REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
October 12, 1992

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held October 12, 1992 at 8:00 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. B. Fuller, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow and T. R. Whitfield III. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Mr. Monger reported that Mr. Neil Cox would not be present tonight but is requesting that council renew their Special Exception Permit for a Bed and Breakfast on E. Rockingham Street.

Mr. Bill Holt presented recommendations from the EDRC Promotions Comiittee as a possible solution to the problems associated with cruising in downtown Elkton. Their recommendation is that the parking lot on the east side and adjacent to the NationsBank building be designated as a place that cruisers may congregate. They also suggested that certain rules and conditions be set in regards to the use of this lot.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting September 21, 1992 as presented and the minutes of the Special Meeting September 28, 1992 as corrected.

Councilman Whitfield reported that he has met with Mr. & Mrs. Neil Cox. He toured the facility and discussed their proposed Bed & Breakfast operation with them. They plan to be open only on weekends at first. They hope to sell their present home and move here permanently. They will not have a restaurant but will be serving breakfast for their overnight guests. Councilman Whitfield stated he fully endorses this request.

Councilman T. R. Whitfield III moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried that a Special Exception Permit be issued to Mr. & Mrs. Neil Cox with the stipulations that would apply within the proper zoning.

Mr. Monger reported that they have bids on the fire hall roof but are waiting for the Department of Labor to let the town know if the asbestos removal contractor is approved.

Chief Pence presented the monthly police report and answered questions. He reported that he has met twice, and the Public Safety Committee once, with representatives from the group of young people concerning cruising and parking.

Councilman Whitfield asked about who is responsible for the dumpsters that were set on fire. Chief Pence explained that it would be up to the owners of the dumpster, Waste Management, to take action against the person setting the fire.

Councilman Printz reported that he has received some positive responses from the young people regarding the cruising, parking, etc. He thanked Chief Pence and his officers for working with this group to try and resolve the situation.

Mayor Dean stated that in talking with the young people they did not feel there was a parking lot in town suitable to designate as a place cruisers may congregate. Mayor Dean reported that there are still problems to be worked out but that they will continue to work toward a solution.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of September.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller to install a new telephone line for the main frame computer.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller to amend the motion to add security checks so that only those with authorization can access the computer. The motion, as amended, was passed.

Councilman Snow reported that he, along with Mayor Dean and Councilwoman Fuller, had met with the auditors and reviewed the audit report. Basically the town is in good financial condition. The auditors made several suggestions regarding long term investments, cafeteria plan for employees, miscellaneous accounts breakdowns, rates, etc. The committee will be looking at these suggestions in the coming months.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller to approve the audit report. As all the council members did not have copies of the audit report, Councilman Snow withdrew the motion and Councilwoman Fuller her second. this will be taken up at the next meeting.

Councilman Davis asked if the auditors said anything about the cemetery funds. Mayor Dean reported that the auditors said the cemetery funds were in pretty good shape but they did not feel the town could maintain this with the amount of money people are now paying. They also suggested putting the money in a different type of account. The auditors would be willing to help the Cemetery Commission with this.

Councilman Whitfield reported that agency representatives have conducted a field visit to the town's old dump site. They have performed a variety of toxicity tests and we are waiting for the outcome of their findings. Because of the potentially volatile nature of the situation, the town has been told that any questions or concerns should be addressed to our town attorney, Dale Davenport.

Councilman Whitfield asked if there is any reason the council cannot meet earlier. Mayor Dean stated we will look into this. Mr. Monger read from the code which states the time of the meeting will be set each July. Mr. Monger was asked to check with Mr. Davenport regarding changing the time January 1, 1993.

Councilman Whitfield reported that the town is the feature lead story in "The Villager". The story talks about the Municipal Building and ghosts.

Councilman Whitfield reported that the Planning Commission has met several times. They have completed the zoning ordinance updates and they will get copies to council as soon as they are available.

Councilwoman Fuller and Councilman Whitfield, along with Rockingham Planning Commission member, Lori Dickson, spent some time with the County Planner Bill Veno to develop some focus areas for Elkton's future. This was a very informative meeting. Councilman Whitfield also met with a representative from the Department of Housing and Community Development out of Richmond. Mr. Monger also met with him. He examined some of the ordinances that are on the books now and his recommendation was that some of our signs in town are too tall and too large. He is going to make a written recommendation to the committee and they will forward this to council. Councilman Whitfield stated that officials on the county and state level are available and accessible and the town should use the expertise they have to offer.

