**REGULAR**
**COUNCIL MEETING**
**December 16, 1996**

The regular council meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held December 16, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

F. A. Bennett
D. H. Dail
M. L. Dearing
W. E. Printz
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

A. D. Dixon

Gerald Monger, Town Manager/Superintendent, Dale Davenport, Attorney, Warren Pence, Chief of Police, Norma Leap, Treasurer/Clerk, Theodore Pence, Director of Parks & Recreation and Nancy Sours were also present.

Councilman Bennett presented the opening prayer.

Councilman Dearing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Mr. Robert Kramer

Robert Kramer, Dayton, Va., expressed concern regarding the boat landing at the park being closed. He stated as a full-time fishing guide he would like to see the boat landing reopen and remain open.

Charles Craig

Mr. Craig spoke on reopening the boat landing. He stated a disabled or elderly person is more likely to use this access to the river.

Mr. Monger stated that area has been closed temporarily due to the last flood.

Ken Smith

Ken Smith, of Elkton Little League stated he would like to see the additional land developed for recreation. He pointed out the increasing demand for ball fields.

Mayor Dean requested the Recreation Commission address this issue.

Councilman Printz asked for an approximate cost per field. Mr. Smith responded lights could run as much as $35,000.00.

Ken Whittington

Mr. Ken Whittington of Elkwood, commended opening the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance. He addressed the issue of the danger of the intersection at route 340 and

Hillside Avenue. He feels the traffic light is a false sense of security, as most drivers do not obey the traffic light. He feels this poses a danger for vehicles traveling thru this poorly designed intersection. He offered three suggestions to correct this problem.

1. Block off North Street.
2. Place island at end of North Street.
3. Relocate the entrance to North Street.

He does not feel the traffic lights are in sink, thus causing confusion. He also feels police should monitor this intersection thirty minutes in the mornings and evenings.

Richard Armstrong

Richard Armstrong, of Elkwood, addressed the problem of the intersection at 340 and Hillside Avenue. He stated he personally had several close incidents at this intersection. He feels the speed limit on Route 340 is not obeyed. He questioned the accessibility for Elkwood residents. He expressed his love for Stonewall Park and hopes the water situation is corrected. He expressed concern over the drainage system on the bridge. He also recommended another traffic light be placed on Maple Leaf Lane and Sweetgum. He commended the council and staff on their performance and especially for opening the meeting with prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Robert Wahl

Robert Wahl, of Elkwood, spoke on the intersection located Route 340 and Hillside Avenue. He feels blinking lights should be installed prior to the current traffic light. He feels there should be an attempt to regulate the traffic light such as a three or four-way ten second delayed light. He also recommended installing an island and trimming the hedges.

Don Forish

Don Forish, Elkwood, expressed his main concern is the danger at the traffic light at Hillside and Route 340. He feels the light is not regulated properly. He recommended the speed limit be dropped from 35 mph to 25 mph, and installing a traffic sign with blinking lights.

Hazel Crider

Mrs. Hazel Crider, Elkwood, stated a study should be made on the intersection of Hillside and Route 340. She suggested installing rumbles on North Street, in order to slow down the traffic. She feels motorists are not obeying the stop sign at North Street. She also stated the trimming of the shrubs was beneficial. Mrs. Crider feels moving the white line on Hillside Avenue would increase the problem. She agrees reducing the speed limit would be helpful. She feels Elkwood Street lights are not sufficient. She recommended doing a study of the light system throughout the entire town.

Don Komara

Don Komara, resident engineer of Virginia Department of Transportation, stated he understands the concerns expressed are serious matters. Mr. Komara and Mr. Jeff Lineberry examined the lights and they are protective movement lights. He stated installing advance blinking lights on Route 340 was a possibility. Another option would be to relocate North Street, this would involve an urban project.

Leon Sheets

Mr. Leon Sheets, of Virginia Department of Transportation, illustrated the traffic light operation. He stated the light operated based on a traffic pattern indicator. He feels some of the problems may be arising due to the fact drivers are not stopping before the stop bar. The passage

time has been extended on the light. Mr. Sheets recommended installing flashers on traffic signs and split phase but he would rather not take this option.

