REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
March 16, 1987

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held March 16, 1987 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: R. E. Davis, B. B. Holt, H. W. Leap, H. A. Leet and L. C. Life. R. L. Snow was absent. Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

The Rev. Brooke Wilson was present representing the Elkton Progressive Improvement Committee. He stated that he would like to dispel some rumors that have been circulating regarding the committee. They are not a surrogate town council; they have not set themselves up to operate independently in that sense. They see themselves as participatory democracy in action and they have come before council tonight to put themselves at council's disposal. They realize council becomes overburdened with requests for things and they would like to organize citizens to become involved in projects of their making and of council's making as well. The following suggestions were presented:

1. Offered their service with the annual Clean-Up Campaign the week including May 15th. Would like to help in two particular areas. One, in helping coordinate the removal of junk cars. The other was to help coordinate the different civic groups in helping with picking up trash, cutting weeds, etc.

2. They would also like to offer their help in some sort of coordinated fall festival. They realize other groups already have a program and they want to work with these as a coordinating agency. Maybe bring in some crafts and make this a big thing, not take away any of the programs, but add to them.

He pointed out that they all really love Elkton and care about the community. They hope to be able to change the image people outside the community have of Elkton as they feel it is an unfair opinion.

Councilman Holt pointed out that we do have a good junk car ordinance in our code and we have taken care of about 90% of the junk cars. He pointed out that the committee could help by passing on to the Public Safety Department the location of any of the remaining junk cars and the town can take care of having them removed.

Council expressed their appreciation for the interest and efforts being made by the EPIC. Councilwoman Life reported that the next meeting of EPIC would be tomorrow night, Tuesday, March 17th. at 8:00 P.M. at the Country Inn Restaurant. Everyone was invited to attend.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting February 16, 1987 as presented.

Mr. Monger called council's attention to the basketball courts. The conduit containing the electric wires has been pulled down over the weekend. He stated maybe we need to lock the courts until we find out who is responsible.

Councilwoman Life stated that the Recreation Commission has a meeting Thursday night and they will discuss this situation and maybe will have to set some guidelines.

Chief Pence stated he would like to introduce Karl Jenkins to council later in the meeting.

Mayor Dean asked if there were any questions for the Chief regarding the monthly police report. There were no questions.

The Finance Report for the month of February was approved as presented.

Councilman Leap reported that due to our purchasing power from SEPA, we have saved approximately $2000.00 on our February billing. This will be reflected on the March billing to the customer.

Councilman Leap reported he has another report to make regarding his discussion with a consultant on cable television. As this might involve possible litigation, he will make this report in Executive Session.

Mayor Dean reported that the Finance Committee will meet Wednesday night at 7:00 P.M.

Councilwoman Life reported that letters were sent by our council regarding capital improvement funds for towns with a population under 3500. She has been reading in the paper about other towns that will now be receiving this funding and she wanted to report that we will be receiving it also. Mr. Monger explained that towns and cities over 3500 that were maintaining their own streets have always received capital improvement monies. Now this is not automatic money you receive but if you have a project, you must submit a set of plans to be approved by the State Highway Department. If they are approved, you then receive funding.

Councilman Holt stated that it is his understanding that the passage of this legislation has cleared the way for the State to finance the crossing gates at the tracks on Marshall Avenue. Councilwoman Life stated this has been suggested as the way for us to use this money. There is a gentleman coming in to explain all this to Mr. Monger.

Councilwoman Life reported that we still have not received anything from Mr. Evans regarding traffic lights at the intersections of Rockingham Street and Route 340 or Shenandoah Avenue and Route 340.

Councilwoman Life suggested that we again consider giving a summer sewer rate for those people who would like to use extra water for their gardens, flowers, etc.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman H. W. Leap that we cut our residential sewer rates to persons signing up in the town office by April 15th., using the base amount of March and to run May through August. The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	- yea	Leet	- yea
Holt	- nay	Life	- yea
Leap	- yea		

Councilman Leet reported that we have talked considerably in the past about protecting our water sources for the Elkton area specifically, but for the county in general. The county is working on this and is asking the town's support in helping to have Rockingham County designated the recipient of a groundwater protection demonstration project. The Virginia Water Control Board will select the locality for this demonstration project. The county is requesting all local governments, business groups and civic interest groups to write a brief note to the Virginia Water Control Board asking for it to conduct the demonstration DRASTIC mapping project in Rockingham County.

