# REGULAR
# COUNCIL MEETING
# July 15, 1996

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held July 15, 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
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

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 were also present.

## CITIZENS COMMENTS

Welty Hensley

Mr. Hensley suggested to council that they take two days and go on a retreat so that they learn to work together better than they ever have. He feels this would be a plus and the Town should pay for it. He also urged each council member to ride in the parade August 3rd. Mr. Hensley noted that the main purpose for his being at the council meeting was to urge council to keep Ted Costin. He realizes there has been a lot of controversy but he feels Mr. Costin has done a good job. He stated that Mr. Costin is the reason the town works together better than it ever has before and the town employees are doing such a superb job.

Mildred Shifflett

Mrs. Shifflett stated she agrees with Mr. Hensley that we should all take pride in our community. However, she finds it hard to do when our streets are so filthy. She pointed out that the only time the streets are sweep is the day before Field Day and she feels something needs to be done to improve this situation. Mrs. Shifflett stated she knows council is going to say where is the money coming from to do this but she thinks the Town has too many Chiefs and not enough Indians and maybe this is where we could get the necessary funds.

Hazel Crider

Mrs. Crider stated she feels that back two years ago in a Public Hearing a message was given on how the people felt about spending the town funds. They did not want to put a hardship on the town people and they still feel that way, as has been indicated again in the past several months. Mrs. Crider said she wants to see the Town go forward and she would like to see Gerald Monger get some recognition. He has worked hard for a great number of years. She thinks the Town needs to slow down in their spending however, she does feel the Town needs to give more consideration to the Elkton Rescue Squad. They do a good job and need the help. Mrs. Crider stated she also agrees with Mrs. Shifflett that the Town needs a good thorough clean up.

Bill Holt

Mr. Holt stated he has been in business and lived in Elkton for twenty-three years and feels he has some insight into what the Town needs. He disagrees that the people are against a Town

Manager. The people who he has talked with have been unanimously in favor of the Town Manager system and Mr. Costin. Mr. Holt said he felt sure Elkton would not have received the ISTEA grant if it were not for Mr. Costin. He asked that council stay progressive and keep the Town Manager system and Mr. Costin.

Marsha Deavers

Mrs. Deavers gave the EDRC End of Year Report and presented each council member with a copy of the report.

**MINUTES**

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting June 17, 1996 and the Special Meeting June 25, 1996 as presented.**

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

Chief of Police

Chief Pence called attention to Pages 2 and 3 of his report. These are letters to Sgt. Marshall stating that grant requests for "DUI Enforcement" in the amount of $858.00 and "Seat Belt Enforcement" in the amount of $1,500.00 have been approved. Chief Pence asked that letters of commendation be sent to Sgt. Robert Marshall and Dispatcher Deborah Curtis for obtaining these grants and that copies be placed in their personnel files.

Director of Parks and Recreation

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

Director of Public Works

Mr. Shifflett called attention to his Electric Department report. Assistant Lineman Heath Myers will be leaving the Town to pursue another employment opportunity. Mr. Shifflett stated he hates to see him go as he has been a real asset to the department. His last day will be Friday July 19, 1996.

Mayor Dean asked if the pumps at North Street are two new pumps or rebuilt pumps. Mr. Shifflett stated these are two totally new pumps. Basically the whole station has been changed out. This makes the station safer and requires less maintenance.

Mr. Shifflett briefed council on the Washington Avenue drainage problem. He feels one of the main problems is the piping is too small and the other is that where the pipe ends needs to be cleaned out. He thinks if this area is cleaned out and with a larger retention area, the problem will be helped considerably.

Superintendent

Mr. Monger stated he had nothing other than his written report. He noted that he was suppose to be in Richmond for a class on the GIS System but most of the people backed out. He plans to have the man come in here Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to teach the class.

Treasurer

It was noted that Mrs. Leap would not have a Finance Report tonight due to the short time

between the month's end and the council meeting, as well as it being the end of the year close out.

## TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Costin, in answer to Mrs. Shifflett's concern over the dirty streets, commented that for several months now the Citizen's Committee has met. This is one of several issues they have been addressing. The committee will have a report and suggestions for council later on in the meeting.

