# REGULAR
# COUNCIL MEETING
# October 14, 1996

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held October 14, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

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

Gerald Monger, Superintendent, Warren Pence, Chief of Police, Norma Leap, Treasurer/Clerk and Nancy Sours were also present.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

Larry Baugher

Mr. Baugher of 116 Hill Avenue, and Donna Mowbray were representing Elkton Progressive Improvement Committee. EPIC has completed the picnic shelter in Stonewall Memorial Park at a total cost of $9,000.00. He presented the shelter to the town and thanked council for allowing EPIC to do this project. Mayor Dean thanked EPIC and commented on how nice the shelter looked. Councilman Snow also thanked Mr. Baugher and EPIC for their hard work.

Travis Dorman

Mr. Dorman of Route 3, Elkton, a senior at Spotswood High School and a member of the Youth and Government Club. This organization sends ten students to the Virginia General Assembly annually, their objective is to take two bills and attempt to get them passed. The cost is $300.00 per student and the club would appreciate any donation from the town.

Elizabeth Swallow

Ms. Swallow of 504 W. Spotswood Trail, representing Main Street Program asked for council's support on a proposed Auto and Cruise Festival. She feels cruising can have a positive effect. She would like to see May 17th designated as a cruising day and perhaps even an auto parade. Ms. Swallow is presenting this project in advance, so there will be time to prepare. She feels there is a lot of car enthusiast and this type of event will attract interest and business. She is requesting traffic control, electricity and public safety from the town. She distributed a paper on proposed events to council. Ms. Swallow stated she would be available to answer any questions.

Jerry Flesher

Mr. Flesher of Bible Holiness Church, asked for council's support regarding their request to Rockingham County to rezone 8.11 acres from R3 conditional to R3 to allow a church on the property. The property is located outside Elkton's Town limits. He clarified the land will not be used for commercial purposes. He feels keeping the land residential for a church is in the best interest of the community.

Vivian Hitt

Mrs. Hitt asked if any progress has been made with the water problem on Washington Street.

Janet Eppard

Mrs. Eppard had the same concern as Mrs. Hitt about the water problem on Washington Street.

Elkton Downtown Revitalization Committee - Quarterly Report

Ms. Marsha Deavers presented council with the EDRC quarterly report. She highlighted what EDRC has done in the past quarter under the four points program. She pointed out the exterior project at Status One is completed and a similar project is in progress at Rockingham Heritage Bank. The rehabilitation agreement program has been renewed by the three local banks. A reception for Dr. Dabney Thomas was held on August 6 for this work on the ISTEA grant. The farmer's market opened this summer with three full time vendors participating. Two new businesses has opened, employing nine people. A draft of Elkton's walking brochure has been developed, highlighting businesses and giving a brief history of the town. The annual membership meeting was held on July 10th and presented friends of Main Street awards to Merck & Co., The Valley Banner, X-High Graphics and Nations Bank. EDRC received two interns during the past summer. Ms. Deavers thanked Nations Bank and TV3 for their support with the concerts in the evening. A Halloween Ho-Do is scheduled for October 31 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the old Dollar General Store building.

**MINUTES**

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting September 16, 1996 and the Special Meeting September 23, 1996.**

**Bible Holiness Church - Zoning Request**

Councilman Dixon stated the Planning Commission did not act on this request. The current zoning is R3 which has restriction limited to two houses. The Bible Holiness Church is requesting the restrictions be lifted.

Councilman Bennett feels council should be united with the Planning Commission and not take any action on this matter.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman A. D. Dixon to support the church being built on this property in the County.**

**A vote was taken and recorded as follows:**

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

**NAYS:** **F. A. Bennett**

**DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS**

Chief of Police

Chief Pence asked if anyone had any questions on the monthly report. Chief Pence stated they had interviewed thirteen applicants for the police officer's position. Chief Pence and Sergeant

Marshall narrowed down the applicants to three prospective candidates. Chief Pence stated the three applicants were interviewed by all the members of the police department and Councilman Dearing, Chairman of the Personnel Committee.

Parks & Recreation

Councilman Dearing pointed out an error on the recreation monthly report of $745.00.

Treasurer

Mrs. Leap stated McGladrey & Pullin will have the audit report ready by October 31, 1996. She reported interviews for Junior Clerk position is completed and an offer has been made. Due to time a finance report was not available.

Superintendent

Councilman Dixon questioned the progress on replacing water meters. Mr. Monger responded approximately 150 water meters have been replaced in the last 6 weeks. He said presently they are waiting on riser parts for the meters.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Electric

Councilman Dail reported they are in the process of interviewing for the lineman position. Mr. Monger stated they received four applications for the lineman.

Personnel

Councilman Dearing stated he just observed during the police officer interviews. He stated an offer was made and accepted by Mr. Brandon Chad Brown.

**Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to appoint Mr. Brandon Chad Brown as a police officer.**

**A vote was taken and recorded as follows:**

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

Councilman Snow asked Chief Pence if longevity was discussed with this position. Chief Pence stated yes and he will be working with Mr. Brown on a close basis. The COPS FAST grant will run for another 18 months.

