Regular Council Meeting
January 19, 1998
7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held on January 19, 1998 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
W. E. Printz
R. L. Snow

Gerald Monger, Town Manager, Dillina Stickley, Attorney, Warren Pence, Chief of Police, Kenny Flick, Director of Public Works, Theodore Pence, Director of Parks and Recreation, Denise Jenkins, Cemetery Director 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 of Elkwood requested that until council corrects the hearing problem in the chambers, that the council members should speak louder and towards the audience. She stated that the town needs a community center for the young and old. Mrs. Crider mentioned that the former Farm Bureau building could be a potential site for a community center. She stated that the municipal building was donated by Merck & Company and there's been minimum renovation.

Mildred Shifflett

Mrs. Shifflett stated that she received several complaints from citizens regarding the traffic control at funeral processions. She feels that the town should provide a police officer to direct traffic at a funeral procession.

Lucky Sigafoose

Mr. Sigafoose spoke in opposition to the town sharing the cost of paving the dump site. He stated that each citizen pays $96.00 per year in refuse charges.

EDRC Quarterly Report - Ms. Marsha Deavers

Ms. Deavers briefly highlighted the 2nd Quarter Report. She stated that the Elkton Main Street operates under the four point approach.

Design	1.	Entrance Landscape Project
	2.	Facade Rehabs
	3.	Clock Donation
Economic	1.	Small Business Seminars
	2.	Open 2 New Businesses
	3.	Tourism Inquires
	4.	Final Stages of Historical Walking Brochure

Organization	1.	Library Donation
	2.	Volunteer Hours
	3.	Community Inquires
	4.	Organized Educational Meetings/Seminars
	5.	Conducted Revitalization Presentations
	6.	Published Elkton Express
Promotion	1.	Halloween Hoo-Doo
	2.	Christmas Decorating Contest
	3.	Planned Summer Evenings Concert Series

MINUTES

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, December 15, 1997 as presented.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Pence presented council with a copy of his report from December 1996. He pointed out the dramatic increase in tickets due to having an extra officer.

Chief Pence submitted a letter stating his plans to retire May 4, 1998.

Recreation

Mr. Pence offered to answer questions on his written report.

Councilman Snow stated that the Recreation Commission plans to discuss nominations to fill the vacancies on the commission. He stated that the commission will discuss the possibilities of a community center.

Councilman Dearing asked about the status of the draft contract agreement. Councilman Snow responded that the Recreation Commission will review the draft at the next meeting.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Flick offered to answer questions on his written report.

Mayor Dean asked about sewer problem on Clark Avenue. Mr. Flick responded that the sewer line was replaced and the problem was corrected.

Councilman Dearing asked if citizens could be notified when a new water meter is placed at their residence. He stated that some of the new meters create a tapping noise in the water pipes. Mr. Flick stated that he spoke with Virginia Water and Waste, which is sending replacement chambers in order to correct the noisy meters. Councilman Dearing recommended placing an advertisement in the newspaper. Mr. Monger pointed out that the new water meters are not defective.

Councilman Printz inquired about the status of the water pressure problem in Elkwood. Mr. Flick stated that they have no solution at this time. Mr. Monger stated that the engineers recommended placing a booster pump at each house.

Cemetery

Ms. Jenkins offered to answer questions on her written report.

Treasurer

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the December 1997 Finance Report as presented.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Monger read a resolution presented to the town from Rockingham County honoring local town governments.

Mr. Monger stated that he plans to meet with Waste Management to discuss the remainder of the two year contract. Mayor Dean mentioned that most garbage charges have increased 30% in the past several years. Mr. Monger stated that Waste Management now weighs the garbage instead of charging by the truck load.

Councilman Davis asked about the search for a new computer system. Mr. Monger responded that we are awaiting a demonstration from a company in Michigan.

Councilman Printz requested a list of areas that experienced flooding during the heavy rains.

