Regular Council Meeting
April 20, 1998
7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held on April 20, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

R. C. Davis
M. L. Dearing
W. E. Printz
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

F. A. Bennett
D. E. Kite

Gerald Monger, Town Manager, Dale Davenport, Attorney, Robert Marshall, 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 Dearing led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Marsha Deavers - EDRC Quarterly Report

Ms. Deavers presented council with the EDRC's 3rd quarter report. She briefly highlighted the accomplishments achieved during the last quarter under the four point approach.

Design	1.	Assisted town officials with ISTEA Grant.
	2.	Ms. Cathy Frazier assisted with facade rehabs.
	3.	Spring Clean up is scheduled for May 30.
Economic	1.	Offered seminars to business owners.
	2.	Two new businesses opened, creating three full time jobs.
Tourism	1.	Received many inquiries about tourism in Elkton.
	2.	Met with Mr. Gerald Hott about scheduling a train ride thru Elkton.
Promotion	1.	Scheduled Summer Evening Concerts to be held Thursday evenings on the Municipal lawn.
	2.	EDRC was recognized for achieving one million dollars in private investments.
	3.	EDRC was recognized nationally for their work.
	4.	Elkton Community Reader's Day in conjunction with Elementary School.

Bobbi Rae Monger - Recreation Commission

Ms. Monger said that she was a long-standing member of the Elkton Recreation Commission. She expressed displeasure with several Council members' negative comments about the Recreation Commission. She stated that three recreation commission members resigned due to those comments. She highlighted the improvements and programs established by the work of the Recreation Commission. She stated that these accomplishments are attributed to the hard-working volunteers of the Recreation Commission. Ms. Monger distributed a survey and asked that it be completed so that the recreation needs of the community can be determined.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Linda Workman-Dean

Ms. Dean of Clarke Avenue asked that the town impose parallel parking to the property adjacent to her. She stated that the Methodist Church was using her yard for parking. Ms. Dean asked if horizontal parking were allowed throughout the town. She asked that she be treated as any other citizen in the town. Ms. Dean stated that she was not satisfied with the recent work done around her property. She feels that her property has been defaced. She recommended that each council member examine the damage done to her property.

Welty Hensley

Mr. Hensley announced that the Annual Junior Order Parade is scheduled for August 15 at 10:30 a.m. Mr. Hensley asked for a $500.00 donation for the parade and the town to provide assistance and a float for the beauty queens. He asked for assistance on the Annual Horse Show scheduled for September 12th. Mr. Hensley requested that electric be donated for the Horse Show. He stated that he has received many compliments on both of these events.

Betty Fridley

Ms. Fridley spoke regarding the parking issue concerning the United Methodist Church on Clarke Avenue and C Street. She asked that this issue be solved tonight. She suggested that a precedent be set and the church will abide by their ruling.

Bill Davis

Mr. Davis spoke on the parking issue involving the United Methodist Church. He asked that a decision be made tonight. Mr. Davis stated that he understood the Streets and Sidewalks Committee had decided to pave and curb that area in question.

Bill Holt

Mr. Holt stated that he and his wife have been residents for twenty-five years. He stated that he has served on the Town Council, Planning Commission and Citizens Advisory Committee. He pointed out the successful growth of the town and the improved reputation were accomplished through great leadership. He stated that Mayor Dean has quietly and successfully performed his job. He stated that councilmen who are headline hunters are only concerned with themselves.

Mildred Shifflett

Ms. Shifflett feels that a change is needed in this town. She expressed her support for Councilman Dearing for Mayor. Ms. Shifflett said that she supported Wayne Printz, Gene Kite, Bobbi Horne, Cathy Murphy, and Bill Crouse for council seats.

