# REGULAR
# COUNCIL MEETING
# May 20, 1996

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held May 20, 1996 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Vice Mayor Randell L. Snow presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

D. H. Dail
M. B. Fuller
R. L. Snow
T. R. Whitfield III

ABSENT

Mayor C. E. Dean
F. A. Bennett
W. E. Printz

Ted Costin, Manager, Dale Davenport, Attorney, Norma Leap, Clerk, Gerald Monger, Superintendent, Theodore Pence, Director of Parks and Recreation, Warren Pence, Chief of Police and Joseph Shifflett, Director of Public Works.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

Louis Johnson

Mr. Johnson came before council concerning the condition of the street on which he lives. Mr. Johnson stated the street is poorly maintained and full of pot holes. He had talked with Mr. Joseph Shifflett regarding this and was told that he had planned to try to do some repairs but the Town Manager said he couldn't do anything as this street is not in the state system. Mr. Johnson asked why something can't be done?

Mr. Costin stated this street is not in the state system and because of the past winter there is no money left in the budget to do any repairs this year. Mr. Costin said it was his understanding that for a number of years the town had thought about trying to get this street into the state system but there was opposition from the neighbors as it would require a right-of-way dedication.

Mr. Johnson stated he thinks there should be some way for the town to put something into the budget to maintain these streets not in the system. He asked that the town take some gravel and fill in these pot holes. Vice Mayor Snow referred this request to the Streets and Sidewalks Committee to see if something can be done soon or at least in the next budget.

Connie Weyrick

Ms. Weyrick stated it is her understanding that the Co-Applicants, Town of Elkton, Rockingham County and EDRC, have been offered an ISTEA grant in the amount of $300,000.00. She spoke in support of accepting this grant and urged the Finance Committee to budget the 20% needed ($60,000.00) in matching funds to accept the grant.

Clyde McDaniel

Mr. McDaniel spoke in support of the ISTEA grant and the Main Street efforts. He is proud of the town's accomplishments over the last four or five years. A lot of communities would have loved to have had the Main Street Program. There are a lot of visual, as well as financial results, that have come about due to this program. He pointed out that all the growth cannot be contributed to the Main Street Program, however this program has contributed greatly to these efforts. Mr.

McDaniel urged council's continued support to EDRC at the originally requested amount ($25,000.00) and to accept the ISTEA grant.

Florence Barrett

Ms. Barrett spoke in support of continued support of the Main Street Program administered by EDRC. This program has contributed greatly to the revitalization of Elkton. She is very impressed with the constant changes and renovation that are happening within the town. EDRC has been instrumental in bringing many businesses into town with a net gain of fifteen new jobs downtown. The Virginia Main Street Program is based on public and private partnership and she urged the continued funding of the Main Street Program at the original $25,000.00.

Bill Holt

Mr. Holt spoke in support of the ISTEA grant and EDRC. Elkton's image has improved immensely over the past four years under the Main Street Program. He feels it would be difficult to continue this economic growth in the future and to do all the things they have done in the past without the $25,000.00 funded by the town.

Chuck Tomney

Mr. Tomney spoke in support of EDRC. He stated that the surrounding towns admire Elkton's efforts. He commended council for starting the Main Street Program and noted that Ms. Deavers has been a big help to him. He is making a substantial investment in a business he is opening in downtown and urges council to continue this program and their support.

Lou Kirkendall

Ms. Kirkendall stated that while she was campaigning for council, there were numerous concerns voiced by some of our citizens. She told these people that, whether or not she was elected, she would pass their concerns on to council. Ms. Kirkendall presented a list of the concerns to each council member. She also spoke in support of the ISTEA grant and EDRC and urged the continued support for these types of programs.

Benny King

Mr. King had some questions regarding the grant. If the town accepts the grant he would like to know just what will be done downtown and how it will effect the business owners. He noted that he is in support of the grant, however he is concerned about those who have already invested money into the improvement of their building and may have to spend more. Mr. King states he feels the town is financially able to accept this grant and match the needed 20%. He also feels there are some improvements needed in the downtown area. He wants to see Elkton continue to go forward not backward. He asked council to accept the grant and consider it as money well spent in investment, not only in the ISTEA grant, but in the Main Street Program as well.