Councilman H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to write a brief note to the Virginia Water Control Board asking that it conduct this demonstration on DRASTIC mapping projects in Rockingham County.

Councilman Holt reported that some time ago we had discussed the cruising problem and now it has become quite evident that the cruising problem is not a problem just for us but for a lot of municipalities. At the time it was first discussed, Councilman Holt did not give too much sympathy toward any move toward attempting to control this but now he has changed his mind. There may not be anything council can do but he feels council owes it to themselves to try to do something about reducing, during certain periods of time, the amount of aimless traffic that runs up and down the streets creating traffic problems. He has asked Mr. Davenport to look into a sample ordinance that has been given him and to research other areas to see if there is any legal way we can help eliminate some of this problem. There may not be anything we can do but we need to check into it to see if there is.

Councilman Holt stated that he noticed in the paper today that the Central Shenandoah Planning District will be reviewing the Elkton Volunteer Fire Company's application for $300,000.00 to build a training center and activity building. Council was aware they were working on a building but he feels that since we do support the fire company, both in terms of a building, utilities, gasoline and everyone here makes a contribution to the fire company, it would be well to have a representative of the fire company come to the council meeting and tell council what they are doing and their plans for the building.

Councilman Holt stated that he heard a representative from Rocco this morning on the radio saying that in the next year their demand for turkeys would require that they build sixty-five new poultry houses. This is Rocco, just turkeys alone, and does not include chickens. This does not include Wampler, Purdue, Holly Farms, etc. If Rocco is shooting for sixty-five in the next year imagine what the other companies are going to shoot for. Councilman Holt stated that, with his tongue only slightly in cheek, he could visualize a time, in the not too distant future, when a fairly agile broad jumper could start at the Skyline Drive and work his way all the way across to the Shenandoah Mountains jumping from poultry house to poultry house never setting foot on the ground. It could come to pass and and it is enough to scare him.

Councilman H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to adopt the following resolution to reply to the Virginia Water Control Board's request:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Virginia Water Control Board is developing water supply plans for each river basin in the State; and

WHEREAS the Virginia Water Control Board has developed a draft of the Shenandoah Water Supply Plan; and

WHEREAS the Town of Elkton has had the opportunity to provide input and comments into the planning process through a local representative on an advisory committee; and

WHEREAS the Town of Elkton agrees with the general concepts and recommendations presented in the Plan for the Town of Elkton; Therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Town of Elkton agrees that the recommendations appear to be reasonable and that the Plan should be used as a guide for any water supply implementation program undertaken within the Town of Elkton.

Councilman Leet stated that he felt the report painted too black a picture for Elkton's water situation. We have pretty good remedies for any possible shortages we might have in the period of time they are talking about. We could also increase capacity at the spring and at the well if we needed it. He feels it is well to study these things, but as so often happens, a bad picture is painted, perhaps worse than it is.

Councilman Holt presented a request which the Planning Commission received regarding a subdivision of a piece of property in the north end of town. It has been brought before the Planning Commission and they have recommended approval.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life and carried to approve a subdivision of acreage property owned by Gerald K. & Jeroline M. Monger, Land Map 131, Acreage Parcels 2, Deed Book 375, Page 91 as shown on the plat which was presented.

Councilman H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and possible legal matters. The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	-	yea	Leet	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Leap	-	yea			

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman H. W. Leap and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman H. W. Leap to hire Karl Lester Jenkins III as a police officer effective March 14, 1987 with a probationary period as specified by law and regulation. The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	-	yea	Leet	-	yea
Holt	-	yea	Life	-	yea
Leap	-	yea			

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

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