REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
April 20, 1992

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held April 20, 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, M. B. Fuller, L. C. Life, W. E. Printz and R. L. Snow. R. C. Davis was absent. Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Mr. Joseph Correa, our representative on the Board of Supervisors, gave an update on the sidewalk project on the lower end of W. Spotswood Trail. The Department of Transportation was to award the bid today. There is still a possibility that the funding may be pulled but the Resident Engineer is working hard to keep the funding for this project.

Mr. Hazel Crider thanked everyone who worked on the Main Street Project. She feels they worked hard and did a splendid job.

Mr. Crider was present regarding the street lights in Elkwood and asked council to give them an answer, either yes or no, tonight.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting March 16, 1992 as presented.

Mr. Monger presented a written updated report to council.

Mr. Monger reported that there is an agreement with Vepco which needs to be signed regarding Elkwood street lights and the pump station. This agreement is renewed approximately every five years. Mr. Davenport has reviewed the agreement and thinks it looks okay. There is also an agreement for mutual aid between the different municipalities who have their own power systems.

Mr. Monger reviewed the items that will be bid this week:

1. Storm sewer down in town, from the flag pole over to the north side of Spotswood Avenue back up to Warren about 50 feet.
2. Curb, gutter and sidewalk on Warren Street.
3. Drain pipe on Jackson Avenue down by the Miller-Kite house.
4. Some ends on the pipe that crosses Jackson Avenue out at "F" Street.

Bids will be opened tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. and if everything is okay, they plan to start April 30th.

Councilwoman Life asked about the closing of Ore Wash road. Mr. Monger reported that he has not heard any more on this. The last he heard the Highway Department was working with Vepco on where they want to stop the road.

Mr. Monger reported that he has an appointment with Mr. Lineberry Wednesday to discuss the sidewalk bids and crosswalks down in town.

Chief Pence presented and answered questions on the monthly police report. He stated that if there were no objections, he plans to put in a work order to remove the "yield" signs at the intersections of "F" Street and Jackson Avenue and replace them with "stop" signs. This request is due to numerous accidents over the past years.

Mr. Monger stated he thinks we have to change all of our "yield" signs to "stop" signs. Mayor Dean reported that the Highway Department says we are in violation by having the "yield" signs.

Councilwoman Life stated that the dump site is improved but feels none of the council members are pleased with the site. She can understand why

the rocks are placed there but they need to be cleaned. She suggested a letter be sent to the county concerning this.

Councilman Printz asked Chief Pence to look into the complaints regarding the top signs at Sixth Street and Fairfax Avenue. Some of the residents are concerned that in the winter it is hard to get started again due to the slight incline there.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of March 1992.

Mr. Monger reported that he had received an estimate to replace the roof on the fire hall. When they checked the roof to give an estimate they found the roof is loaded with asbestos. They have not given us a price to remove the asbestos but they sent another price on putting another type roof down over the old roof. This would be legal under current law.

Council decided to hold off on making a decision until Mr. Monger receives a price on removing the asbestos.

Councilwoman Life stated she feels we need more bids on the painting. Council decided to run an ad in the paper to receive bids.

Mayor Dean asked that life insurance for the employees be addressed in the budget. He also reported he would like to see the health insurance benefits be kept at our present level and a salary increase of from 3 to 4 percent.

Councilman Snow made a report for the Electric Committee due to Councilman Davis' absence.

Councilman Snow reported that the Electric Committee met and toured some of the areas in town. They noted that there are areas in Elkwood, as well as other areas in town, where the lighting is not necessarily uniform throughout the neighborhoods. It is the feeling of the committee that differences in Elkwood are no worse than other areas of the town and at this time they recommend that no action be taken regarding the lighting in Elkwood.

Council reviewed the figures in Mr. Monger's report on additional lighting in Elkwood.

Councilwoman Fuller asked if the feeling of the committee is that the lighting, in general, is inadequate. Councilman Snow stated he feels most places are adequate but there are spotty areas throughout the town that are darker than others.

Councilwoman Fuller asked if the committee feels that maybe we should take a look at the spotty lighting throughout town to see what can be done to alleviate it in the future or maybe build it into our budget next year. Councilman Snow stated this would be a possibility. Councilwoman Life stated that we are not talking about one area and that this would be a big undertaking.

Councilman Printz pointed out that the survey revealed that the majority of the people in Elkwood who responded wanted more lights and asked if other areas of town had complained about lighting. Mr. Monger stated that there has been no other complaints. Councilman Printz stated he feels it is extremely dark in Elkwood, more so than in the other areas of town.

Councilwoman Fuller stated that she would like to see a vote on the Elkwood street light request. She reported that she is uncomfortable with this vote but is going to vote against installing new lights in Elkwood simply because the committee reports that there is spotty lighting all over Elkton. After that she plans to make a motion that council look into inadequate lighting in the town. If there is a problem, and the town cannot correct the situation all at one time, maybe they can look at some incremental approach to solving the light problem. If council decides to do this, Councilwoman Fuller's recommendation is that we take care of the Elkwood neighborhood first as they have been requesting this.

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow that we do not change the lighting in Elkwood at this time. The vote was recorded as follows:

Bennett	-	yea	Printz	-	nay
Fuller	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Life	-	yea			

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to establish some committee or designate a department to look into the lighting problem that the Electric Committee has identified in town.

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilwoman L. C. Life to amend the motion that the Electric Committee, the Town Superintendent and the Police Chief be the ones to do the study. The motion carried as amended.

Councilman Printz requested the Electric Committee take another look into utility deposits and credit references.

Councilman Printz reported that the Streets & Sidewalk Committee had met and reviewed the items in Mr. Monger's report. He stated he still has to get a sample of the corcrete for Councilwoman Life so she can discuss it with some people who have some knowledge in this area. The committee hopes to be coming back with some type of idea for a tentative way to fix some sidewalks until they get to the sure thing.

Councilwoman Life asked if a letter was sent to Oliver North thanking him for the vests. Mayor Dean stated he would check on this. She reported she sent a thank you note to the Woodmen of the World for the flags.

Councilwoman Life reported that she has received one complaint on recycling and also received a call from a citizen who did not receive a container.

Councilwoman Life reported that both papers covered the summer sewer rate very well but that an ad was put in the paper to notify the citizens. She also pointed out that an ad needs to be put in the paper on Clean Up Week.

There was some discussion regarding the dump site. Council is not happy with the conditions and especially feel the rocks need to be cleaned up. The question was asked if the traffic pattern is laid out according to the design and also if council members could get another look at the design.

Mr. Monger was asked to get with Don Krueger to discuss council's feelings on the conditions at the dump. Supervisor Correa was asked to help with this problem and said he would be happy to do so.

Mayor Dean asked Supervisor Correa to get with Mr. Monger and Councilwoman Life on this.

Councilwoman L. C. Life moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to approve on Second Reading the appropriation of $1800.00 to complete the caboose project. The vote was recorded as follows:

Bennett	-	yea	Printz	-	yea
Fuller	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Life	-	yea			

Councilman Bennett reported that he has nothing to report from the Water & Sewer Committee other than what Mr. Monger has in his report.

Councilwoman Fuller presented the following report from the Personnel Committee:

1. The log in sheets are now in use. Beth Lough did the signs outside the council chambers and Joe Shifflett made the shelf. Council members were given a sample of the letters sent to the citizens who attended council and made a request.
2. A letter was sent to Mr. Bill Strider of the CSPDC requesting their assistance in filling out an application for a Planning Grant. They have received no response as yet.

3. The employee's handbook was adopted at the last meeting. The book is not printed or bound yet. After allowing for a reasonable length of time to get the handbook printed and bound, Councilwoman Fuller stated she would like to see a time set for the handbook to go into effect and an orientation for the town employees. One specific area that will need to be addressed is the change in the pay date from Friday to the following Wednesday.

There was some discussion regarding whether each employee should be given a copy of the handbook. Councilwoman Fuller was asked to get some prices before any decisions are made.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that the Personnel Committee has two other major undertakings. One is the Personnel Management System and the other is the Pay Rate Schedule. A Personnel Meeting will be scheduled to work on these.

Councilwoman Fuller suggested that the town organize some type of celebration to mark getting into the Main Street Program. It was decided to wait until a Director is hired before doing anything.

Councilwoman Fuller stated she would like to sit in on the Finance Committee meeting and observe the budget process.

A Personnel Committee meeting was set for Thursday, April 30th. at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Dean reported that he has received a letter from Delegate Peter Way and Supervisor Joe Correa on being named as a participant in the Virginia Main Street Program. He also has the letters from Governor Wilder and Teresa Lynch on this. These will be put in the files the town is keeping on the Main Street Project.

Councilwoman Life stated the town might want to consider entering this Main Street Project in the VML contests next year.

Mayor Dean reported that he received a notification from Bill O'Brien that in the future he will be sending us a copy of the agenda prior to each meeting of the Board of Supervisors. If any one is interested in seeing these, they will be on file in the office. Mr. O'Brien requested we send him copies of our agenda.

Councilwoman Life asked what route the Tour Du Pont will be taking through town. Mayor Dean stated it will be going through on new Route 33 to Massanutten Village.

Mayor Dean reported that he had received a short memo from one of the scouts who was here last week, Brandon Shifflett, requesting the town consider rebuilding the scout hut in the park so they will have a place to hold their meetings and store their equipment. Mayor Dean stated that the decision was made by the Recreation Commission and approved by council not to replace this building because of the cost. The insurance money was used to build rest rooms in the park. Mayor Dean stated he would send a response to Brandon and explain why the town felt it was not feasible to replace the building.

Councilman Printz asked if the Director for the Main Street Project will be an employee of the town or EDRC. Councilwoman Life stated that it is her understanding that this person will be an EDRC employee.

Mr. Monger reported that there is a joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission scheduled for Monday, April 27th. at 7:00 p.m. to consider a subdivision request by Mr. Tim Haden and a special exception permit request by Cynthia and Gary Alexander for the purpose of having a dog grooming business in their home.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Clerk