Mr. Costin pointed out that in regards to setting the rates for Real Estate and Personal Property taxes, he feels staff and council need to be given some credit for the fact that these rates have remained constant for at least the two years he has been here and maybe as many as four years.

Mr. Costin reminded council that the RML Meeting will be held here on Wednesday night at the shelter in Stonewall Memorial Park. The meal will start at 6:30 p.m.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Councilman Dail reported that he will be calling a meeting sometime within the next few weeks.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Bennett reported that the committee did meet but he has nothing to report at this time.

## OLD BUSINESS

### County/Town Water and Sewer Agreement

Mr. Davenport reviewed the agreement which he had presented to council. The primary concern when preparing the document was to address the town's concern relating to capacity and the ability to review each and every connection, be they direct or indirect, to the main lines extended by the County as they related to capacity. Both Mr. Davenport and Mr. Costin concur that the proposed agreement covers this concern.

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail and carried to approve the agreement with Rockingham County.**

Councilman Dixon asked if council members could get a list of the people who have already signed on. Mr. Costin stated that we have a copy of the agreement, which includes the people that are excluded, that would be available.

## NEW BUSINESS

### Meeting Time, Place and Date

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to set the regular Town Council Meeting for the third Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers in the Municipal Building.**

### Committees/Commission Appointments

The following committee/commission assignments were presented by the Mayor for consideration:

Vice Mayor
Randell Snow

Electric
Dan Dail, Chair
Wayne Printz
Lee Dearing

Public Safety
Charles Dean, Chair
Fred Bennett
Andy Dixon

Finance
Randell Snow, Chair
Charles Dean
Dan Dail

Streets and Sidewalks
Wayne Printz, Chair
Fred Bennett
Andy Dixon

Personnel
Lee Dearing, Chair
Wayne Printz
Charles Dean

Water and Sewer
Fred Bennett, Chair
Dan Dail
Randell Snow

Commissions:

| | |
|---|---|
| Recreation - | Randell Snow |
| Cemetery - | Lee Dearing (with first vacancy) |
| Planning Commission - | Andy Dixon |

Councilman Dail recommended that Councilman Dixon be moved from Streets and Sidewalks to Water and Sewer and Councilman Dail would go from Water and Sewer to Streets and Sidewalks.

Councilman Snow noted that the Mayor is a part of the active committees, however he believes by charter he already is a member of each committee. His suggestion would be to have four member committees, rather than three, primarily on the committees on which the Mayor is assigned.

The following council members requested to be placed as a fourth member on the following committees:

| | |
|---|---|
| Electric - | R. L. Snow |
| Personnel - | A. D. Dixon |
| Public Safety - | M. L. Dearing |

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the Committee/Commission assignments as presented and amended.**

**Setting of Rates**

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the following Tax Resolution:**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Elkton's 1996-97 Budget does not include any tax rate increases, and**

**WHEREAS, Section 2-3-11 of the Elkton Town Code declares that council shall annually fix the tax rates on all real and personal property, household property excluded, properly subject to taxation within and by the town,**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elkton Town Council sets the tax rates for the year 1996 at $0.10 per $100.00 of assessed value for Real Estate and $0.46 per**

**$100.00 of assessed value for Personal Property.**

**Sections 8-1-1 and 8-1-2**

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the First Reading to amend Section 8-1-1 and 8-1-2.**

**Citizen's Committee Report**

Mr. Mel Kirkendall presented the following report from the Citizen's Committee. This committee was formed to help address concerns which were expressed previously regarding loitering, littering, public drinking, traffic volume, intoxicated driving, and other issues:

"The Citizens Committee consisting of Hazel Crider, Mel Kirkendall, Susan McDonald and Shane Taylor have met several times since January, 1996. Most meetings were attended by Chief Pence and Ted Costin, Town Manager. On separate occasions, Theodore Pence, Director of Parks and Recreation; Sgt. Robert Marshall; Gerald Monger, Town Superintendent and Joe Shifflett, Director of Public Works attended a meeting to provide us with information. We thank them for their time and valuable contributions.

As a result, we have concluded with several suggestions we feel will enhance the appearance and improve the safety of the Town of Elkton.

