PUBLIC HEARING
February 17, 1997
7:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing regarding the proposed change of two-way traffic to one-way traffic on Rockingham Street was held February 17, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. Mayor Dean presided over the public hearing.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

W. E. Printz

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

Vernon Shifflett

Mr. Vernon Shifflett, Rockingham Street, spoke in support of upgrading and renovating the street. He commented that off street parking was safer.

Cecil Wright

Mr. Cecil Wright, Farm Bureau, expressed concern in making Rockingham Street a one-way street due to safety and increased traffic problems. He stated that one-way traffic would only intensify the parking lot congestion at his place of business.

Bill Holt

Mr. Bill Holt, 508 4th Street, questioned the impact this would have on the parking at the Miller/Kite House. He suggested another public hearing should be held after more information is available. Mr. Holt encouraged contacting VDOT regarding placing a traffic light at the intersection of Rockingham and Route 340.

Jeff Lam

Mr. Lam, representing Farmers and Merchants Bank, spoke to oppose one-way traffic on Rockingham Street.

Kenny Berry

Mr. Berry, 402 E. Rockingham Street, expressed his support of upgrading the street, but feels

the citizens need more details on this project. Mr. Berry stated that he is opposed to placing a stop light at the intersection of Rockingham and Route 340. He suggested rerouting traffic off Rockingham Street.

Todd Dyer

Mr. Dyer, 406 E. Rockingham Street, expressed concern over traffic and drainage problems on Rockingham Street. Mr. Dyer stated that he supports making Rockingham Street a one-way street. He stated that he is opposed to any project that could result in the loss of his property. Mr. Dyer asked that more information needs to be made available before council makes a decision.

Doris Flory

Mrs. Flory stated that she is life-long resident of Rockingham Street and her concerns were the changes that were going to take place on Rockingham Street. She read a letter she received from VDOT stating that a survey would be conducted. Mrs. Flory questioned VDOT authority over the residences and the street. She suggested the matter be put on hold until further information is available. She stated that she supports the idea of one-way traffic on Rockingham Street.

Jeff Nemoytin

Mr. Nemoytin, 233 E. Rockingham Street, presented a petition to council signed by approximately seventy-five percentage of Rockingham Street property owners supporting making it a one-way street, thus hopefully improving traffic the problem. Don Komara of VDOT informed Mr. Nemoytin that the state will likely require a 50-foot right-of-way under the urban project. He feels this will decrease the property value for each residence. Mr. Nemoytin asked the question why Spotswood Avenue was not considered for this project. He stated that he opposes giving a 50-foot right-of-way but would support a one-way street.

Marla Nemoytin

Mrs. Nemoytin, 233 E. Rockingham Street, stated that she opposes widening the street.

Lucky Sigafoose

Mr. Sigafoose stated that he believes widening the street would eliminate his yard. He stated opposition to widening the street, but would support a one-way street.

Ray Williams

Mr. Williams, 501 Davis Avenue, asked what impact this would have on traffic on other streets.

Calvin Meadows

Mr. Meadows, 535 E. Rockingham Street, commented that it appears not enough information is available. He expressed opposition to losing on street parking.

Casey Billhimer

Mr. Billhimer, representing the Elkton Historical Society, stated the organization's concern over the possibility of losing the front yard at the Miller/Kite House. Mr. Billhimer checked with the Historical Society and the state cannot acquire land from a historical landmark. He would support one-way traffic on Rockingham Street.

Alan Thompson

Mr. Thompson, 101 Morgan Avenue, pointed out that making Rockingham Street one-way could possibly increase the speeding problem.

Hazel Crider

Mrs. Crider, Elkwood, mentioned this problem occurred several years ago when 340 was made a dual highway. She recommended a stop light be placed at the intersection of Rockingham and Route 340. Mrs. Crider pointed out that making Rockingham Street one-way could have a negative impact on businesses. She emphasized safety is the top priority. Mrs. Crider said that one-way traffic would likely increase traffic and safety problems.

Rick Mondale

Mr. Mondale, 111 Ashby Avenue, suggested making Rockingham Street a cul-de-sac. He feels making the street one-way would only intensify the problem. He feels that his idea would allow on street parking, property owner retaining yards, and curb and guttering upgrades.

Susan McDonald

Mrs. McDonald, Rockingham Street, stated that she would prefer to have a one-way street, instead of losing her yard. Mrs. McDonald asked that more information be provided before any decision is made.

Dennis Shifflett

Mr. Shifflett asked if East Rockingham Street was made one-way would the status change if state improvements were done. He also asked if the speed limit would change or the restrictions of no thru trucks would remain. Mr. Shifflett stated that he opposes one-way traffic and widening Rockingham Street.

Bob Necsary

Mr. Necsary, of Elkton Pharmacy, expressed concern over the pharmacy losing any customer parking. He stated that widening Rockingham Street would greatly diminish their parking and damage their business.

Dick Brown

Mr. Brown, owner of commercial property on Rockingham Street, stated his opposition to the businesses losing any customer parking. Mr. Brown asked that more information be made available.

Bill Carp

Mr. Carp, 220 E. Rockingham Street, stated that he opposes widening the street and council should consider the suggestion of converting Rockingham Street into a cul-de-sac.

Lillian Brill

Mrs. Brill, Rockingham Street, stated that she would prefer to leave Rockingham Street alone.

Mr. Monger read a letter from VDOT stating some of the planned improvements for Rockingham Street. Mr. Monger read the estimates for each job. This includes improvements to storm sewer, sidewalks, upgrade electric lines, curb and guttering. The cost of the urban project was estimated at $370,000.00 for design and $335,000.00 for construction. Mr. Monger stated that Rockingham Street is one of the many proposed urban projects by VDOT. Mr. Monger said that an

urban project requires a 50-foot right-of-way and on street parking is not allowed. Mr. Monger stated that the information published in The Valley Banner that the residences would be responsible for half the cost is not correct. Mr. Monger stated his support of the urban project.

Mr. Nemoytin stated that most of the residences oppose the urban project because of the 50 foot right-of-way. Mr. Monger responded the reason for the proposed urban project was that of the drainage problem on Rockingham Street.

Joan Sigafoose

Mrs. Sigafoose recommended educating the drivers and the problems will be solved.

Bill Wiley

Mr. Wiley, 220 E. Rockingham Street, recommended that since the study will cost $375,000.00 and the town may not receive anything from it, drop the idea while it is in the preliminary stages.

As there was no further public comment, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: _____
Nancy A. Sours, Clerk