Councilman Whitfield reported on the train whistle complaint. He stated that in talking with the people who live near the tracks the response has been about 50-50. Some are in favor, others oppose the whistle.

Councilman Whitfield reported that the immediate focus of his committee, in addition to ordinance enforcement, is to develop some inventory control for the Recreation Department. they feel that the new computer system will be instrumental in getting this accomplished.

Councilman Whitfield reported that he is going to write another letter to Waste Management and ask them to address the dumpster situation.

Councilman Whitfield reported that he had been asked to check on increased radar and traffic control for North Street. He has spoken to Chief Pence and Officer Monte Dean and this has been done.

Councilman Bennett reported that the Water and Sewer Committee has met and discussed several issues. They have only one they wish to bring

before council tonight. Mr. Monger needs to let the Department of Transportation office in Staunton know by tomorrow whether the town wants to delay the Newtown Road Project. The Richmond office needs this information by October 15th. The Water and Sewer Committee recommends that as there is no grant money available at this time, the town go ahead with the project. Their recommendation is that the town go ahead with the water only and extend the line to the top of the hill to the intersection beyond the auction house with an eight inch line. It would be cheaper to lay the line now. the cost would be $151,000.00. Councilman Bennett pointed out that we are going to replace the present line and that all they are asking is to spend an extra $30,000. to extend it to the top of the hill. This will be the beginning of a better loop system around town. They are not recommending sewer because the survey shows the majority of the people do not want this service.

Councilman Printz asked where the money would come from. Councilman Bennett stated this would have to go through the Finance Committee and they would make a recommendation. It has not been budgeted.

Councilwoman Fuller asked if we could get some help from the county as these are county residents. Councilman Bennett stated we could work through Supervisor Correa to see if this can be accomplished.

Councilman Snow stated he is opposed to spending this kind of money out of town.

Councilwoman Fuller felt a delay in the project would allow the town time to work toward a grant and take some of the burden off the town.

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Davis that as the committee has recommended, the town proceed with the plan as the State progresses this year, not to ask for a delay, to continue that water line to the top of the hill at a price of $151,000.00. The vote was recorded as follows:

Bennett	-	yea	Printz	-	yea
Daivs	-	yea	Snow	-	nay
Fuller	-	nay	Whitfield	-	yea

Mayor Dean requested that Councilman Bennett get with Supervisor Correa regarding county help with this project.

Councilwoman Fuller suggested that in addition to Councilman Bennett talking with Supervisor Correa, if the council has a formal request to go to the Board of Supervisors that either the Mayor or council members personally attend the Board meeting to present the request. She also felt the town might want to consider establishing some sort of liaison committee with the county to contact our supervisor and go before the board with formal requests.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that the Personnel Committee met Thursday, October 8th. The next meeting will be October 29th. at 7:00 p.m.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that the computer system for the town was ordered today from Teltronics Computer Center. Three units were ordered, a wide carriage Okidate printer and three versions of DOS 50. Three copies of WordPerfect 5.1 was ordered through the State contract. The hardware and software should be here within a week.

Councilwoman Fuller asked the Mayor to appoint a special task force to look into space requirements. It is the general consensus of the employees who work in this building that space is tight and that we might want to look into increasing the amount of space.

Mayor Dean appointed the three department heads, Councilwoman Fuller and Councilman Snow to the special task force. Mayor Dean will chair the committee. The committee will try to have some recommendations by the next meeting.

Mayor Dean reported that the VML annual meeting will be held this Sunday through Tuesday in Hampton, Virginia. The grand opening of McDonald's will be Monday, October 19th. Councilman Davis was asked to represent the town at this grand opening.

Mr. Monger reported that Mr. Raymond Gooden is withdrawing his request for a lot line revision so the town will not need to send him a letter stating why his request was denied.

Councilman Printz asked the Water and Sewer Committee to look at the ordinance requiring the property owner having to pay for the line past his property. He does not feel this is fair to the property owner.

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