Welty Hensley

Mr. Hensley came before council requesting the town's help with the Jr. O. U. A. M. parade scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday August 3, 1996. They would like the town to allow the town employees to help as parade marshals, build a permanent float to be used for beauty queens and for other parades and to match the money the Jr. O. U. A. M. spends for prize money, ribbons and trophies. The matching funds would be $1,400.00

Gene Kite

Mr. Kite of Spring Avenue stated he had a few questions which he didn't expect to be answered right now, however if someone could contact him after the meeting or later he would

appreciate it. He questioned if the Main Street Program does not get the requested $25,000.00, where do they plan to generate the money? If they don't get the entire $25,000.00 will the program fold? How much has EDRC and the Main Street Program generated in the past four years for themselves?

## MINUTES

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved, seconded by Councilman T. R. Whitfield III and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting April 15, 1996 as presented.

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

### Chief of Police

Chief Pence stated he had nothing except his written report.

### Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Theodore Pence stated he had nothing other than his written report.

Vice Mayor Snow asked Mr. Theodore Pence what programs he has going now.

Mr. Pence reported that the Mens' and Girls' Softball Programs have started. He also noted that The King and His Court will be coming in next month on June 16, 1996. This will take place in the park. Tickets will be $4.00 each for advanced tickets or $5.00 each if purchased at the gate.

### Director of Public Works

Mr Shifflett stated he had nothing other than his written report, however he would like to respond to the statements made by Mr. Louis Johnson and give a little more history on the situation.

Mr. Shifflett pointed out that there are no line items in the budget to cover miscellaneous items and it is next to impossible for him to charge off the materials used for this type of situation. Mr. Shifflett stated he went to Mr. Costin, informed him of the situation which needed to be addressed and asked how it should be handled. Neither Mr. Costin or Mr. Shifflett want to see the situation continue as it is, but the present budget does not cover this as it cannot go under the Street Maintenance funds. Mr. Shifflett stated he urged some of the neighbors in this area to come before council to request some action or solution.

Councilman Dail asked if there are any cost options on this project. Mr. Shifflett stated he has no specific costs at this time. The only thing he can think of, unless the street is brought up to specifications to go into the state system, is to come up with a new line item in the budget each year to do this type of work.

Councilman Whitfield asked how many other streets in town are in similar situations. Mr. Shifflett stated Clover Lane is the only one he can think of. Mr. Monger also mentioned part of Fourth Street, O Street and Park Avenue.

Vice Mayor Snow asked that Mr. Shifflett make sure this comes before the Streets and Sidewalk Committee.

### Superintendent

Mr. Monger reported that the GIS people were in today and set up most of the equipment. They are about ready to get started.

Councilman Dail noted that Mr. Monger, in his report, estimated the leak at the reservoir to total about 958,000 gallons per month.

Mr. Monger reported that the water tank is in and is presently at the Waste Treatment Plant.

Treasurer

Councilman T. R. Whitfield III moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of April.

## TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Costin stated in response to a previous comment as to whether council has a quorum, that Section 23 of the Town Charter says that the Mayor and four (4) councilmen, or, in the absence of the Mayor, four (4) councilmen shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Mr. Costin reported he had nothing to add to his Managers report. He noted when they get into discussion on the budget, he will go into detail as to where we stand on the ISTEA grant.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric Committee

Councilman Dail reported that the Town Manager, Town Superintendent and Councilman Dail met with Mike York of the Harrisonburg Electric Commission on Thursday of last week. The meeting was regarding the possible purchase or investment in the electric generation facilities that Harrisonburg and Manassas are in the process of making. Councilman Dail stated he has no details to report at this time as the process is still ongoing. More details should be available soon.

Personnel Committee

Councilwoman Fuller stated she had nothing to report at this time. She does, however, need to schedule a committee meeting in the near future.

## OLD BUSINESS

**Second Reading on the Sanitary Sewer Line Replacement - Cline Energy**

Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilwoman M. B. Fuller to approve on Second Reading the sanitary sewer line replacement at the Cline Energy site. The vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: D. H. Dail, M. B. Fuller, R. L. Snow and T. R. Whitfield III

**First Reading Fiscal Year 1996-1997 Budget**

Mr. Costin reported that he has included in the packets updated budget sheets through the last Finance Committee work session. He had to make two changes. One of the changes is reflected in the Treasurer/ Clerk's Budget increasing the Part Time Salary from $12,000 to $15,000. This has occurred due to the Junior Clerk's health problem and it may be August or September before she is able to come back to work. The other is related to the ISTEA grant.

