REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
January 12, 1981

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held January 12, 1981 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Maurice W. Lough presiding. The following council members were present: V. L. Cook Jr., S. P. H. Flick, L. C. Life, C. A. Schumacher, R. L. Snow and L. W. Winegard. Norma Leap, Clerk, James McIntyre, Acting Chief of Police, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Bruce Wiles, Attorney were also present.

Mrs. Hazel Crider of the Elkwood Subdivision came before council regarding street lights in the Elkwood area. She stated that she still feels they should not have to wait until a new budget to get street lights and that their patience are getting thin. She asked council if they were aware when they told her it was not feasible to spot a few lights that Vepco already has the service in Elkwood for five or six street lights. It would only be a matter of setting poles to install the needed lighting. Councilwoman Life and Councilman Cook both were not aware of this according to Councilwoman Life. Mrs. Crider stated that when Liberty Heights and Elkwood were annexed the majority were not in favor of being annexed so they ended up going to court. They were told at that time by the Town Superintendent and the Town Council that there would be no problem as far as services were concerned. The one subdivision has already had lights installed so she wanted to know why shouldn't Elkwood have street lights also. She asked again that council consider this now rather than waiting for another budget. She felt the town should keep their word.

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The Mayor stated he would talk with the Finance Committee but they could not give any answer at this time.

Mrs. Sandra Loker of Elkwood Subdivision also spoke in regards to street lights and stated how disappointed she was in council. She said that this was the fourth year she has been coming to council with this request and should not have to wait any longer for this service. She asked if council could guarantee the street lights would be included in the new budget. Councilman Flick stated it would be considered but he could not guarantee if it would be included in the budget. She felt that the town council deliberately misrepresented their financial position to the annexation court December 31, 1976 and that the current council is continuing to misrepresent their financial position to the annexation court and are in defiance of this court order. Mayor Lough stated he did not feel this was correct. Councilman Snow pointed out that the court order included the phrase when feasible.

Mayor Lough told Mrs. Loker that this would be taken under consideration in the new budget and that is all council can do at present.

Mrs. Crider stated she felt something should be done to have flags at the triangle. Councilwoman Life stated she has just talked with Mr. Monger tonight and this is going to be taken care of.

Councilwoman Life moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting December 8, 1980 and the special meetings December 15th. and 29th.

Mr. Monger reported that the sludge applicator has been delivered. He reported that we are having some problems in our main sewer lines and it may require rerouting some money in order to have enough to clean the lines and that progress on the Sewer Plant is going slow due to bad weather.

Mr. Monger stated that at the last meeting he was asked to get regulations for a building code for the handicapped. Rockingham County does not have any, they go by the State of North Carolina. He has ordered and received a book from North Carolina but has not worked one up for the town as yet.

Mrs. Leap presented the Finance Report.

Mrs. Leap reported that we have received $4,123.00 for the first revenue sharing payment for Entitlement Period Twelve (Oct. 1, 1980 thru Sept. 30, 1981). It appears our total budget will be $16,492.00 for this period.

Councilwoman Life gave the following report:

1. The Public Safety Committee has had three meetings.
2. Officer May began his basic schooling today.

3. The town was approved for a Ceta Officer and Officer Richard Furr began his duties December 15th.
4. The new police car has arrived and should be in service within a day or so.

Councilwoman Life reported that the Public Safety Committee would like to advertise the green Plymouth for sale by sealed bids. There were no objections by council.

Councilwoman Life stated that she has talked with Acting Chief McIntyre and Town Superintendent, Mr. Monger and since the Elkton Gulf Station has been having the town gasoline, oil, etc. business and the station has changed ownership now would be a good time to get quotes from the other dealers in Elkton if this meets with council's approval. There were no objections from council.

Councilwoman Life stated they are still short on Overtime in the Public Safety Budget due to being shorthanded. It was suggested by her committee that rather than having to continue reappropriating money each month in this area that Wages and Overtime be combined in the budget for the remainder of this budget period. It will still be broken down by the Chief and Mrs. Leap so there will be a record of the overtime.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. and carried that the Wages and Overtime in the Public Safety Budget be combined into an overall salary until the end of this budget period.

Councilman Flick reported that Mr. Early has agreed to act as the town's insurance advisor. His charge would be nominal, just whatever expenses he would incur while performing this job. He would require the council signing an agreement that absolves him of any responsibility.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to engage Mr. Joseph Early as the town's insurance advisor, to be consulted on all insurance matters, without pay except nominal expenses.

Councilman Flick reported that he has distributed some forms for the budget.

