

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MAY 11, 2010

The Edinburg Town Council met for a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 11, 2010. Mayor Harshman called the Public Hearing to order at 7:05 p.m. All Council Members were present with the exception of Councilwoman Carver.

The purpose of the Public Hearing was to receive public input on the proposed Amendments to the 2009-2010 Budget and the proposed Budget for the period of July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011.

There was no public comment.

A motion to adjourn the Public Hearing was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger. Motion carried.

The Edinburg Town Council met in regular session on May 11, 2010. Mayor-Town Manager Harshman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All Council Members were present with the exception of Councilwoman Carver. Town Attorney, Kevin Black, Town Police Chief, Michael Clem and Town Maintenance Supervisor, Ronald Ross were also present.

Councilman Beachy stated that there was nothing in the April 13, 2010 minutes regarding the approval of Mary Earhart's contract. Town Clerk, Mary Embrey will add this to the April 13, 2010 minutes. Councilman Hite stated that he would like the wording changed to something that he said at the April 13, 2010 meeting. In the last paragraph of page one of the April 13, 2010 minutes, Councilman Hite said "a cemetery is a place of reverence and not a playground" instead of "the cemetery was not a playground and not the place for something like that". Ms. Embrey will make this correction. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Hite to approve the minutes of April 13, 2010 with the changes. Motion carried.

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

The Water and Sewer Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman called attention to EEMA's report and Ron Ross's report. Mr. Harshman stated that the EEMA annual Christmas in July dinner would be on Wednesday, July 21st at 6:30 p.m. at Dan's Steakhouse. Mr. Harshman asked Council to let Ms. Embrey or Ms. Heier know if they would be able to attend. Councilman Beachy asked what happens to the \$1,000 that could be left in EEMA's maintenance contract with the Town. Mr. Harshman reported that these funds would be moved over to the next fiscal year.

The Street Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that three overhead streetlights on Center Street had been removed by Dominion Virginia Power. New historic-style streetlights have been installed on Center Street. Councilman Beachy asked if any streetlights on Main Street had been removed. Mr. Harshman stated that no, they had not. Councilman Beachy stated that the streetlight behind the Mill needed to be removed.

The Ordinance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that he had a conflict and could not make the last meeting with DEQ and the Planning District on the required Drought Response Plan. The group agreed that each community or water provider should be the authority that designates a local drought stage. A percentage of the historic well levels will be used as a trigger for a drought watch, drought warning or drought emergency.

The Personnel Committee had no report. Councilman Hite complimented Mr. Harshman on the employee fact sheet that he wrote to hand out to all the Town employees. Councilman Hite stated that he thought that it was very well done. Mr. Harshman reported that the Town has hired a replacement for Officer Josh Wilberger, who will be leaving next week to work for the Town of Woodstock. The new officer, John Custer is certified and currently working part-time for the Shenandoah County Sheriff's Department. Officer Custer will start on Wednesday, May 26th.

The Finance Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the Edinburg Heritage Foundation is getting a \$100,000 loan to reimburse the Town. The Foundation should be getting the loan before June 1, 2010.

Health & Safety Committee Chairman, Councilman Wood reported that the last Neighborhood Watch meeting went very well. Councilman Wood thanked Chief Clem for offering these meetings to the residents. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m.

The Property Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that the insurance adjuster has sent the estimates for snow damage repairs to the VML underwriter. There was some question on the amount estimated for the gutter repairs by Broadway Metal. The adjuster will be supplying information on other contractors that the Town might consider to get the price more in line with her damage assessment. Mr. Harshman also reported that the tree planting is complete along Town Hall Avenue, Massie Farm Lane and at Well #2 off of Windsor Knit Road. The Town has submitted a request for reimbursement from the Forestry Grant.

The Cemetery Committee had no report. Mr. Harshman reported that five cemetery lots have been purchased since the announcement of the lot rate increase in July.

Park Committee Chairman, Councilman Wood reported that the Park is ready for opening. Mr. Harshman reported that work is completed on the damage done to Park Road. The existing road bed proved to be minimal and required more base stone than had been estimated. It made no sense to not do the road base properly after grading everything. There is now a proper gravel road with an adequate base that should last for years. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Town is going to get an estimate to tar and chip Park Road along with a small portion of Town Hall Avenue where the new trees are while the gravel is in good shape. The Town has heard that disaster funds will be coming for snow related expenses and damage. Park Road was one of the areas that the Town reported had damage. Council agreed to go ahead and have these areas completed once the funding is received.

Mr. Harshman reported that the concrete replacement at the pool is complete. Mr. Harshman also reported that there is an issue that needed to be corrected before the beginning of the pool season with the electrical service. Over the years, chlorine has corroded the breaker box and other electrical components in the pump room. With the addition of the new pump and filter for the kiddy pool, a new circuit needed to be installed. The existing panel was in too poor of shape to do anything but replace it. As it was, there was bound to be a serious electrical problem in the near future. Mr. Harshman reported that Dominion Virginia Power discovered that the meter base was burnt inside when they came to pull the meter to allow for the new panel installation. A new meter base will also be required. A new panel and meter base replacement will cost around \$2,000.

The Insurance Committee had no report.

Mr. Harshman reported that he attended the March Travel Council meeting. The County has hired Hank Zimmerman with ShenandoahValley.com to design a new website for County Tourism. The goal is to have the new site up and running by June 30, 2010. Mr. Harshman also reported that the Tourism Director attended a Tourism Summit at the Air & Space Museum at Dulles in April. Governor McDonnell spoke at the event and is very pro-tourism. There is a push to create a "one voice concept" where various organizations statewide can form a coalition that can be used to approach the State as one entity for tourism support.