Councilman Dearing stated he will be working on job descriptions for the lineman, maintenance foreman and labor position. Councilman Dearing clarified he only observes during the interview process, but does not participate. He also stated he would like for council to interview the applicants for the Director of Public Works position.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz stated the committee addressed the Washington Street problem. They looked at the town installing a new pipe at a cost of approximately $35,000.00. Councilman Printz

feels the town should correct this problem now, even if requires taking $35,000.00 out of the repo account.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved the town install a 15" drain pipe along Washington Avenue to Marshall Avenue, withdrawing up to $35,000 from repo.**

**Motion was not seconded, it was then withdrew and sent back to Streets and Sidewalk Committee.**

Councilman Snow asked Mr. Monger when the current pipe was installed. Mr. Monger responded in 1973 or 1974. Councilman Snow noted that the citizens have not complained since the early 1980's. Councilman Snow questioned spending $35,000.00 each time someone complains.

Councilman Printz said if the curb and guttering is complete it will be very expensive. He feels the residents could be jeopardized in this situation.

Councilman Dearing will abstain from voting because a relative is involved. Councilman Dearing feels an engineer should review this before a decision is made, so that the problem can be fixed permanently.

Councilman Printz feels one study leads to another and he would like action to be taken immediately.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ISTEA Grant**

Mr. Monger asked for council's response on the ISTEA grant. Councilman Printz asked who would implement this plan. Councilman Snow questioned the resolution and what exactly we can do with this grant. Mr. Monger responded the original plan submitted included storm sewer, upgrade electricity and streetscape. The plan was reduced to a smaller section, this now includes the corner of Terrace Avenue to the corner of Warren Avenue. Mr. Monger asked council if they realized exactly what the streetscape involves. He pointed out it will narrow the street to approximately 18 feet pavement. Mr. Monger also stated the grant is only valid for this year and there are no guarantees on receiving the second phase.

Councilman Snow asked if passing the resolution would obligate the town to the streetscape plan that was submitted. Mr. Monger stated he was uncertain if it ties you to that certain plan. Any new design must be approved by VDOT.

Councilman Dearing pointed out the concern of this project eliminating customer parking. He questioned the fact if we completed phase I and did not complete phase II, what would be the appearance of the street.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail to sign the contract in order to accept the ISTEA Grant.**

**A vote was taken and recorded as follows:**

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

**NAYS:** **F. A. Bennett**

**Cline Energy - Ordinance of Vacation**

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to approve ordinance of vacation of 20' alley located between US 340 and Blue and Gold Drive.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Clerk for Meetings**

Mrs. Leap stated she has no problem with this except the three people in the Treasurer's office are very busy and could we provide the staff to attend every meeting.

Mr. Monger stated this was only for Cemetery, Planning, Recreation Commission meetings and Board of Zoning Appeals.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing for a clerk to record minutes at the Commission meetings and Board of Zoning Appeals.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**Christmas Party**

Mayor Dean stated traditionally the town holds an annually Christmas Party.

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail to plan a Christmas Party.**

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail to amend the motion to include inviting commission members and their families to the Christmas Party.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**1995 Fire Program Fund Resolution**

Mr. Monger stated this resolution must be passed in order for the fire department to receive the money.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to adopt the 1995 Fire Program Resolution.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**Valley Program for the Aging**

Mr. Monger noted an invitation is enclosed in the packet for any member of council who would like to attend.

**Rockingham Municipal League - Grottoes**

Mr. Monger stated Grottoes will be hosting the RML meeting October 16, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. Mayor Dean, Councilman Snow and Mr. Monger plan to attend this meeting.

**FEMA - Authorize Signature**

Mr. Monger met with FEMA officials to discuss this project. Mr. Monger stated any damages must exceed $1,000.00 before it qualifies. Mr. Monger originally reported $130,000.00, but most of the damaged areas will not be concerned. He also stated there is a grace period of 180 days to report damages.

**Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail to appoint Mr. Gerald Monger to be authorize signatural and representative for the FEMA Program.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**Public Safety - Curfew Fines**

**Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to increase curfew fines from $5.00 to $100.00.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

**Neighborhood Watch Program**

Chief Pence stated his personnel is trained and organized to present information on this training for the Neighborhood Watch Program. This program will not be supervised by anyone except Officer Monty Dean and Chief Pence.

Councilman Bennett feels this issue of Neighborhood Watch Program and the Citizens Committee is two separate issues.

Chief Pence stated this program is open to anyone in the community. The Police Department is presenting this program based on the recommendation of the Citizens Committee.

Councilman Snow does not feel the Citizens Committee needs to remain once the Neighborhood Watch Program is implemented.

Councilman Dixon stated he hopes the Citizens Committee members will not get discouraged by the decision to dissolve the committee. Mrs. Leap recommended sending each committee member a letter of appreciation for volunteering their time.

**Recreation Committee Reappointment - Correction**

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to correct the September 23, 1996 Special Meeting minutes to reappoint Mr. Joe Gooden to the Recreation Commission. The original motion erroneously named Mr. Joe Flick to the reappointment.**

**A vote was taken on the motion and carried.**

Councilman Dearing requested the Personnel Committee set a meeting for Wednesday, October 15, 1996 at 8:00 p.m.

Councilman Snow asked the audit review to be set for Wednesday, November 6, 1996 at 8:00 p.m.

**ADJOURN**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: _____
Norma R. Leap, Clerk