REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
August 15, 1994

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held Monday, August 15, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present:

PRESENT

F. A. Bennett
D. H. Dail
W. E. Printz
R. L. Snow
T. R. Whitfield III

ABSENT

M. B. Fuller

Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

VISITORS

Deborah Anderson and Pam Balser were present concerning the Elementary School children crossing Terrace Avenue to get to Memorial Park. Due to the new construction, there will be no functional playground at the school. This will result in more students using Memorial Park this year. They are concerned about the safety of the students and are open to suggestions as to how this problem can be resolved. Several possible solutions were discussed; flashing lights, speed bumps, signs, rumble strips, detouring traffic during school hours and a bridge or tunnel. They requested council's help in working with the school, the PTO and the county before a child gets hurt.

Mayor Dean asked Chief Pence to work this area hard the first few weeks of school. He asked Mr. Monger and the Streets & Sidewalks Committee to look into this situation.

Councilman Printz introduced Mr. Bob Grace, Rockingham County Gypsy Moth Coordinator. He had asked Mr. Grace to take a look at the Town of Elkton to see if there is a gypsy moth problem. Mr. Grace stated the town is set up so as not to have a serious overall problem. There is a small area in the Elkwood section which should be sprayed next May. The majority of the town could wait three or four years before spraying. He suggested contacting the property owners involved to solicit the needed funds or the town could pay if they so desire.

Mrs. Caroline Brill and Ms. Adair Brill both emphasized the importance of spraying and felt the town should be responsible for the cost.

MINUTES

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 18, 1994 and the Special Meeting August 2, 1994 as presented.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Town Superintendent

Mr. Monger reported that the boat ramp is completed, at an approximate cost of $41,000.00. The paper work has been submitted for payment.

Treasurer

Councilman T. R. Whitfield III moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of June 1994.

Mrs. Leap reported she does not have the July Finance Report ready as there is a problem with the computer.

Chief of Police

Chief Pence presented the monthly police report and answered questions.

Councilman Printz noted that parking tickets have increased dramatically. He asked Chief Pence if the figures could be broken down according to age group. Chief Pence stated this would be hard to do since the officer would have to wait around to see who is driving the vehicle.

Councilman Printz stated he has asked the Seven-Eleven to mark their handicapped parking space better as it is difficult to tell that it is a handicapped space.

Mayor Dean asked if we have received the signs for no parking after 11:00 p.m. Mr. Shifflett reported that they are suppose to be here on August 17th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel Committee

Councilman Printz reported that there was a very good employees meeting today at noon.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee

Mr. Monger reported that he has not received anything on the Valley Heritage sidewalks as yet but will check on this.

Councilman Printz reported that the State Highway Department is progressing on making the sidewalks on the state right-of-ways handicapped accessible. The town will be following suit.

Mrs. Pam Balser asked if the town has any plans to repair the sidewalk at the Movie House. Mr. Monger stated that after the storm sewer is completed the sidewalks will be next.

Water & Sewer Committee

Councilman Bennett reported that there is a request from Virginia Toliver on Route 759, Newtown Road, for a water connection. She is willing to wait until the new road goes through. Mr. Monger reported that the bids are to be taken in September for the Route 759 Project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman Whitfield stated that since the last meeting he has received a suggestion regarding the committee restructuring as presented for a First Reading at the last meeting. He pointed out that we have a very active Recreation Commission. Instead of having a duplication of services in regards to Recreation, it was suggested to keep the Recreation Commission, but to eliminate the Recreation Committee and have a representative from council on the Recreation Commission.

Councilman Snow pointed out that we have always had a council representative on the Recreation Commission.

Councilman T. R. Whitfield III moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to have a First Reading that council shall appoint the following standing committees:

Committee on Finance
Committee on Streets & Sidewalks
Committee on Public Health, Public Safety & Ordinances
Committee on Electric
Committee on Water & Sewer
Committee on Personnel

Councilman Bennett read the following written statement:

"It is in my estimation that there is no concrete evidence to support the unilateral movement and/or consolidation of several of our committees as outlined in the Town Code.

I have compiled some information that would suggest the opposite.

Not only should we consider the monetary amounts assigned each department, but also consider the immediate threats or matters that possibly could arise in each department or committee responsible for that part of our town government.

The potential legal consequences through court action or through civic action should show us there is a greater need to continue the committees as in our present code, rather than isolate a department and committee, commission of less threatening atributes.

Again, I can see no sound reasoning, or conclusions that can be drawn that could suggest that the committees could operate better, more efficiently or strengthen the same by the suggested move.

I feel that this move should be reconsidered, and continue to operate with the thought in mind, that public safety not only has a much higher price tag for its operation, but has the serious agenda that accompanies it that should necessitate a separate and individual committee.

Reference Notes:

The below listed summation draws reference to the 1992-93, 1993-94, 1994-95 Budgets.

	92-93	93-94	94-95
Water	132,070	131,612	147,329
Sewer	178,757	179,823	192,960
TOTAL	310,827	311,435	340,289
Public Safety	260,900	273,250	277,160
Recreation	78,656	89,100	85,274
Electric	960,341	1,013,050	1,020,745"

A vote was taken on the First Reading and recorded as follows:

YEAS: D. H. Dail, W. E. Printz and T. R. Whitfield III

NAYS: F. A. Bennett and R. L. Snow

Mayor Dean asked Councilman Whitfield if he wanted to hold off on the committee appointments. He stated that out of respect for Councilwoman Fuller, he would like to hold off on this.

NEW BUSINESS

There was some discussion on the spraying for gypsy moth.

Councilman Printz felt this is a serious problem and the town should pay to have the spraying done as it is no fault of the property owners.

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman T. R. Whitfield III that the town guarantee payment for whatever area the county feels it is necessary to spray in order to take care of the gypsy moth problem in Elkton.

Councilman Bennett felt this should go through the proper committee for more information and a recommendation before taking action. Council could have a Special Meeting if action needs to be taken before the next regular meeting.

Councilman Printz withdrew his motion and Councilman Whitfield his second.

Mayor Dean assigned this to Councilmen Whitfield and Printz to get the information and bring it back to a Special Meeting.

The Special Meeting to consider the gypsy moth issue was set for August 29, 1994 following the Public Hearing scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on that same night.

Councilman Whitfield complimented the Jr. O.U.A.M. and the Ladies Auxiliary on their Field Day activities and parade.

Councilman Bennett reported that there is a request from Donna Mowbray, representative from EPIC, to block off the traffic and parking on Terrace Avenue for antique cars on October 16, 1994 between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The Streets & Sidewalk Committee will look into this and bring back a recommendation to the Special Meeting August 29, 1994.

Mayor Dean reported that the annual VML Conference will be held October 16-18, 1994 in Norfolk.

Mayor Dean reported that the Kids Castle is being treated with a wood sealer. This should be completed in the next day or two.

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