Regular Council Meeting
February 17, 1997
7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held February 17, 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
D. H. Dail
M. L. Dearing
A. D. Dixon
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

W. E. Printz

Gerald Monger, Town Manager/Superintendent, Dale Davenport, 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.

Councilman Bennett offered the invocation.

Councilman Dearing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Hazel Crider

Mrs. Crider inquired about the status of inadequate lighting in Elkwood. Mrs. Crider asked when white lines will be painted at the stop signs on North Street. Mrs. Crider stated that she spoke with Don Komara about VDOT installing a stop light at the intersection of Rockingham Street and Route 340. Mr. Komara stated that he would recommend placing a stop light at this intersection to the Richmond office.

Doris Flory

Mrs. Flory asked if town funds were used to pave the railroad property on Gibbons Avenue. She also questioned the appearance of McGuire's store located in downtown Elkton.

Joe Correa - Rockingham County Board of Supervisors

Mr. Correa made a presentation to Mrs. Norma Leap who recently retired after thirty-one years of service with the Town of Elkton. Mr. Correa, who praised Mrs. Leap's dedication and professionalism throughout the years, presented Mrs. Leap with a plaque of appreciation.

Mrs. Leap expressed her gratitude to the Mayor, council, town employees and citizens.

MINUTES

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, January 20, 1997 and the Public Hearing February 10, 1997 as presented.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Pence asked if there were any questions on his written report.

Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Pence stated that his report includes a copy of the Recreation Commission minutes.

Councilman Dearing pointed out the importance of council's authority over the commissions.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Flick reported that the Planning Commission approved Mr. Chris Lawson's request for a lot line vacation and asked for council's approval on this matter.

Finance Report

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett to approve the January finance report as presented.

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

Town Manager

Mr. Monger asked for council's opinion on a request from Mr. David Burgett of F Street concerning building a three foot retaining wall on his property. Mr. Monger also asked for council's direction regarding the stop sign at C Street and North Street.

Mr. Monger responded to Mrs. Flory's concern on the paving of the railroad property. He stated that paving the property was part of the lease agreement with the railroad. Mayor Dean noted the town does not have the authority to force property owners to maintain property in a manner acceptable to an individual citizen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Councilman Dail reported the generation project should be operational by April. He noted a definite cost on the project is not available at this time.

Councilman Dail, who addressed the issue of upgrading the street lights in Elkwood, asked for council's recommendation on this matter.

Councilman Snow stated that a study was conducted several years ago and concluded that the lighting in Elkwood was comparable to the lighting throughout the town.

Councilman Dearing recommended this issue be sent to committee for review. He said that this appeared to be an ongoing concern with the citizens of Elkwood.

Councilman Dixon suggested that perhaps it is the positioning of the light poles that creates the problem and not the wattage.

Mayor Dean asked the electric committee to address this issue further.

Personnel

Councilman Dearing stated the Laborer II position had been filled.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Dearing reported the committee met regarding Lucas Lane, Washington Avenue, and the drainage problem on Jackson Avenue.

NEW BUSINESS

Rockingham Street

Mayor Dean asked council for a decision to instruct Mr. Monger regarding the urban project on Rockingham Street.

Councilman Dearing expressed the fact that no money has been spent to date. The estimated cost to the town to improve Rockingham Street exceeds the amount of the urban project.

Councilman Bennett read a letter VDOT mailed to property owners on Rockingham Street. He said it basically stated that the program was in the early stages and there would be a survey taken on the property.

Councilman Dixon asked the project be suspended until further questions could be answered.

Councilman Bennett stated that if the project was not carried through, the costs would be minimal.

Councilman A. D. Dixon moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing to suspend the Rockingham Street urban project until further information is provided.

YEAS: M. L. Dearing, A. D. Dixon

NAYS: F. A. Bennett, D. H. Dail, R. L. Snow

Motion Denied (3-2)

Councilman Snow stated that he does not agree with delaying the study on Rockingham Street. Councilman Snow stated that he realizes there are many unanswered questions at this time. He feels that additional information needs to be provided by VDOT.

Financial Interest Disclosure Policy

Councilman Dearing stated that the personnel committee recommended a disclosure form be implemented for employees with purchasing authority. He recommended this issue be tabled until next meeting.

Relationship between Town Manager and Town Council

Councilman Dearing reported the attachment to the town manager's contact states that no individual council member should instruct town employees. Councilman Dearing said that no committee or commission member has the authority to instruct the town manager or employees. Councilman Dearing recommended this issue be sent back to committee and addressed at the next meeting.

Councilman Snow asked Mr. Monger if he had experienced this problem of council instructing employees. Mr. Monger responded that he was not aware that this had occurred.

Mr. Davenport said that a committee makes recommendations to council then council acts on those recommendations. Mr. Davenport stated that the cemetery commission is somewhat unique and delegates some authority. Mr. Davenport recommended that the issue be examined before a problem arises. He pointed out the Planning Commission is totally separate from the recreation and cemetery commissions.

Councilman Bennett pointed out the recreation commission was formed and then a department head was named several years later.

Councilman Snow said that the recreation commission is somewhat different, because nine different commission members each work on different projects along with the department head.

Councilman Dearing expressed the importance of employees being directed by the town manager.

Councilman Bennett asked that the personnel committee review the procedure of the town manager's authority.

Mayor Dean asked that this issue be addressed by the personnel committee and then meet with the recreation commission on the findings.

Cemetery Commission Appointment

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett to appoint Councilman M. L. Dearing as council's representative to the cemetery commission.

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

Lot Line Vacation - Chris Lawson

Councilman A. D. Dixon moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to approve the lot line vacation requested by Mr. Chris Lawson at the property located on Wirt Avenue.

Reappointment to Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried the Town of Elkton recommend to the Circuit Court the reappointment Mr. Anthony Lawson to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Citizens' Advisory Committee

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman A. D. Dixon that a citizens' advisory committee be formed under the guidance of the town manager.

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

Sign Ordinance

Mr. Monger reported that the changes to the sign ordinance should be completed by next meeting.

Councilman Snow questioned if the size of the poles were taken into consideration under the new revisions. He suggested waiving the banner fees for non profit organizations.

Stop Sign - North Street and C Street

Councilman Dearing reported that the stop sign installed on North Street and C Street was removed due to safety reasons.

After some discussion, it was decided not to replace the stop sign at the intersection at North Street and C Street.

David Burgett - Building a Retainer Wall

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve a request from Mr. David Burgett to build a retaining wall extending into the easement of his property located on 418 F Street.

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

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: _____
Nancy A. Sours, Clerk