* Continued support for the closing of the RR Crossing on Ore Wash Road to help control vandalism and litter at Riverside Park.
* Eliminate parking on both sides of Shenandoah Avenue at the Little League ball park.
* Eliminate the blind spot at the intersection of Route 340, Hillside Avenue and North Street. The shrubbery at the house on the corner should be trimmed.
* Reduce speeding on North Street by increasing surveillance and/or installing uneven pavement (grooves or bumps) at strategic points.
* Review street parking at Rockingham Cooperative, Big L Tire and other locations to reduce blind spots. Perhaps certain spaces should be marked for cars only and/or eliminate parking so close to the access points or intersections.
* Continued support for developing vacant land downtown for parking and other functions.
* Sponsor a **citizens watch** group such as the Neighborhood Watch Program to assist our fine police department.
* Continue with random spot checks by police department for illegal driving and unsafe behavior.
* Continue a close working relationship with the Rockingham County Sheriffs Department.
* Maintain our current level of law enforcement personnel with dispatchers.
* Repair and clean the tennis courts. Two of the four courts are unfit to use.
* Focus more attention on a cleaner Elkton. Establish a system for church groups/civic groups to adopt a street or section to pick up litter. Target trouble areas with more trash containers and empty them more often. Investigate the possibility of obtaining a used powered street cleaner.
* Recreation Department and clubs/civic organizations to sponsor additional youth activities such as a weekend fun fest with bands, games, prizes and food booths.
* Continue working for the re-opening of the Elkton Theater.
* Quarterly newsletter to promote a positive image of the town and public awareness of **"What's Happening in Elkton"** and surrounding area.

Having spent considerable time to study the various issues involving our health and safety, we urge the committee and council to carefully consider these suggestions and favor us with a written response.

Thank you for your time and consideration."

Mayor Dean expressed council's appreciation to the Citizen's Committee for the time and study given to these concerns.

**Requests for Utility Service**

Councilman Bennett reported that the Water and Sewer Committee met and reviewed several requests for water and sewer service. There was only one the committee recommended approving at this time and that is Copper, Mars, Knicely and Associates for the Windsong Hills Subdivision.

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to allow Copper, Mars, Knicely and Associates to connect to the Town's water and sewer service.**

Councilman Bennett reported that the committee rejected requests at this time by David Hensley and Marty and Denise Whetzel on E. Washington Avenue. The lines in this area are not large enough, however there are plans in the future to eventually enlarge lines in this area.

Councilman Bennett reported that there was a request by Clarence Brock on Furnace Road. There is a line going by his house but the last time they did a pressure test there was not enough pressure. There was a request from BPML and they are waiting to see what the proposed use will be on this. The other consideration was Napotnik on Route 635 for which they had received no written request. All of these were tabled.

**Fifth Street Bridge Agreement**

Mr. Costin gave brief review of the proposed agreement with VDOT for the Fifth Street Bridge. VDOT is asking that the Town maintain the bridge once it is rebuilt in the same manner that they maintain all the other Town streets.

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman D. H. Dail and carried to approve the agreement as presented between the Town of Elkton and VDOT regarding the Fifth Street Bridge.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Dearing and carried to go into Executive Session to discuss appointments to the Planning Commission, electrical personnel, land acquisition and possibility of a tax sale property acquisition.**

**Councilman D. H. Dail moved to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session and that each council member to the best of his knowledge certify that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered. The following council members so certified:**

**YEAS; F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon and R. L. Snow**

**ACTION RESULTING FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Planning Commission Appointments**

**Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to reappoint Thomas M. Weyrick and Benjamin K. King to the Planning Commission.**

A replacement for John Adams will be considered at the August meeting.

**MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

Mayor Dean reported that the Town of Elkton, the Elkton Main Street Program and the County of Rockingham is sponsoring a reception to honor Dr. Daphyne Thomas of James Madison University and the Commonwealth Transportation Board, who was instrumental in Elkton receiving an ISTEA grant. The reception will be held on Tuesday, August 6, 1996, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m., at either the NationsBank or the Valley Medical Group building. Invitations will be going out on this.

Mayor Dean reported that if council had no objections, he would run the Citizen's Committee suggestions by the Public Safety Committee to review and prepare a proposed response as requested by the Citizen's Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

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