Councilman Snow asked if moving the stop bar would help this situation? Mr. Sheets responded the stop bar cannot be moved due to Virginia Department of Transportation regulations. He also stated installing an island on Hillside would only aggravate the problem.

Mr. Komara stated the Virginia Department of Transportation will install flashing lights on traffic signs and a no turn on red sign at the traffic light.

## MINUTES

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, November 18, 1996 as presented.**

## DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS

### Chief of Police

Chief Pence expressed his concern on not being able to express his opinion on the intersection issue during the public section. He stated he cannot justify an officer monitoring this intersection at all times. The police department is planning a meeting to further discuss the Neighborhood Watch Program.

### Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Pence stated basketball starts January 6 with thirty teams enrolled. He announced the Harlem Rockets will perform on March 1.

### Treasurer

Mrs. Leap presented the finance report. Mrs. Leap reported $200,000.00 of the cemetery funds was invested in certificates of deposits.

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the November finance report as presented.**

### Town Manager

Mr. Monger stated he had nothing except his written report.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Electric

Councilman Dail stated he would like to meet with Mr. Monger and Mr. Mike York concerning the electric generation project.

### Personnel

Councilman Dearing stated hopefully the Director of Public Works position will be filled in executive session.

Street and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz stated he would look into the light situation in Elkwood and Elkton.

Councilman Dearing asked about the status on Rockingham Street? Mr. Monger stated this is an urban project and is currently in the design stage

Councilman Snow recommended a study be conducted and perhaps making Rockingham Street a one-way street. (East bound)

Mayor Dean recommended having a public hearing in February regarding Rockingham Street.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Bennett stated check valves have been removed from some water meters due to pressure problems.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Installing Fence on Fifth Street Parking Lot - First Reading**

Mr. Monger stated this must be done in compliance with the property lease. He stated the town will be responsible for 185 feet and Universal Plastics will pay for 30 feet.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing to install a fence on Fifth Street parking lot at a cost of $7,140.00.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow.**

**Resolution - ISTEA**

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to adopt the ISTEA Resolution as presented.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

Mr. Monger stated he will be attending the board of Supervisors meeting asking for their support on the second phase.

**Signatory Authority**

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by W. E. Printz and carried to appoint Mr. Gerald K. Monger and Ms. Nancy A. Sours as signatory authority with Mayor Charles E. Dean as an alternate in the absence of either, effective January 1, 1997.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

**Intersection at Hillside and Route 340**

Council decided to make the following recommendations to Virginia Department of Transportation.

1. Install flashing lights on traffic signs.
2. Relocating the guardrail (if possible).
3. Extend passage time.
4. Install rumble strips on North Street in north bound lane.

**Elkwood Street Lights**

Mayor Dean asked this issue be considered by the electric committee.

Councilman Bennett stated he would like to see a citizen advisory committee formed under the guidance of the town manager.

**TOWN ATTORNEY**

Mr. Davenport stated last year the town adopted the Virginia Municipal League version of the Business Professional and Occupational Licence tax. The state uniform version must be adopted by December 31, 1996 in order to comply with state guidelines. He stated most of the changes are basically editorial, as there does not appear to be any significant changes.

**Business Professional and Occupational License Tax Ordinance - First Reading**
(Copy of this ordinance is attached to the minutes)

A Special Council Meeting is set for December 26, 1996 at 7:00 p.m.

**Virginia Municipal League - Joint Legislation**

Mr. Davenport reported this would abolish sovereign unity between cities and towns. He stated this act would be putting counties, cities and towns liable for $100,000.00 law suit with the Commonwealth being liable for more than $100,000.00. Mr. Davenport recommended opposing this resolution and responding to this proposed legislation.

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to pass a resolution to oppose the joint legislation.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

**Executive Session**

**Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried that council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of land acquisition, personnel matters and pay increase for Mr. Ken Keister.**

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session and that each member, to the best of his knowledge, certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement under Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the code of Virginia were heard, discussed or considered.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

**Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to hire Mr. Kenneth H. Flick as Director of Public Works at an annual salary of $27,000.00.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

**Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to increase Mr. Kenneth Keister's pay rate by $.50 effective December 9, 1996.**

**YEAS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

**MAYOR:** Charles E Dean **RECORDER:** _____
Charles E Dean, Mayor Norma R. Leap, Clerk