Councilman Schumacher reported that he received a letter from ElectriCities Saturday informing him that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission authorized a rate increase for Vepco to their wholesale purchasers which will be effective January 14, 1981. The increase will be 9.6% for municipal wholesale customers. This would work out to an increase of 8.4% on the retail rate. He did not have time to call a committee meeting.

Councilman C. A. Schumacher moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life that a rate increase of 8.4% be added to the existing electrical rate schedules, excluding the .005175 cents per kwh increase that was passed in February of 1980, and excluding demand charges which are a function of a multiplier, rather than a fixed rate. This rate increase is to become effective January 14, 1981, to coincide with the Vepco increase.

Mrs. Leap asked for a clarification regarding the $.005175. Mr. Schumacher stated that the increase of 8.4% will be added to the base rate schedule which was passed in October of 1978. The $.005175 per kwh increase which was added February 1980 will remain the same.

There was some discussion on the effective date.

Councilman C. A. Schumacher moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to amend the motion to read "effective with the January meter reading".

The vote was recorded as follows:

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

Councilman Snow requested there be a brief meeting of the Personnel Committee immediately following the council meeting.

Councilman Winegard reported that he has been asked by several young people if it would be feasible to flood the dip down in the park for ice skating. Council had no objections.

Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. moved, seconded by Councilman S. P. H. Flick to trade Randell Snow a sewer connection and hookup in exchange for an easement over his property at the intersection of Stuart, Hillside and North Streets, Lots 1 and 2, Block 34, Section 3, of the Town of Elkton. This easement is for the purpose of constructing a 10" waterline as a loop in our water system.

Mr. Monger felt the cost would even out. He pointed out this easement with Mr. Snow has been drawn up for about two years but have not as yet got it signed.

The vote was recorded as follows:

V. Cook	-	yea	C. Schumacher	-	yea
S. Flick	-	yea	R. Snow	-	abstain
L. Life	-	yea	L. Winegard	-	yea

Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. moved, seconded by Councilman L. W. Winegard and carried for council to instruct Mr. Monger to correspond with the State Department of Dental Health and if he can get a free study on fluoridation, with no strings attached, to go ahead with the study.

Councilwoman Life stated she would like to see Mr. Monger try to get someone to present the other side of fluoridation, perhaps opposite as to what has already been presented to council. Mr. Monger said he would try to see if he could get someone to do this.

Mayor Lough reported there will be a joint meeting of the town's in the county January 21, 1981 at 7:30 P.M. at the Broadway Community Center. They would like to know the number attending by January 16, 1981.

Mayor Lough asked that each department head present their budget estimates and work programs to the Finance Committee by January 31st. and that the Finance Committee, during this time, get with Mrs. Leap and prepare preliminary estimates on the Revenue Budget. That way between now and the February meeting the Finance Committee might be able to meet, review and come up with some recommendations for change on the final request of the department heads.

Councilman Schumacher asked Mr. Wiles to draw up a small form that would be used when the town accepts a bid, with the minimum amount of cash changing hands, to make the bid a firm contract. Since the council has been hooked several times in the past year or so he feels this would be a good idea. Mayor Lough asked Mr. Wiles to work with Councilman Schumacher on this.

Councilman Flick reported that he has received only one bid on the new bookkeeping systems. He also asked how we stand on the gas tank for the town. He felt that since we might be changing suppliers, now would be a good time to go into this. Mr. Monger stated he has provided the information but council will have to come up with the money. The estimate given was $5,949.00.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman C. A. Schumacher and carried to empower Mr. Monger to get bids on installing a wholesale gasoline tank (not less than a 5,000 gallon tank) and pump for use by the town.

Councilwoman Life reported that the Public Safety Committee and Acting Chief McIntyre have been kept advised on the subject of Sergeant Helsley's problem and have decided it best to play low key, but for the other council members, if there are any questions they have the committee, Chief or Mayor will be glad to answer them.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman L. W. Winegard and carried that Mrs. Leap and Councilman Flick be authorized to get the new bookkeeping system in accordance with the request from the auditor.

Councilman Schumacher asked where the money was coming from and Councilman Flick stated he did not know but as we have no choice we will have to do it.

Mr. James Smith asked that while everyone is thinking about budgets he would like to point out that they need some curb and guttering up in Liberty Heights.

Mrs. Hazel Crider asked if the police department has a pension plan and if

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so with how many years of service. Councilwoman Life stated that the town does have a pension plan and that it requires thirty years to be fully vested for total retirement.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Maurice W. Lough, Mayor

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap, Clerk