Mr. Costin reported that Councilman Bennett stopped by his office Friday afternoon and asked about the status, what has been done or what is going to be done, regarding barricades along Terrace Avenue to prevent cars from going down over the hill. In speaking with some of the staff, this came up two or three months before Mr. Costin came and although it was discussed at the June 1994 meeting there was no action taken and was never budgeted. Mr. Costin, Chief Pence and Joe Shifflett went out today and looked at this as well as some rearrangement of fencing at the Riverside Park. Mr. Shifflett is going to work up a cost estimate. This is another item council needs to keep in the back of their minds if council wants to pursue this.

Mr. Costin reported that the town was granted an ISTEA grant in the amount of $300,000.00. They have looked at this several different ways. At this time they are still not clear as to which infrastructure elements are prohibited in the grant. Mr. Costin asked Mr. Monger to prepare a breakdown on what can be done on a $300,000.00 grant plus the $75,000.00 local match, with no underground utilities being included. This would be an above ground project including the electric work from Phase I and the Streetscape elements which would not interfere with future underground repairs or upgrades. This would include the areas from Warren Street down to the Triangle; down to the corner of Terrace and turning down Terrace towards the Library. A little bit across the street from the Country Photo would also be included.

Mr. Costin stated there are a lot of advantages in trying to do the electric portion. Mr. York of Harrisonburg Electric Commission confirmed that any electric upgrade the town does can be very advantageous. The budget proposal includes just a $375,000.00 ISTEA project that does not address water, sanitary sewer, or storm sewer.

Mr. Costin does not believe there will be any out of pocket cost to business owners in the affected areas, but there could be a day or so where they are inconvenienced with power loss, etc.

Mr. King questioned if electric services have to be changed from the main street to the back of the buildings, will the businesses have to foot this cost. Mr. Costin stated that if the town upgrades the electric system, as some indication has been given as desired to be done, the businesses are going to have to do this anyhow. He realizes this is going to be tough.

Mr. Monger stated that for the most part it won't be too bad, only in a few areas.

Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to approve the First Reading on the amended 1996-1997 Budget.

Councilwoman Fuller stated she would be willing to vote on this budget with a few amendments.

1. Restore $5,000.00 for the Historical Society in order to get the house restoration project completed.
2. Restore $4,000.00 for the Main Street Program which would bring the donation back to $20,000.00.
3. Elkton go ahead and establish a minimum wage of $5.15 an hour.

She feels the town can afford all three of these adjustments.

Councilman Whitfield echoed Councilwoman Fuller's remarks, however, he feels the town should restore the full funding of $25,000.00 for EDRC.

Councilman Whitfield asked if the line item for the insurance has been increased to include the $1,000.00 extra needed to cover the Library, Miller-Kite House and Reservoir under the Virginia Municipal League Insurance. Mr. Costin stated this has not been factored in. Councilman Whitfield stated this would be his fourth adjustment request.

A vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: D. H. Dail and R. L. Snow

NAYS: M. B. Fuller and T. R. Whitfield III

Motion did not carry due to a tie vote.

Councilwoman M. B. Fuller moved to have a First Reading on an amended 1996-97 Budget which would include an additional $5,000.00 for the Historical Society, an additional $4,000.00 for the Elkton Main Street Program, and establish a minimum wage for our employees at $5.15 an hour.

Vice Mayor Snow stepped down to second the motion and Councilman Dail took over chairing the meeting.

Councilman Snow stated he would support this tonight in order to get a First Reading, but will not at a future date. A vote was recorded as follows:

YEAS: D. H. Dail, M. B. Fuller and R. L. Snow

NAYS: T. R. Whitfield III

Councilman Snow resumed the Chair.

A Public Hearing on the 1996-97 Proposed Budget was set for June 10, 1996 at 7:00 p.m.

A tentative date of June 4, 1996 was set for another Finance Committee meeting.

## MAYOR'S BUSINESS

### New Picnic Shelter in Memorial Park

Vice Mayor Snow reported that EPIC has offered to build another 24' x 40' structure in the park if there are no objections from council. No objections were voiced.

Millard Dearing

Mr. Dearing pointed out that EPIC is an eight person committee and they have never asked council for a dime. He would hope council would never take the budget as a joke. There have been meetings within the past months where council people have deliberated on this budget and a proposal formulated to be presented as a First Reading. As some of those are absence tonight due to work, what they have worked on hasn't meant a thing tonight because there are special interest. He feels council should never take their duties as a joke. Council is talking about a $15,000.00 to $20,000.00 increase and he feels they need to take their business serious. He feels EDRC is a good organization however, we should quit saying Main Street, as there are more streets in town than Main Street.

### Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

VICE MAYOR:_____ RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Randell L. Snow, Vice Mayor Norma R. Leap, Clerk