PUBLIC HEARING
May 1, 1995

The Town of Elkton held a Public Hearing May 1, 1995 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present:

PRESENT

D. H. Dail
M. B. Fuller
W. E. Printz
T. R. Whitfield III

ABSENT

F. A. Bennett
R. L. Snow

Ted Costin, Manager, Norma Leap, Clerk and Gerald Monger, Superintendent were also present.

Mayor Dean stated the purpose of the hearing was to receive comments on the proposed 1995-1996 Fiscal Year Budget.

Mr. Casey Billhimer was present on behalf of the Elkton Historical Society. The Historical Society would like the Elkton Town Council to reconsider their original request for $10,000.00 toward the renovation of the Miller-Kite house which will be used as a museum and a meeting place for local organizations. The house belongs to the Town and the Historical Society is just a small group taking on this large project of renovation. They have been getting prices on renovating the interior and the cost to complete the interior will be in the range of $75,000.00 to $100,000.00. They are also in the process of contacting several Civil War preservation groups for possible funds but they are still in need of the $10,000.00 to get started. They would like to complete this project as soon as possible and with the council's help this can be done.

Mr. John Adams was present speaking on behalf of EDRC and the Main Street Program. He thanked council and staff for their past support. He feels the benefits of Main Street are becoming more obvious and that experience shows revitalization does not just happen. A lot of things that have happened over the past three years would not have happened without the Main Street Program. It takes cooperation from all sectors, business, government and private citizens. Mr. Adams stated he hopes the Town of Elkton will continue their involvement in the Main Street Program.

Dr. Elizabeth Swallow was present and spoke in support of the Main Street Program. She gave a little background on how she decided to come to Elkton and noted that she had contacted Marsha Deavers because she was helpful in the Town of Elkton Main Street Project. Dr. Swallow noted that she is pleased that they are in a Main Street area and is in favor of the Town of Elkton continuing their support in the budget.

Mr. Bill Holt was present to speak on behalf of the Main Street Project. He stated that at the last council meeting he had tried to make a point as to what the Main Street Program has done to provide a complete turn around in the image and viewpoint that the people in the surrounding areas have about Elkton. People are now realizing this is a good place to live and work. He pointed out that Main Street has brought out a group of very dedicated people who are working toward the forward movement of Elkton. There is a little misunderstanding by some people. They feel the Main Street Program is devoted entirely to the project area and that is not true. The entire Board considers the Main Street Project as a tool to develop and make Elkton itself, the entire area, move forward. Mr. Holt stated he hates to see the money that is put into the Main Street Program by the Town considered an expenditure, when in reality it is an investment. He pointed out that all the people in the General Assembly were in support of this program and he would hate to see Elkton start phasing out this program. He asked that the Town be fiscally responsible; invest this money and bring Elkton ahead of the Twentieth Century.

Mr. Clyde McDaniel, President of EDRC, also spoke in support of the budget as it is presented with the funding for the Main Street Program. EDRC has enjoyed the partnership it has experienced with the Town of Elkton for the last three or so years and is looking forward to a continuing partnership. He trusts that all that are involved recognized three years ago, when the commitment was made, that it would not all happen in three years. This is a process that will take a good many years. There has been a lot of progress made but there is a great deal left to be done. The Town was very fortunate to be accepted into the program and he hopes the Town will see their way clear to leave the funding.

Mr. Toomey, Plant Manager of Merck & Co. and Vice President of EDRC, was present to speak on behalf of the Main Street Program. As Plant Manager of Merck, he complimented and thanked the Elkton Town Council for their support of continued growth and revitalization in the Town of Elkton. He indicated that when a plant is looking at expansion or a new product, one of the things they take into consideration is the quality of life in the area. That is in a large extent determined by the facilities and amenities provided by a town such as Elkton. Merck is presently undergoing a major expansion project and has already hired about ten new employees. As these people come in, they visit the Town of Elkton and he is happy to report that they have come back with good comments about the Town. As the Vice President of EDRC, he is proud to have participated in some small degree in the obvious progress that has taken place during the last three years. EDRC is described by the area papers as a very valuable resource for the Town. It is necessary in today's modern world of change to keep pace. Elkton is moving forward. The Town has contributed to this by their support of the EDRC and Mr. Toomey stated he hopes they will continue this support.

Dr. Bompiani also spoke in support of EDRC. He commented on the dedication of some of the members. He credited Supervisor Joe Correa, Marsha Deavers and Clyde McDaniel in helping lead him in opening his business in the Elkton area and remodeling the building he purchased rather than building a new one. Dr. Bompiani stated he fully appreciates what the Town and EDRC are trying to accomplish in Elkton and hopes council continues to support EDRC.

As there was no further business, the Public Hearing adjourned.

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

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Norma R. Leap, Clerk