Florence Barrett

Ms. Barrett expressed her distress with the rumors about some candidates. She stated that one rumor is that Mayor Dean is planning to purchase the Farm Bureau building and resell it to the town. Mayor Dean clarified that he and a group of investors looked at the building but did not plan to purchase it. Ms. Barrett asked Councilman Dearing to respond. Councilman Dearing stated that during his campaign he has never said anything about Mayor Dean. He stated that the only comment he has made to the citizens was if they want a change to vote for him. Ms. Barrett stated her support for Mayor Dean's reelection.

Barbara Pence

Mrs. Pence stated that she is the wife of Chief Warren Pence. She stated that a retirement party in honor of Chief Pence is planned for April 24 at the VFW. She stated that individuals are covering all expenses for the retirement party. Mrs. Pence expressed her appreciation for the council members who had supported her husband.

MINUTES

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman R. C. Davis and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting, March 16, 1998 as presented.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Marshall offered to answer questions on his written report.

Councilman Dearing stated that he inquired how Chief Pence's retirement party would be funded. He stated that he was under the impression that the town would incur the cost.

Chief Marshall stated that a block grant from the Department of Justice for $1,454.00 is available. He stated that the town would only match $162.00 of those funds. He asked that a decision be made before June.

Chief Marshall stated that the U. S. Marshall Service donated a computer and printer to the Neighborhood Watch Program.

Chief Marshall asked for council's consideration of extending the COPS FAST Grant for another year.

Councilman Printz expressed concern over the traffic hazard at the intersection of Rockingham Street and Route 340. He asked that this problem be addressed at a committee meeting.

Recreation

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

Councilman Printz complimented the Recreation Department for the excellent programs held at the schools.

Director of Public of Works

Mr. Flick offered to answer questions on his written report. He stated that Spring Clean Up week is scheduled for May 15 thru May 22. Mr. Flick asked for council's decision if citizens should be charged for brush grinding during Clean-Up Week. Mr. Monger responded that there has always been a charge for grinding brush. Mr. Flick stated that the town ordinance on Clean-Up Week does not clarify the charge for brush grinding. Mr. Monger stated that the current charge for brush grinding is $15.00 for the first hour and $7.50 for each additional hour.

Waive Brush Grinding Charges during Spring Clean-Up Week

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to grind brush without charge during Clean-Up Week scheduled for May 15 thru May 22, 1998, providing the Director of Public Works is notified during that week.

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

Mr. Flick asked for councils' guidance on a prior approval of repairing sidewalks in town, in order to utilize the Street Maintenance funds for this fiscal year.

Councilman Printz stated that he will prepare for more repairs in next year's budget. Councilman Printz said that the priority list should be reexamined. He stated that he will meet with Mr. Flick and prioritize the sidewalks.

Councilman Dearing stated that the policy of repairing sidewalks should be consistent. He feels that property owners should not pay for repairing the sidewalks.

Mr. Flick stated that he received a request from a resident on Route 759 for an out of town water connection. It was decided that the Water and Sewer Committee address this.

Cemetery

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

Councilman Dearing stated that a dead tree was cut down in the cemetery.

Treasurer

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the March 1998 Finance Report as presented.

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

Town Manager

Mr. Monger announced that the Rockingham Municipal League meeting is scheduled for April 22 at 6:30 p.m. at the Country Inn in Elkton.

Councilman Dearing asked about the additional funds needed to complete the new police car. Mr. Monger responded that since the new police car would not be delivered until July, the additional cost to equip the car can be budgeted in the next fiscal year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel

Chief of Police Appointment

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to appoint Mr. Robert Marshall Chief of Police as of April 24, 1998 at an annual salary of $34,000.00

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

Advertise Police Officer Vacancy & Retain COPS FAST Officer

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow to advertise the police officer position and retain Officer Chad Brown as COPS FAST officer.

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

It was decided to retain five full time police officers.

Councilman Dearing asked if Mr. Monger was examining making officers salaried and reducing dispatchers. Mayor Dean asked that the Public Safety Committee and Personnel Committee address those requests.