Councilman Printz asked if any contractors were contacted to repair the sidewalks. Mr. Flick responded that not at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

VMEA#1 Representative Appointment

Councilman R. C. Davis moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to appoint Mr. Gerald Monger as the VMEA#1 representative for the Town of Elkton.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Councilman Printz asked that the Electric Committee meet to discuss mailing certified disconnection notices.

Personnel

Councilman Dearing stated that the committee met to discuss the job description for the Chief of Police. He stated that no one in the committee mentioned martial status or gender as reported in the Valley Banner. He stated that the interview and selection process will be handled by the council.

Councilman Dearing stated that the Neighborhood Watch Program will operate solely with the advisory of the police department. He stated that the Citizens Advisory Committee will meet at their discretion and present their recommendations to the Town Manager.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Bennett reported on the Water and Sewer Committee response to the Citizens Advisory recommendations. He stated that the recommendation of installing a Police Station Sign at the municipal building is being studied and a quotation is due anytime. Councilman Bennett stated that placing a public address system in the council chambers was ruled out due to the extreme cost of the equipment. He said as to the third concern regarding the cemetery, it is illegal to trespass after dark. He stated that it was the consensus of the committee to continue operating the cemetery as it is currently being done.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz reported that he met with Chief Pence regarding the Citizens Advisory recommendations and plans to address these issues at the next Streets and Sidewalks Committee meeting.

Public Health and Safety

Councilman Dearing pointed out the safety hazard of vacant wooden buildings and asked if these buildings could be inspected by the Fire Chief. Mayor Dean asked that Mr. Davenport address this issue. Councilman Davis stated that the Fire Department will examine a building as a preplan. Councilman Davis stated that Rockingham County does not have a Fire Marshall to enforce any policy.

Cemetery

Councilman Dearing stated that the Cemetery Commission's annual meeting is scheduled for February 2, 1998 at 7:30 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Rockingham Cooperative - Lot Line Revision Request - Lot #42

Mr. Flick stated that this request was made so that the property line conforms where the fence is located. He stated that the Planning Commission recommended approving this request. Mr. Flick stated that the property is zoned B1 and does not require a minimum square foot.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the request from Rockingham Cooperative for a Lot Line Revision on Lot # 42.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Planning Commission Appointment

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved to appoint Ms. Cathy Murphy to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

Councilman Dearing withdrew his motion due to lack of a second. Councilman Snow asked that this be addressed during executive session.

EDRC Request of Municipal Lawn for Summer Concerts

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to allow EDRC use of the Municipal Lawn for Summer Concerts to be held 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. on June 4, June 25, July 16 and August 13.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Job Description - Chief of Police

Councilman Dearing presented council with a draft of the Chief of Police job description.

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the Chief of Police Job Description as presented, with the addition of must have a physical and with Mr. Davenport's approval.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

It was consensus that the advertisement for Chief of Police be placed immediately.

Assistance During Funeral Services

Chief Pence stated that the funeral home must request police service.

Executive Session

Mayor Dean stated that council will be going into executive session to discuss council appointment. Mayor Dean stated that the six nominations are Lucky Sigafoose, Kim Sampson, Gene Kite, Dan Talbot, Greg Roach, and Bill Crouse.

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried that council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussion or consideration of potential candidates for Town Council, Planning Commission appointment, potential acquisition of real estate and evaluation of the police department.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session and that each member, to the best of his knowledge, certifies that only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement under Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the Code of Virginia were heard, discussed or considered. The motion was duly seconded.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Planning Commission Appointment

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to appoint Ms. Cathy Murphy of 110 North Stuart Avenue, to fill a vacancy on the Planning Commission.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Town Council Appointment

Mayor Dean mentioned that this appointment will expire June 30, 1998. Councilman Bennett expressed appreciation for all the nominations and encouraged them to consider running in the May election.

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to appoint Mr. Dwight E. Kite of 337 West Spring Avenue to fill a vacancy on the Town Council.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, M. L. Dearing, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean **RECORDER:** _____
Charles E. Dean, Mayor Nancy A. Sours, Clerk