REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
November 10, 1980

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held November 10, 1980 at 8:00 P.M. with the Mayor Maurice W. Lough presiding. The following council members were present: F. A. Bennett, V. L. Cook Jr., S. P. H. Flick, L. C. Life, C. A. Schumacher and R. L. Snow. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

The Reverend James Martin opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. David Loker was present and asked what council has decided to do about street lights in the Elkwood Subdivision. Mayor Lough reported that there is no money in the present budget to install the street lights, but this will be considered in the next budget. Mr. Loker asked why there was no money in the budget and the Mayor stated he could not answer that.

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Mrs. Mae Frances Downey was present speaking on behalf of the Library Committee. The committee members present were Hilda Black, Mae Frances Downey, Carolyn Gooden, Helen and Bill Holt, and Henry Leap. Mrs. Downey stated that the committee is concerned about the study being made to consolidate the town offices in the municipal building and the possible moving of the library to another location. The committee asked council to tell them definitely that they would not move the library. She pointed out that the library program is growing and they are ready to expand into another room. Mrs. Black stated that this is the nicest library, next to Harrisonburg, in the county. She also noted that a new program, a children's story hour, was started today. They have a qualified teacher and approximately thirty children were in attendance today. Mrs. Downey felt this historical building should be conserved for cultural purposes only and that council should possibly consider moving the offices they have in the building out rather than move more in.

Mayor Lough stated that the committee was appointed to make a study and bring back suggestions only. They have no authority to make any changes. The council as a whole will have to make the decision for any changes and a thorough study would be made before making any decision. Anyone concerned will have ample time to present their views before any change is made.

Mrs. Hazel Crider asked if there wasn't some way the council could find enough funds to at least spot a few street lights in the Elkwood area. This would help a lot in the area of safety. She feels it is wrong for the citizens in this area to have to go through court proceedings to get the services they are entitled to as residents of this community. Mayor Lough felt this to be a reasonable request but was not sure this would be feasible to place one or two lights at a time due to the facilities being underground. He referred Mrs. Crider's request to the Finance Committee.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting October 13, 1980 and the special meetings October 20th. and 27th. The minutes were approved as presented.

Alexes Echols, representative from Motivational Concepts Inc., reported on a course being sponsored by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Chamber of Commerce. The course, "The Effective Use of Language", will be taught at the Spotswood High School Auditorium on January 14th. and 15th. beginning at 7:00 P.M. each evening. The cost is Enrollment 1-5, $95.00 each; 6-10, $85.00; 11-15, $75.00 and 16 & up, $65.00. Mayor Lough stated that the town would notify Ms. Echols if anyone plans to attend.

R. Loring Cover of R. Loring Cover Insurance Agency Inc. came before council to discuss his insurance proposal. He pointed out that the Workmen's Compensation has been taken out of the assigned risk pool this year at an 8% credit. This is due to Mr. Monger's supervision in safety consciousness. The Automobile Insurance is also on a credit. He noted that any change in payrolls could make a difference in his quote. Mr. Cover felt that it is important that council not make a decision tonight on the lowest price, but have a qualified person review the bids to see if the coverage on each quote is the same and adequate.

Councilman F. A. Bennett reported that the Public Safety Committee will begin interviewing tomorrow night for the positions of Chief of Police and Dispatcher. Next week applicants will be interviewed for Police Officers.

Councilman Bennett reported that the police car is still on temporary delay due to the fact that some portion of the police package is on delay at this time.

Councilman Bennett read the following letter dated November 10, 1980:

"Mr. Mayor, Council Members and Citizens:

It is by means of this letter I would like to submit my resignation as Councilman for the Town of Elkton.

It should be made a part of record that I would like to express my gratitude for the faith that those citizens of this town have had in me while campaigning and later elected to this office. I'd also like to thank all who have supported me thus far, expressing to those my most gratefull appreciation for their loyal support.

I wish it also to be made a part of record that it is due to the lack of complete trust and support, and the inability for the Public Safety Committee to function as a whole without interference, that prompts me to take such action.

In concluding I would like to convey the message in which I have always felt so strongly in. All I ever have hoped to see accomplished was in the best interests of the Town. I have always tried to be constructive, setting aside my personal thoughts so as to consider only the facts. My conclusions have been based on facts and figures, a sense of reality, and good common sense. All which have been made in the best, most economical way possible for this town and its citizens.

This resignation will become effective upon the conclusion of this meeting, 10 November 1980.

FRED A. BENNETT
Town Council
Elkton, Virginia"

Mayor Lough asked Councilman Bennett if he would consider rescinding his letter and he stated that he would not as he had asked for the continued support of the council and had been told they would help and support him but they have not.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel. The vote was recorded as follows:

F. Bennett	- yea	L. Life	- yea
V. Cook	- yea	C. Schumacher	- yea
S. Flick	- yea	R. Snow	- yea

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to reappropriate the following monies in Revenue Sharing to pay on the dump truck:

EP-10	$307.71	Originally appropriated for painting municipal building outside.
EP-11	$268.00	Additional funds received.

Councilman Flick presented the following bids on insurance, the one from Hensley Insurance Agency being opened at the meeting. Each council member had received a copy from Mr. Cover of his bid.

