REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
August 11, 1980

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held August 11, 1980 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers 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. Charles Lawhorne, Chief of Police, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

Mayor Lough opened the meeting with prayer.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved to adopt the minutes of the July 14th. regular meeting as presented.

The Finance Report for July was presented by the Treasurer.

AAD025

Councilman Flick read a letter he had received from Mr. and Mrs. Turkkan regarding the sale of the Elkton Theatre. They stated that the property is not placed on the market for sale at the present, but that they are considering it. It was their impression that the town had been trying to purchase this property since the early sixties so they wanted to give the town first priority. There is no price tag on the property at this time but they are anxious to receive the town's offer. Councilman Flick was asked by council to notify Mr. and Mrs. Turkkan that at this point the town is not interested in purchasing the theatre property.

Mayor Lough stated that the Virginia United Methodist Conference has offered the town the remaining portion of the old "Gable's Property" free of charge and Mr. Fitzwater has asked, if possible, that council decide tonight to accept this land. The Mayor pointed out that the letter had suggested the land might possibly be used as a park, but that there are no strings attached.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook, Jr. and carried unanimously to accept the remaining portion of the old "Gable's Property" donated by the Virginia United Methodist Conference to the town.

Councilwoman Life asked if we had heard anything about the new code books. Mr. Wiles reported that he had received a letter in July that the code has been sent to the printers so we should be receiving the new code soon.

Councilwoman Life reported that the council had possibly acted in haste when they enacted the new vehicle license tax. The car license is all right but we are different from the county on motorcycles and trailers. Councilwoman Life presented a First Reading to amend Section 8-3-4 in order to bring our vehicle rates in line with the county.

Mrs. Leap questioned requiring the serial number and Mr. Monger asked about raising the cost of transfers from $0.50 to $1.00.

Councilwoman Life amended her First Reading to eliminate requiring a serial number and adding sections "c" and "d" on the transfer of decals and lost, stolen or destroyed decals. The amended section of the code will read as follows:

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REORDAIN SECTION 8-3-4
OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ELKTON, VIRGINIA

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ELKTON, VIRGINIA, THAT SECTION 8-3-4 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF ELKTON, VIRGINIA, BE, AND THE SAME IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

Sec. 8-3-4

How license obtained; schedule of license taxes.

(a) The owner of a vehicle as provided for in section 8-3-3 shall obtain the requisite license from the town treasurer upon giving to the town treasurer a description of the vehicle to be licensed, including the make, model,

and state license number of the motor vehicle, and upon payment to the town treasurer of a license tax in the following amount:

(1) Upon each motorcycle, seven dollars and fifty cents.
(2) Upon each trailer as defined in Section 46.1-155 of the Code of Virginia, six dollars and fifty cents.
(3) Upon every motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, fifteen dollars; provided, that such tax shall not exceed the state registration fees imposed by Section 46.1-149, Code of Virginia, and provided, further, that any such vehicle, trailer or semitrailer which is exempt from the payment of the aforesaid fee imposed by said Section 46.1-149 shall likewise be exempt under this section.

(b) The license tax upon a motor vehicle other than a motorcycle shall be half-price if obtained after October 1.

(c) Upon the sale or transfer of the motor vehicle for which a decal has been issued, the owner shall remove such decal. Upon application for a decal to replace one so removed, such owner shall present the original decal or enough of the mutilated decal to identify it, and a duplicate shall be issued by the treasurer for a fee of one dollar.

(d) Duplicate decals to replace those lost, stolen or destroyed, shall be issued at a charge of one dollar each.

THE ABOVE ORDINANCE SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1981.

Councilwoman Life reported that her committee had met. The town did receive a litter control grant for this year in the amount of $427.00 and Mr. Monger is going to look into the price of purchasing litter receptacles as the committee felt this would be a good way to use this money.

Councilwoman Life reported that there is a Litter Seminar if anyone is interested in going. She will not be able to attend. The seminars are September 22nd. through October 3rd. at different locations. Councilwoman Life has the information for those that are interested.

Councilwoman Life reported that the Recreation Commission wants her to remain on the commission so she will be doing so.

Councilwoman Life gave the following report from the Elkton Community Parks and Recreation Commission Membership:

"In the past years, the Elkton Community Parks and Recreation Commission has again provided a variety of recreational programs for the Elkton area, accomplished almost totally with little or no outside assistance.

The $2,500. contribution from the Elkton Town Council is the sole funding outside of the money raised by the commission itself. While the support from the council is graciously accepted for ongoing programs and expenses, such money provides no financial aid for development or actual move toward construction of new recreational facilities.

Programs either supported or totally run by the Elkton Recreation Commission during the last year include: mens softball tournaments (two raising about $2,000. which went to reduce costs of a chain link fence installation at Stonewall Memorial Park and payment of a recreation director's position); a womans softball tournament, a mens big ball tournament, midget league football, roller skating, snow skiing, boys basketball, mens basketball league (eight team, 14-game schedule plus two officials), teen dances throughout the year; Monday night bridge for all ages, but specifically adult involvement.

Tennis lessons, soccer lessons, gymnastic lessons, a pony league baseball team, ballet lessons, girls softball (junior and senior leagues), T-ball baseball for boys and girls 6-8, craft classes with instruction; booking of the Elkton Community Center for use by Elkton community (this facility used at least once a week throughout the year), concession stand operation at girls softball league play and disco dance lessons.

Within the calendar year, the commission did extensive groundwork for financial and community support of development of the Stonewall Memorial Park. While major development appears to be far away, smaller scale development has begun. The commission, with great assistance from an ad hoc group of Elkton area residents, completed fencing, grading and grooming of a regulation mens softball field in the park. The field was used--by design--more by girls softball teams, but mens softball tournaments took place during the summer on weekends.