Mayor Dean stated that he received a request from the safety coordinator of Norfolk & Southern Railroad to address the heavy traffic problem on Spotswood Avenue, causing traffic to back up on the railroad tracks. It was decided that the Public Safety Committee address this concern.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz stated that the Streets and Sidewalks Committee addressed the parking issue on Clarke Avenue involving the United Methodist Church and Linda Workman-Dean. Councilman Printz asked for Mr. Davenport's legal advice on this situation. Mr. Davenport responded that the decision was the town council's discretion since the area in question is town property.

Parking on Clarke Avenue between United Methodist Church and Workman-Dean Property

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to allow parallel parking on Clarke Avenue and C Street (the property bordering the Dean-Workman property)

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

Councilman Printz stated that the town should maintain the right of way. Councilman Printz stated that the town owns the property which is being used for parking.

Councilman Printz responded to residents' concerns on North Street. He said that the town was reviewing possible solutions to the flooding problems. Councilman Printz stated that it was suggested to ponding certain areas if an easement is received from a property owner on North Street. He stated that it was mentioned placing additional pipes at the corner of F Street and North Street. Councilman Printz stated that he would contact associates of his at Cooper & Smith to study this property.

Councilman Dearing suggested checking and clearing all lines that feed into these drainage pipes.

Councilman Printz asked for Mr. Flick's opinion on this matter. Mr. Flick stated that one large pipe should be installed as opposed to two smaller pipes. Mr. Flick suggested that obtaining a possible easement on North Street and placing a pond on that property may help the problem.

OLD BUSINESS

Appropriation - ISTEA Phase I Design - $3,500.00 - Second Reading

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman M. L. Dearing and carried to appropriate $3,500.00 for the ISTEA Phase I Design.

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

Norfolk & Southern Fence Proposal in Stonewall Memorial Park - Second Reading

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to contribute 50% of the actual cost to construct a 1500 foot fence in Stonewall Memorial Park, with Norfolk and Southern contributing the other 50% of the actual cost.

YEAS: R. C. Davis, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

NAYS: M. L. Dearing

Employee Handbook - Section 6.3 - Sick Pay Compensation for Retiring Employees-Second Reading

Councilman M. L. Dearing moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried that an employee, upon retirement and employed by the town for five consecutive years will be compensated for one-third of their accumulated sick pay, up to a maximum of 174 hours.

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

NEW BUSINESS

Department of Energy - Supplemental Agreement

Mr. Monger explained that this agreement pertains to SEPA power. He stated that VMEA recommends signing this agreement. Mr. Monger stated that the town can easily terminate this agreement.

Councilman R. C. Davis moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried that the town accept the supplemental agreement from the Department of Energy.

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

Out of Town Water & Sewer Connection - Fairfax Avenue & Route 759

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the requests for out of town water and sewer connections on Fairfax Avenue and Route 759, pending the Water and Sewer Committee approval.

YEAS: R. C. Davis, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

NAYS: M. L. Dearing

Parade Float for Junior Order Parade

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried for the town to provide a float for the Junior Order parade.

YEAS: R. C. Davis, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

NAYS: M. L. Dearing

Horse Show - Electric Donation

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to donate electricity to the Annual Horse Show scheduled for September 12, 1998.

YEAS: R. C. Davis, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow

NAYS: M. L. Dearing

Department of Justice - Block Grant - Public Safety

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to accept the Department of Justice block grant for $1,454.00 with the town matching $162.00 to be used in public safety.

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

Fire Department Carnival - Electric Donation

Councilman W. E. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to donate electricity to the Elkton Fire Department Carnival to be held June 2, 1998.

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

Councilman Printz suggested that the Finance Committee address the possibility of eliminating auto decals or personal property taxes.

Councilman Snow stated that a survey determining the needs of a recreational facility has been distributed and asked that everyone complete and return this form. He stated that the developing committee is conducting an on-going study.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

RECORDER: _____
Nancy A. Sours, Clerk