Regular Council Meeting
September 15, 1997
7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held on September 15, 1997 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
R. C. Davis
M. L. Dearing
A. D. Dixon
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

W. E. Printz

Gerald Monger, Town Manager, Dellena Stickley, Attorney, Warren Pence, Chief of Police, Kenny Flick, Director of Public Works, Theodore Pence, Director of Parks and Recreation and Nancy Sours, Treasurer/Clerk were also present.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Cathy Murphy

Ms. Murphy of 110 Stuart Avenue stated three concerns of the Victorian Haven expansion:

1. Specify a deadline to pave the alley
2. Placement of a dumpster immediately
3. Asked if there were any stipulations on the hours that construction crews could work.

Mayor Dean asked that Mr. Monger or Mr. Flick review these requests and respond to Ms. Murphy. Mr. Flick stated that Mr. Weaver cannot start any construction until blueprints are presented to council and approved. Mr. Flick mentioned that the town does not require a demolition permit.

Lucky Sigafoose

Mr. Sigafoose of Rockingham Street, expressed his concern over the drainage problem on Rockingham Street. He asked that a contractor be hired so that this problem could be corrected immediately. Mr. Sigafoose expressed his displeasure with some council members opposing the purchase of 2-Way Radios for the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger the status of Rockingham Street regarding the drainage problem.

Councilman Snow pointed out that all council members agreed to purchase the 2-Way Radios for the Neighborhood Watch Program.

MINUTES

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing, August 18, 1997 and the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, August 18, 1997, with the amendments recommended by Mr. Davenport.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon, R. L. Snow

DEPARTMENT HEADS REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Pence submitted his written report and offered to answer questions.

Councilman Dearing stated that he has received complaints about loiterers on the street using abusive language. Mayor Dean asked Chief Pence to address this with Mr. Davenport.

Parks and Recreation

Mr. Pence offered to answer questions on his written report. Mr. Pence reported that the Mark Merica Tournament has twelve teams participating. Mr. Pence mentioned that the Rockingham County inmates painted the agricultural building.

Mr. Flick stated that the inmates are doing good quality work and are completing several jobs.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Flick submitted his written report. He stated that he met with the Citizens Advisory Committee. They requested that council purchase and install a public address system in the council chambers. Mr. Monger stated that he received an estimate of $6,700.00 to install a public address system.

Mr. Flick asked that a joint Public Hearing date be set for a request submitted by Ms. Cheryl Hutchens and Mr. Joe Sowinski of Rockingham Street for a Home Occupation Application for a cabinet shop. Mr. Flick mentioned that a home occupation application is granted to the individual, not the location. He stated that a home occupation permit can be revoked at anytime. Mr. Flick stated that the Planning Commission requested that a joint Public Hearing be set for October 13, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

A joint Public Hearing was set for October 13, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. for the Hutchens/Sowinski Home Occupation Request.

Councilman Bennett pointed out that it is protocol that council set the public hearings dates.

Treasurer

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to approve the August 1997 Finance Report as presented.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon, R. L. Snow

TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Monger stated that MEPAV asked that the town council adopt the local government resolution in order to deter deregulation.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Councilman Davis reported that the request to change the utility due date was referred to the finance committee.

Finance

Councilman Snow stated that the finance committee met to discuss the possibility of changing the utility due date. He stated that it was conclusive that the current policies were the best at this time.

Councilman Davis mentioned that town officials and the Finance Committee will continue to examine any possibilities that may improve this situation.

Councilman Dearing pointed out that there were very few senior citizens being penalized for late payments.

Personnel

Councilman Dearing reported that it is planned that a Cemetery Director will be appointed within several weeks. He mentioned that the Cemetery Commission recommended hiring a cemetery director to oversee daily operation of the cemetery.

NEW BUSINESS

Barry Ream - Water & Sewer Connection Request

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to approve a water and sewer connection request by Mr. Barry Ream for a residence on F Street.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon, R. L. Snow

Mr. Monger stated that Mr. Ream would be responsible for extending the main line for approximately 100 feet.

Benny King - Lot Line Vacation Request

Councilman Dixon stated that the Planning Commission recommended approving this request. Mr. Flick noted that a Public Hearing is not required for lot line vacations.

Councilman A. D. Dixon moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to approve the Lot Line Vacation request made by Mr. Benny King for a residence on F Street.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon, R. L. Snow

Set October Meeting Date

It was decided that the October regular council meeting date be rescheduled for October 13, 1997 at 7:30 p.m. due to the annual Virginia Municipal League meeting.

Local Government Resolution

Councilman A. D. Dixon moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to adopt the Local Government Resolution as presented. (A copy of the resolution is attached to the minutes.)

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon, R. L. Snow

Public Address System in the Council Chambers

Mayor Dean mentioned that the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended that a public address system be placed in the council chambers. It was decided that no action be taken at this time.

Rockingham Street

Mayor Dean asked that the Streets and Sidewalks Committee address this issue.

Adjournment

As there was no further business the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: _____
Nancy A. Sours, Clerk