue to see if the Town can get a forty year lease for the additional land. The additional land will be a real enhancement to the Park. Mr. Harshman reported that mowing the grass would be the Town's only additional expense until the Town or the Fire Company decides to do something. Mr. Harshman reported that there has been some talk about putting up a stage on the incline by Rose Hill and turning it into an amphitheater. Councilman Beachy asked if the piece of County property includes the basketball courts. Mr. Harshman stated that it could and that it would be a good Scout project to clean up that area. Councilman Hite moved that the Town enter into a forty year lease with the County for additional land at the Park. Councilman Beachy seconded the motion. Motion carried. Councilman Hite asked what would happen if the Fire Company does not proceed. Mr. Harshman stated that the Town will still do the maintenance on the additional land and could possibly extend the walking trail through the Park.

The Insurance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that he recently met with two VML representatives. They both were pleased with the Town's performance.

Mr. Harshman reported that he attended the August Tourism Council meeting. The Director reported a huge increase in website visits in July. The increase was attributed to on-line banner ads with the Washington Examiner and the marketing for the Yard Crawl. The Director also reported that 622 reader response cards as well as a great number of phone calls and emails in response to an ad with AAA World for July/August. The Director also reported on the success of the 2011 Yard Crawl. Mr. Harshman reported that the group was also updated on a "leverage grant" that was awarded to the Tourism Office through the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The group also reviewed a new lodging marketing piece that County Tourism is working on and discussed the idea of a map showing the attractions in the County. Mr. Harshman reported that he also manned the County Tourism booth for one evening during the Shenandoah County Fair.

Mr. Harshman reported that he has been busy at the Mill getting ready for the Ole Time Festival and a number of other events that are scheduled in October. Mr. Harshman also reported that he is currently in discussion with a potential tenant for the restaurant in the Mill. Mr. Harshman thinks that these individuals could do a very good job at the Mill and he is hoping that they decide to move forward.

Mr. Harshman reported that members of the Edinburg Heritage Foundation have been successful in raising additional funds toward the highway signs. The Foundation also has some other potential donors that have indicated that they will be making a donation, so the Town is getting closer to its goal.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Town of Woodstock will be hosting the Town & County Dinner on October 12th. The topic will be Streetscape Strategies on the Road of Reduced Revenues; with a presentation by Mark Lieberth of Land Planning & Design Associates of Charlottesville. The Dinner will be at Fort Valley Nursery and will be \$18 a person with a cash bar. The Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a social time followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Harshman asked the council members to let Town Clerk, Mary Embrey know before October 3rd if they will be attending.

Mr. Harshman reported that the ARB met last night and discussed properties in Town that they felt lacked basic maintenance and were most at risk. The following properties were identified as at risk due to a lack of maintenance: 404 North Main Street, the old Irvin warehouse (located behind the Fire Hall), 100 Printz Street and 310 North Main Street. Mr. Harshman reported that the ARB may

enforce Code Section 175-86 of the Historic District Ordinance, which establishes minimal maintenance requirements for contributing buildings and structures within the Designated Historic District. Mr. Harshman explained that this section empowers the ARB to request the inspection of a building deteriorated by neglect by the Shenandoah County Building Department. The Building Department would then issue a report on the condition of the property within thirty days. Mr. Harshman explained that the County Building Department had reviewed the Town's Ordinance prior to it being adopted and they agreed to enforce that section requiring the Department's input. Mr. Harshman also explained that once a property report is received, the ARB will schedule a public hearing and the Zoning Administrator will notify the affected property owners about the hearing and provide a copy of the report. The purpose of the public hearing is to provide the ARB with further information before they make a determination about any zoning violations. The Code allows for appeal by the owner of any such determination. Mr. Harshman stated that a property owner has sixty days from the date of the ARB's determination to present a plan to remedy the neglect and six months to complete the necessary work. It was discussed and decided that the property most at risk at this time is 404 North Main Street. The ARB passed a motion to move the inspection process forward on this property. The ARB Chairman is going to draft a letter to the Shenandoah County Building Department requesting an inspection of this property.

Mr. Harshman reported that the Planning Commission did not meet last month.

There were no zoning permits issued last month.

There was no Town Attorney report.

Councilman Hite asked if Mr. Harshman had heard any word on the Old Edinburg School. Mr. Harshman reported that he believes the project is moving forward and that the seniors will be able to move back in after the project is completed.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Hite and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk