REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
March 19, 1990

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held March 19, 1990 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. J. R. Correa, Jr., B. B. Holt, H. W. Leap and L. C. Life were present. R. B. Hutton and R. L. Snow were absent. Robert Keefer, Attorney from Dale Davenport's office, Betty Engle, Assistant Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

John L. Hopkins of Dean Lumber Company was present regarding signs he wishes to install at his place of business; one on top of the building and one a reader board type that can be changed periodically. Mr. Hopkins assured council these signs would be attractive and professionally done. Mr. Monger said that he was not aware that Mr. Davenport would not be here tonight, and in conversation, that the last he had was the roof top sign would have to go under special exception, but maybe the attorney had found out something different, since in the ordinance that the size of a roof sign was left out. And that the reader board sign would probably have to go before the Board of Zoning Appeals and see if a variance would be given. They have listed exactly what size a free standing sign can be, and to change it there would have to be a variance, also there are some limitations as to a lighted sign.

Dan Nardi and Bert Fidler were present representing the Merck Community Action Team, and to explain their Adopt a River Bank Project. The two primary reasons for addressing council was one, to inform them of their project, and what they had done to date and secondly to ask for some possible help and assistance in maintaining this area for cleaning. They passed around photos of before and after of the Ore Wash Road. They said due to insurance and liability issues only Merck employees and their families would be allowed to use this property. This group ask that council consider closing the Ore Wash Road, Route 1709 during evening or night hours possibly 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. and/or providing some police surveillance. They also ask the town to establish a group of council representatives to meet with the Community Action Team to explore some longer term possibilities for this piece of property.

Mayor Dean set up a committee of Councilmen Leap, Snow and Holt to meet with them at a time that is convenient to both parties.

Herbert Baugher who owns property adjoining the Merck property stated that he would have some reservations as to closing the road.

Councilwoman Life moved, seconded by Councilman Holt and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 15, 1990, the Special Meeting February 8, 1990 and also the last council meeting of February 19, 1990.

Councilman Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman Life and carried to appoint Gerald Monger as representative and authorized him to sign appropriate papers at the VMEA #1 meeting.

Councilwoman Life moved, seconded by Councilman Holt and carried on First Reading to hire Shaffer, Inc. to do a study on the town's electric water and sewer rates not to exceed $15,000.00.

Chief Pence reported that the police cruiser sustained minor damage in the abduction case on Sunday and that the lady's insurance company would cover damages. The officer was acting on the authority of being summoned by the Rockingham Sheriffs Department to assist.

Councilman Leap moved, seconded by Councilman Holt and carried to approve the Finance Report as presented.

Councilwoman Life remarked briefly on the death of former Mayor and Councilman Edward F. Garber.

Councilwoman Life suggested that a letter be sent to the Cemetery Commission recommending that they publish the time and place of their meetings to enable lot owners to attend, and also send letters to lot owners with addresses available a copy of by-laws. This was agreeable with council.

Councilwoman Life moved, seconded by Councilman Leap and carried to give special sewer rates to the residents of the Town of Elkton for the months of May, June, July and August for 1990 to be based on the April usage and not to exceed it unless the rates would increase. The deadline for signing up will be April 15, 1990. The vote was recorded as follows:

Holt	-	nay	Correa	-	yea
Life	-	yea	Leap	-	yea

Councilman Holt reported that his committee would get together and work out a recommendation to council on what to do about garbage and solid waste. And also to go ahead and pay the $500.00 fee to the county.

There was some discussion on the letter written by Bill O'Brian concerning the county garbage disposal at Elkton, and the dissatisfaction of the remarks made by Mr. O'Brian in regards to the people in the Elkton area. Council is hopeful that this problem will be resolved by the Board of Supervisors.

Councilman Holt moved, seconded by Councilman Leap and carried to hire Michael A. Shifflett as recreation coordinator at a starting salary of $14,500.00. After a probation of one year he will be eligible for a raise.

After some discussion Mayor Dean recommended that the town continue to collect taxes once a year.

Councilman Holt moved, seconded by Councilwoman Life and carried to recommend the appoint of Daniel W. Goodson to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Correa reported that he had been ask by several people why a sign has not been put up designating that this building houses the Police Department and Municipal Building, and was told that they were waiting for an estimate from Jeddie Hensley on lettering for the building.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: Betty H. Engle
Betty H. Engle, Asst. Clerk