With consideration of council's approval, goals and objectives for the next 12 months include: 1) primary--renovation and completion of two tennis courts where one tennis court and one basketball court are now next to town hall. In addition, construction of a 70-foot by 100-foot basketball court area, paved and marked, with relocated basketball goals (from the court above) will be effected. Connecting fence (with the present tennis courts) will be added to separate the new basketball court area from the street and neighboring commercial concerns. Three bids have been solicited on the project for planning purposes. Other primary goals include: 2) addition of restroom and concession stand facilities at Stonewall Memorial Park; 3) Also construction of a pavilion area for picnics and outdoor gatherings; 4) a designated parking area for Stonewall Memorial Park so that traffic and crowd control can be maintained with few problems; 5) another ball field for Stonewall Memorial Park.

Secondary goals include: 1) hiring of a fulltime recreation director for the Elkton area by the commission. This goal may be fulfilled this fall by employing a person with the understanding that the various recreation programs should at least fund the position's salary. This can be effected, as evidenced by this summer's recreation director's position.

2) Major funding through federal, state or local agencies for major development of Stonewall Memorial Park. This time-consuming and red-tape-burdened effort has been started, but progress is very slow.
3) Physical improvement of the Elkton Community Center, including renovation and repair, and relocation of the siren on top of the building, a device which may be causing cracks in the structure.
4) Use and developmental planning for the riverfront acreage recently donated by the Methodist Church to the Town of Elkton for recreation purposes.

The Elkton Recreation Commission now consists of members Linda Life, John Edmondson, Carol Nester, Bobby Necsary, Henry Leap, Randell Snow, Steve Hensley, Bobbie Rae Monger and Gerald Monger. We wish to thank the town council for its continued support of the recreation commission and its programs during the past year.

We recognize, as the council does, that viable recreation programs and facilities are just as important to Elkton as other public services now supported and funded by the town. For without these services--including recreation programs and facilities--a town loses it attraction for new residents, new commercial development and the vital attraction needed to "hold" the fine families which now make up this community.

We look forward to working with you, the town council, in the coming year."

Mayor Lough mentioned that in the minutes of last years meeting when the electric increase of .005175 cents per kwh was added, it was noted that the rates would be reviewed again in September. This will be on the agenda for September.

Councilman Flick reported that the Finance Committee met on July 29th. The meeting was called more for information than to transact business. It was agreed that, all things considered, it was very doubtful if the town was realizing a savings by changing auditors. Under the new code, the Finance Committee would need to approve the summary of Treasurer's accounts when presented. The auditors would like for the town to put the $500.00 deposit at the Farmers & Merchants Bank on interest but since the use of this money is all the bank receives for acting as the town's collection agency, it was felt that it was unlikely that the bank would agree to this arrangement.

Councilman Flick reported that he has a bid on the Town of Elkton Police

AAD025

Professional Liability Insurance but in view of the fact that council has in the past insisted on bids, he would not make it public. He pointed out that Hensley's Insurance Agency has this coverage at present but we have not received anything from them. The Mayor and Council felt we would need to call a special meeting and get another bid on this. The Mayor stated he would contact Mr. Hensley to see about a bid and then call a special meeting.

Councilman Flick stated that he has interested himself in the Helsley case every since he heard that Mr. Helsley only last year succeeded in paying off the debt that he incurred in attorney's fees defending himself from charges brought by a former Police Chief. It was Councilman Flick's understanding that he incurred a debt of $460.00 with interest for a couple years. Councilman Flick stated he feels the town has a moral obligation to reimburse Mr. Helsley for this expense. At the moment he did not know where the money would come from but felt council could acknowledge at this time that this is a legal obligation and go on record agreeing to pay it when the money becomes available. He had not talked with Mr. Helsley about this but would be willing to make a motion to this effect.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman C. A. Schumacher that council accept as a legal obligation, to pay up to $500.00 when the money becomes available, the legal fees incurred by Sergeant Helsley due to charges brought against him by a former Police Chief. This would be a First Reading.

Mr. Wiles will check into the legal aspects of this action.

Mayor Lough pointed out that the Mayor is usually the voting delegate at the Virginia Municipal League Convention but that council needs to decide on an alternate. He recommended that the Clerk, Mrs. Leap, be the alternate delegate to vote in the event the Mayor is out on other business. Council was in agreement with this.

Councilwoman Life asked that for clarification purposes it be put in the minutes that in the minutes of last month it stipulated that the grant of $11,956.00 could only be spent in the area of the police department. Councilwoman Life has a letter from the Virginia Municipal League dated July 23rd. which states that this is not so and she feels this should be clarified for further reference that this money can be spent in other areas.

Mayor Lough reported that he had a letter from the State Water Control Board approving and authorizing an increase of $8480.00 in grant funds for the Town of Elkton. This increase was requested by the town due to the increased cost of the sludge truck.

Mr. Wiles reported that he had been served with some additional papers this afternoon from Vepco involving rate increases. He has not had the opportunity to study these.

Councilman Snow reported on a letter from the Town of Bridgewater regarding the 10,000 Meter Run being sponsored by the Bridgewater Recreation Commission in conjunction with Diet Pepsi on Saturday, August 23, 1980 at 10:00 A.M. A special category called Municipal Teams was formed to add to the public interest. Each town is allowed to enter one two person team composed of employees, elected officials or members of boards and commissions.

Mr. Joe Reid stated that it has really been a pleasure to attend the council meetings since the new council has come in and he is really proud of the new council.

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