R. Loring Cover Insurance Agency Inc.	$ 7,785.00
Hensley's Insurance Agency	$11,654.00

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to accept the low bid from R. Loring Cover Insurance Agency Inc. subject to Mr. Wiles' approval.

After some discussion as to what Mr. Wiles is expected to do regarding the bids, Councilman Snow suggested we have the Virginia Municipal League review the policies to see if they are adequate and then call a special meeting next week. There was also some discussion as to whether the Workmen's Compensation Policy through VML is being considered.

Councilwoman Life withdrew her second and Councilman Flick his motion.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved to accept the low bid for insurance from R. Loring Cover Insurance Agency Inc. The motion died due to the lack of a second.

Mr. Monger was instructed to take our policies and bids to the VML and ask them to review them and bring their suggestions back to the special meeting.

Councilman Flick requested that the minutes reflect that he is relieved of the responsibility of the insurance.

Councilman Schumacher reported that the only thing he had to bring up at this meeting was the discussion on the organization being formed to replace ElectriCities and as it seemed this was going to be a long meeting this was deferred for another month.

Councilwoman Life reported that we have received a contract from Blue Ridge Disposal Company who does our trash pickup. The contract reads the same as it did last year and she recommended council approve the contract for another year as our present contract expires today.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman S. P. H. Flick to accept the contract from Blue Ridge Disposal Company with the same rates as last year. The vote was recorded as follows:

F. Bennett	- yea	L. Life	- yea
V. Cook	- yea	C. Schumacher	- yea
S. Flick	- yea	R. Snow	- yea

Councilwoman Life reported that the Recreation Commission is now meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month rather than the fourth Thursday. The new officers elected in September are:

President----------Randell Snow
Vice President------Carol Nester
Treasurer----------Henry Leap
Secretary----------John Edmondson

Nancy Pence has been hired by the Recreation Commission as the Recreation Coordinator.

Councilwoman Life reported that it has been asked by the library and the recreation coordinator about having telephone facilities. The Recreation Commission has gotten prices on this. The installation fee for a telephone and one extension would be $39.00 and the cost per month would be $22.00 plus tax.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. to install a telephone with an extension to the library and recreation office at an installation cost of $39.00 and the cost of $22.00 plus tax a month.

Councilwoman Life amended her motion to include this as an additional appropriation to the budget.

Councilman Cook withdrew his second to the motion.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved to approve an additional appropriation to install a telephone with an extension at an installation cost of $39.00 and that the monthly cost of the telephone be shared by the Recreation Commission and the Library. Councilwoman Life withdrew her motion.

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Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to approve an additional appropriation to install a telephone and an extension for the use of the Elkton Public Library and the Recreation Commission at a cost of $22.00 plus tax per month for these services. The vote was recorded as follows:

F. Bennett	-	yea	L. Life	-	yea
V. Cook	-	nay	C. Schumacher	-	yea
S. Flick	-	yea	R. Snow	-	yea

Councilwoman Life stated that as the Gable's property has been presented to the town as a gift and the Recreation Commission is handling all types of recreation, she would make a motion that this property be turned over to the Recreation Commission for development.

Mayor Lough suggested this matter be studied further before taking any action. Councilman Snow pointed out that the other recreational properties in town have been turned over to the Recreation Commission for supervision. As a deed to this property has not been received, Councilwoman Life withdrew her motion. This will be considered at possibly the next meeting.

Mr. Wiles reported that a communication has been received from the Municipal Code Corporation asking what the town's wishes are in regards to publishing our code supplements. Some towns publish quarterly, some semi-annually. At this point we do not have enough to publish but council agreed that we probably should publish semi-annually.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. and carried to approve the Finance Report for October.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. to transfer $450.00 from Wages in the Public Safety Budget and appropriate it for Overtime in this same budget. The vote was recorded as follows:

F. Bennett	-	yea	L. Life	-	yea
V. Cook	-	yea	C. Schumacher	-	yea
S. Flick	-	yea	R. Snow	-	yea

Mayor Lough read a letter from William O'Brien, Rockingham County Administrator, advising that the Board of Supervisors has requested the Commission on Local Government to appoint a mediator in an effort to resolve the pending annexation suit by the City of Harrisonburg against Rockingham County through negotiations rather than prolonged litigation.

Mr. David Loker reported that last month he had brought up the matter of fire protection and the lack of enough pressure in the Elkwood area. He had requested that this be checked, yet he had heard no report from council on this.

Mr. Monger pointed out that when the test Mr. Loker was speaking of was made, the town was down eighteen inches at the reservoir. Also when there is a fire, the town is usually notified and the spring is cut in also which increases the pressure. Mr. Monger felt the test should be made both ways.

Mr. Loker asked that a check be made officially and it be placed in the town records.

Mr. Monger gave a report on the water line installed to serve Elkwood and what is being done to complete the loop up North Street. This should increase the volume of water to the whole Section 3 of the town including Elkwood and Liberty Heights.

As there was no further business, Councilwoman Life moved to adjourn.

MAYOR: Maurice W. Lough
Maurice W. Lough, Mayor

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Norma R. Leap, Clerk