Mr. Harshman reported that George Shipe has been contacted about moving the geese to the river. The geese population has doubled this year with at least seventeen new goslings joining the seventeen or eighteen adult geese already at the Mill.

Mr. Harshman also reported that he and Councilman Beachy met with the representatives from "People Inc" to discuss housing needs in Edinburg. People Inc. has identified houses in Edinburg that they believe could be more energy efficient. They suggested that the Town apply for a CDBG Grant which would give homeowners low interest loans up to \$25,000, which the Town would administer.

The payback would be according to the homeowner's ability to pay. The Grant application is due by March, 2011. Mr. Harshman asked the People Inc. representatives about the Historic Districts, and how the program would work in those Districts, but they were not sure and told him that they would need to contact the Housing Director. Councilman Beachy stated that he was concerned that there would not be much community interest in this program. Councilman Beachy also stated that in the past, the Town and the Edinburg Heritage Foundation went together to provide matching amounts for homeowners in Town to fix up the exteriors of their houses. A limited number of homeowners participated and Councilman Beachy is not sure that it would be worth the effort to pursue this new program. Councilman Beachy suggested that something about the program be put in the next Town Newsletter and see what the response is from the community. Mr. Harshman stated that he would put something about this in the next Newsletter.

Mr. Harshman reported that he and Kevin Black met with Mark Callahan and Don Unger from United Bank about Edinburg Square to make sure everyone is in agreement with what the Town will require to release the Letter of Credit. VDOT is reviewing the application and requirements for their acceptance of the streets and sidewalks. It was decided that United Bank would reinstate the Homeowners Association and that Mr. Callahan would act as the administrator while the Bank owns the property.

Mr. Harshman reported that he also met on the site with a Bank representative and Fort Valley Nursery to discuss the replanting of the tree buffer along Route 11. The plan is to replace all of the trees that have died within the landscape buffer. The Town had also required that the trees be planted along the rear of the subdivision on any lots in Phase II that currently have a house on them. There is only one lot that this affects and the adjacent lot in Edinburg Manor has a substantial grove of cypress trees along the property line. The property owner in Edinburg Square requested that no additional trees be planted and Mr. Harshman agrees with him. Mr. Harshman asked that the property owner write a letter to the Town so that there is something on file about his request.

Mr. Harshman also met on the site with a Bank representative, two contractors and Shenandoah County E&S Administrator, Jason Smith to discuss what needs to be done in the undeveloped areas as far as stabilization. It was decided that a transition area would be created along the rear of all the existing lots that can be mowed. This area will be approximately one lot deep and will follow a natural swell in the property. All other areas will either be re-seeded or allowed to grow back as undeveloped land until a new developer acquires the property. Work will be completed on a retention pond structure and all construction materials will be removed from the site. Mr. Harshman's goal is to create a safe boundary along the properties without turning the site into a rolling meadow that will create future problems with grading for the development. The Town also wants to make sure that storm water runoff does not impact any adjoining properties.

Mr. Harshman asked Council if they thought there should be any committee changes for the New Year. The Council did not want to make any changes.

The ARB did not meet last evening.

There was no Planning Commission meeting last month.

The Zoning Administrator had no report.

The Town Attorney had no report.

Town Clerk, Mary Embrey read a Resolution to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Mr. Harshman stated that the wording in the last sentence in the second paragraph should state "for the fiscal year 2009-2010" instead of "for the fiscal year 2008-2009". A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to approve the Resolution to amend the Budget for Fiscal Year 2009-2010. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Hite-aye, Dellinger-aye, Beachy-aye, Wymer-aye, Carver-absent, Wood-aye, Harshman-aye.

Mr. Harshman read a Resolution to adopt the proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending July 30, 2011. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Wood to approve the Resolution to adopt the proposed Budget for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2010 and ending July 30, 2011. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Hite-aye, Dellinger-aye, Beachy-aye, Wymer-aye, Carver-absent, Wood-aye, Harshman-aye.

Mr. Harshman stated that all of the documents pertaining to the transfer of property, easements and equipment related to the Town of Edinburg, Virginia assuming ownership of the Pump Station and Sewer Lines at Massanutten View Subdivision have been looked over and approved by both himself and Town Attorney, Kevin Black. Councilman Beachy inquired as to whether or not everything was done. Mr. Harshman stated that yes, it was. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to authorize Mr. Harshman to sign all documents pertaining to the transfer of property, easements and equipment related to the Town of Edinburg, Virginia assuming ownership of the Pump Station and Sewer Lines at Massanutten View Subdivision. Motion carried.

Town Clerk, Mary Embrey read a Resolution to establish the percentage of Personal Property Tax Relief for qualifying vehicles in the Town. A motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Dellinger to approve the Resolution to establish the percentage of Personal Property Tax Relief for qualifying vehicles in the Town. Motion carried. Recorded vote as follows: Hite-aye, Dellinger-aye, Beachy-aye, Wymer-aye, Carver-absent, Wood-aye, Harshman-aye.

Mr. Harshman read the first reading of an Ordinance for the Adoption of State Law for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year.

Councilman Hite commented on several signs in Town that he thought were very “tacky”. The first was the ATM sign on a telephone pole at the BP Station on the north end of Town. The other was the sign on Stony Creek Boulevard that the Parks and Recreation Department put up. Councilman Hite asked if these signs needed ARB approval or if there was anything about signs in the Historic Ordinance. Mr. Harshman stated that there was nothing in the Historic Ordinance pertaining to signs, and that the merchants did not want anything about signs included in the Ordinance when it was written. Mr. Harshman stated that he would check into these signs. Councilman Hite also stated that they were not very attractive.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Beachy and seconded by Councilman Hite to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk