REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
February 15, 1993

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held February 15, 1993 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, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow and T. R. Whitfield. Councilman R. C. Davis was absent. Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Angela Dean, Recreation Coordinator, gave an overview of the programs offered by the Recreation Department for the months of October through December and answered questions. Ms. Dean stated that she has a shortage of courts and fields for practice.

Mr. Vernon Shifflett of East Rockingham Street came before council regarding a problem with water over the sidewalk. He cannot get into his yard without getting his feet wet when there is a lot of rain. He requested council look into this water and drainage problem. Mayor Dean turned this over to the Streets and Sidewalk Committee and asked that they have a recommendation for the next meeting.

Councilman Printz stated that the committee has looked at this but needs to complete the sewer project before doing anything else as this effects the sidewalk also.

Mr. Mel Kirkendall came before council to see what sort of time table there is for closing the Ore Wash road near Riverside Park and urged council to work toward closing this road as quickly as possible. Mr. Monger reported he has met with the Fire Company and the State personnel on February 3rd. He also met with Virginia Power last week. Space is needed for a turn around. Virginia Power is suppose to get back with the town soon.

Mr. Kirkendall also expressed a general concern regarding trash, junk cars, etc. He feels the ordinance regarding this needs to be either updated, enforced or deleted from the books. He would like to see it enforced.

Chief Pence stated they had a committee meeting last week in regards to this. The problem is that the way the ordinance is written if a car can be restored and the individual claims there is a market value placed on it, then the police cannot make a determination that it is a junk car. They are in the process of taking care of this problem. Mayor Dean reported that the town is working with Supervisor Correa on several areas outside town which need to be cleaned up also.

Mr. Tim Smith, Boo Taylor and Alan Knicely were present representing the Little League. They have a problem with running out of fields also. They have the use of the Blue Sox's field which is basically under the Recreation Commission. They also have some use of the Middle School field but they come in behind the Recreation Commission there also. They would like to see some type of compromise where both share the power and no one comes in behind the other.

Councilman Snow thanked the Little League for coming but stated this needs to go to the Recreation Commission. He stated he doesn't see anything that can't be worked out.

Mr. Knicely stated they would also like to have a press box, some water lines run over to the fields for watering and water to the concession stand. This needs to go to the Recreation Commision and Mayor Dean suggested a representative from the Little League attend the next Recreation Commission meeting.

Supervisor Correa pointed out that Mr. Knicely is also on the County Recreation Commission and if the town has any interest in communicating with the county regarding recreation they can contact Mr. Knicely.

Ms. Dean stated she has been approached by one of the girl scout leaders. They would like to adopt a spot in the park, namely the girl's softball field, as a project. Mayor Dean suggested Ms. Dean talk with Mr. Monger.

Supervisor Correa reported that VDOT has contacted him on the request to close the Ore Wash road. He has spoken with Mr. Krueger about it and VDOT will have to have a public hearing.

Mr. Boo Taylor reported that Charlie Herring would like permission to fertilize the Senior League field. Councilman Snow told them to touch base with Lynn Meadows as he has been taking care of this.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman T. R. Whitfield III and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting January 18, 1993 as presented.

Mr. Monger presented a written report and answered questions. He reported that the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors has approved the Special Use Permit concerning the cemetery so that can now be developed. The next step is to have a Cemetery Commission meeting to decide what type of fence to install.

Mayor Dean stated that the work on Rockingham Street and Jackson Avenue should be completed in the next few days.

Councilman Printz stated he still feels council should take another look at our utility deposit requirements. Mayor Dean asked the Finance Committee to discuss this.

Chief Pence presented his monthly police report. He reported that Danny Conley is home from the hospital.

Chief Pence requested council's permission to have a study made to see what it would cost to have the police department placed on the retirement for State Police Officers, Sheriffs, Law Enforcement Officer's and Fire Fighters. The study will cost approximately $336.00. Council was in agreement to having the study made.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to approve the First Reading to complete the Fire Hall repairs as listed in Mr. Monger's report, up to a maximum of $8,000.00. The vote was recorded as follows:

Bennett	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Fuller	-	yea	Whitfield	-	yea
Printz	-	yea			

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of January.

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the First Reading to appropriate the necessary funds, not to exceed $4,200.00, with respect to a maintenance contract for the main frame computer contingent upon the coverage provided in the contract.

Councilman Bennett reported on the New Town Road Project. He has been talking to Supervisor Correa and Mr. Krueger from the county. There has been a good spirit of cooperation between council and the Board of Supervisors in trying to get some money. Supervisor Correa has gotten this included in the 1993-1994 Capital Budget and feels he should know something on the initial consideration after the meeting tomorrow.

Supervisor Correa reported that the rocks at the dump are scheduled for removal as soon as the county work load permits. The rocks will be replaced by trees. There will be mulch around them to make them look nice.

Supervisor Correa reported that he was in Richmond on Thursday and discussed the main street signs with one of the speakers who is a state official. He has promised to look into this moratorium on signs. Supervisor Correa also spoke with Resident Engineer for the Highway Department and they are under this moratorium also. Mr. Monger was asked to check with Mr. Lineberry to see if this applies to towns.

Councilman Printz reported that work is progressing on Jackson Avenue and Rockingham Street. The Street and Sidewalks Committee is waiting on some decisions from Mr. Lineberry regarding the cross walks downtown. The committee has to decide where they want to put the signs for the parks. They are also waiting for some information from Valley Heritage regarding the sidewalk there.

Councilman Whitfield reported that he, along with Mr. Monger and Councilman Snow, met with some of the members of the Monger family to discuss the formation of plans to complete the shelter. He feels the Town of Elkton owes a real debt of gratitude to the Monger family for this generous contribution. The Monger family fulfilled its obligation to complete its part of the shelter several years ago. The town's responsibility has been to erect a sign that says Monger Shelter and to acquire a stone mason to adequately finish the existing fireplace with stone as established in the original plans. After a lengthy search for a qualified stone mason, they have met with a Mr. J. J. Correa who is a stone mason capable of performing this type of work. They have agreed on a native Rockingham County limestone. The Elkton Ruritan Club has agreed to pay for and install lights in the shelter.

Councilman Whitfield stated that out of respect to the Mongers and because of obvious safety hazards, the town should allocate funds to complete the shelter.

Councilman T. R. Whitfield, III moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the First Reading that the Elkton Town Council allocate $2,500.00, the total amount which is needed to complete the Monger Shelter in Stonewall Memorial Park.

Councilman Whitfield reported that the last Public Health, Ordinance and Recreation Committee meeting was held on February 9, 1993 to discuss the current town policy of identifying ordinance violations. It was that our existing policy outlines a joint effort by the police department and the Town Superintendent's office to identify violations and advise in writing the violators of their offense and send them a copy of the applicable town ordinance and to request them to comply. It was the consensus of the committee to adopt a standard form letter which could be utilized for each violation as opposed to the Chief of Police or Town Superintendent writing a personalized letter for every violation. They are going to forward a copy of several existing ordinances to the town attorney's office for review and possibly revision recommendations. They are requesting the Planning Commission to evaluate the various planning and zoning recommendations which the town has received for possible adoption where applicable. Plans are to implement a Public Awareness Campaign educating the public about ordinances and developing a system for accountability within the town for overseeing the continued enforcement of ordinances.

Councilman Whitfield reported that they met on January 25, 1993 with Rockingham County Planner Bill Veno and District 5 Supervisor Joe Correa and discussed setting ordinances and how county ordinances and future plans may impact the Elkton community. This meeting was the latest in a series conducted by the EDRC in an effort to utilize the capable resources offered through Elkton's inclusion in the National and Virginia Main Street Programs.

Councilman T. R. Whitfield moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller and carried that the Elkton Town Council request the Elkton Planning Commission to analyze the various suggestions we have received regarding community planning and make formal recommendations back to the council by our May 17, 1993 meeting.

Councilman Whitfield suggested council consider beginning a series of 1993-1994 budget meetings now so that we are not under tight time constraints later in 1993.

Councilman Whitfield recommended that the Elkton Town Council consider the allocation of $500.00 in the 1993-94 fiscal budget to assist in the daily operation costs of maintaining the Elkton Public Library.

Councilwoman Fuller reported on a memo which went out under the Personnel Committee to town employees on the purchasing procedure. There had been some questions on the procedure. The Personnel Committee continues to work on the Personnel Management System.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that the Personnel Committee would like to recommend that the Town Council consider employing a town manager as of July 1st due to the fact that the current system with town council in charge of the day to day management of the town is not as efficient or effective as it possibly could be. They recommend that council hold a Special Council Meeting within two weeks to actually vote on this. This gives people time to think about this, talk to each other and do as much research as needs to be done. The Personnel Committee feels the town manager would improve the council's ability to plan and to implement plans, would improve overall communication among council members and town employees, would improve coordination between the three major departments and the Recreation Department and help us all improve service to the public. The Personnel Committee realizes there will be lots of questions such as salary, job description, etc. to consider and council may want to refer these questions to a committee or various committees.

Councilman Bennett stated he feels council would be well advised to have a special meeting if this is a consideration and feels this should be advertised as a public meeting and make a personal invitation to each person in town to come to the meeting. He feels council should be voicing the concerns of the constituents and should not take it upon their shoulders to make this decision without public input as to what the people want before making a decision.

Councilman Snow stated that if council meets first to discuss this, there may not be a need for a public hearing and he feels council should meet to discuss this before having a public hearing.

Mayor Dean suggested setting up a special council meeting to attend and see if there is a majority in favor of this concept and then set up a night the following week or so, as soon as council gets the information out, to invite people to come in and make comments about it.

A special meeting was set for March 2, 1993 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a town manager.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that EDRC is going to ask the county for funding for the Main Street Program for fiscal 1993-1994. They are asking for a minimum of $1,500.00 and a maximum of $2,500.00. They are requesting council's endorsement.

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to endorse the $1,500.00 or more funding request for EDRC from the county.

Councilwoman Fuller felt the town's hosting of the Rockingham County Municipal League meeting was wonderful. The food and speaker were both good.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that the Personnel Committee will meet tomorrow evening at 5:15 p.m.

Councilwoman Fuller requested that council members be provided with a master list of the names, addresses and expiration of terms of the people who serve on each of our boards and of council members. Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger and Mrs. Leap to work on this.

Councilwoman Fuller asked if council could get a copy of the remarks Mr. Davenport made to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mayor Dean suggested that Mr. Davenport could give a synopsis at the next council meeting.

Councilwoman Fuller reported that Mr. Monger has found the OL400 laser printer at a lower price.

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilman T. R. Whitfield III to approve on Second Reading the purchase of an OL400 laser printer from Status One Design at a cost of $665.00. The vote was recorded as follows:

Bennett	-	yea	Snow	-	yea
Fuller	-	yea	Whitfield	-	yea
Printz	-	yea			

Mr. Monger reported on the tree seminar which he and Joe Shifflett attended. He stated that the first step will be to do a tree inventory and plans are to apply for a grant to do this.

Councilwoman Fuller stated that sometime in the future council needs to have a sensitivity session for council people with respect to town employees.

Councilman Whitfield reported that they have some bids on the landscaping but want to get some more. With the new idea of a grant program possibly available, they want to try to implement this.

Mayor Dean reported that he and Mr. Monger met with an architect today regarding the space requirements in the municipal building. The architect is of the opinion that with the ADA's, etc. council would probably be wasting their efforts here in this building and should consider looking elsewhere. He made some suggestions regarding some minor improvements which could be done at a minimum cost.

Councilman Whitfield reported that the night deposit for the utility bills has been installed at a cost of $11.42.

Mayor Dean reviewed and entertained suggested changes regarding the Tour DuPont letters. He stated he hopes to talk Mr. Murphey into putting this into the paper and will mail copies to all the civic organizations. Councilman Whitfield offered to work with Mr. Murphey on this.

Councilman Snow reported that they did discuss the fence at Riverside Park at the Recreation Commission meeting and decided to recommend part of the fence be wooden and to put rock on the lower section.

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