Regular Council Meeting
November 20, 2000
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held November 20, 2000 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Millard L. Dearing presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

B.B. Horne
C. H. Murphy
M. O'Neill
T. Pence
W. E. Printz (left early)
L. Sigafoose

Burns Earle, Attorney, and Kenny Flick Director of Public Works were also present.

Mrs. Horne offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Virginia Gentry - Elkton resident - Ms. Gentry expressed her concern for the Elkton Mainstreet Program. She reported that the program has refurbished the town and has attracted businesses to come into the town. She said without this program there would be a loss of their accomplishments and also there would be a loss of funds.

Tom Weyrick- Elkton resident - Mr. Weyrick expressed how much he appreciated the work of former police chief Robert Marshall and police officer Monte Dean did for the town. He also remarked how sorry he was to see them go. Mr. Weyrick expressed his displease with the council due to the manner of the firing of M. Dean and R. Marshall. He also expressed that the firings should have been warranted.

Florence Barrett - Ms. Barrett reported that the council has good intentions. Later she went on to express her concern for the separation or grouping of people. She mentioned that the "Dean Machine" and Dearing's group are the fault of Dearing. She blamed Dearing for the polarization due to the allegations he has made. She also reported not liking the way Marshall and Dean were fired.

Jim Martin - Morgan Ave - Rev. Martin expressed his concern about the reputation of Elkton. He urged the council to try to find ways to alleviate the ridicule from Elkton.

Linda Life - Ms. Life said that she liked the new look of the council chambers. She showed her concern for the new recycling program that only has pick up twice a month. Ms. Life said that recycling needed to be picked up more often because people do not have enough room to keep an extra week of recycling around. Her last concern was that since the new council has been instated there have been a number of losses within the town. Ms. Life also expressed she would be willing to help the council out in any way.

Dee Martin- Ms. Martin expressed her concern for the town in regards to unlicenced/abandoned vehicles homes. She commented on the town having a standard for the appearance of homes within the town.

Bob Necessary - Mr. Necessary commented on how Elkton was a great area, although not a town resident, Mr. Necessary has operated a business in Elkton for 25 years. He commented also on how important EDRC was to our community because of what they have done and the businesses they have attracted. Mr. Necessary said that the golf course would be an asset to the area and it would bring in profit. He mentioned that the golf course would attract many people and possibly Massanutten would partner the project. Lastly he was concerned that the citizens request be considered and for the council to be supportive.

Casey Billhimer - Mr. Billhimer voiced his concern about the recent firing of police officers. He was ashamed of the disrespect placed upon the two men.

Roberta Hensley - Ms. Hensley commented how Gerald Monger and Kenny Flick made a wonderful team. She also commented that EDRC should be funded through the town.

Cathy Billhimer - Ms. Billhimer was concerned with the firing of Marshall and M. Dean. She expressed that the two policemen should have been given prior notice and that replacing them would be hard because they were dedicated workers. She mentioned that Dean and Marshall were not given the two hour question/answer session. She also expressed concern for the Mayor campaign promises that she felt had not been fulfilled.

Marsha Fuller - Ms. Fuller commented on how disappointed she was in the firing of the two police officers.

Bill Holt - Mr. Holt commented on how Elkton has really changed and that Elkton now is a good place to live, work and do business. He mentioned how Elkton is a MainStreet community in the commonwealth.

Mildred Shifflett - Ms. Shifflett commented on how everyone has a boss and how people should abide by their boss no questions asked.

Rick Workman - Mr. Workman expressed how the Recreation program in Elkton is excellent. He was however concerned how the community was not supportive. He also commented on the professionalism of members of the council and anyone involved in meetings and how they handled themselves against personal attacks.

Wake Gooden - Mr. Gooden commented on how the local papers have created bad press for Elkton. He mentioned that also peoples' reputations suffer from ridicule like firing. He mentioned that the people should not report to the press first to report their side of the story.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Director of Public Works

Mr. Flick reported that Route 340 would hopefully be finished by the end of the week. The reason the paving is taking so long is that with the weather was too cold.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

No comments

Finance

Councilwoman Horne complemented the Treasurer's Office staff for compensating and taking over and doing a great job.

Personnel

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the committee met Tuesday, November 14. She reported also that the committee is still in the process of interviewing for the police chief position. Also she reported advertising for the town manager's job. The Treasurer's job has been closed and interviews are expected to start after fulfilling the police chief position.

Public Health & Safety

Mayor Dearing reported the designation of 1000 feet surrounding Elkton Elementary School as a drug free zone by Virginia Code 15-2. He reported that this new enforcement will help to stop the drugs, users and dealers, but most importantly protecting the kids. Also Mayor Dearing mentioned that high speed pursuits are to be authorized. Mayor Dearing also proposed an ordinance be enforced for cleaner neighborhoods.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz reinstated that Route 340 paving was still in progress. Also he mentioned that the streets and sidewalks were being looked into. Lastly he reported that the recycling issue will be taken to committee.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Sigafoose had nothing to report at the time.

Recreation

Councilman Pence reported that the council was meeting with the Recreation Commission the following Monday. He also reported that the schools have first priority to the buildings and the recreation has next priority. Mayor Dearing commented that profits need to be made in order to support different programs.

Planning Commission

Councilman O'Neill had no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Dearing reported a zoning meeting set on November 28 and also an annexation meeting at Elkton Middle School.

NEW BUSINESS

Certification of Code Book

The certification of the code book was discussed and several changes were discussed as well. Mayor Dearing told the council if the book was passed as it is presently it would become law. Any flaws after meeting would have to go to a public hearing.

Mayor Dearing reported that a special meeting will be set to go over the book thoroughly.

Appointment of Police of Chief

Council tabled the appointment of Chief of Police until a special council meeting on November 30 at 7:00.

Legal Reimbursements

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, second Councilman M. O'Neill carried to approve legal reimbursements for Mayor Dearing.

YEAS: B. Horne, T. Pence, W. E. Printz and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Public Safety Policies #2-6

Councilman W. Printz moved, second Councilwoman B. Horne carried that public policy #2 background checks be passed.

YEAS: C. Murphy, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman W. Printz moved, second Councilman T. Pence carried public policy #3 vehicle maintenance be passed.

YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy, M. O'Neill and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman W. Printz moved, second Councilman M. O'Neill carried public policy #4 Blue lights and sirens be passed.

YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman W. Printz moved, second Councilwoman B. Horne carried that public policy #5 Pursuit driving be passed.

YEAS: C. H. Murphy, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman W. Printz moved, second Councilwoman B. Horne carried that public policy #6 prohibiting unauthorized persons use of police equipment or facilities be passed.

YEAS: C. H. Murphy, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

DiDi Hensley Subdivision

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, second by Councilman W. Printz and carried to not approve the subdivision because Mr. Hensley has not met the requirements needed for a subdivision.

YEAS: B. Horne, C. H. Murphy, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

RanMar/Jack Rimer Subdivision

The council tabled the subdivision.

Holtzman Oil Request

The council tabled the request for town water and sewer.

Massanutten Development

The council tabled the request for large hookup to water.

Relationship Motion

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, second by Councilman M. O'Neill and carried that power be reinstated to mayor and council.

YEAS: B. Horne, T. Pence, W. Printz and L. Sigafoose.

Motion carried (6-0)

Advisory Committee Recommendations

Mayor Dearing recommended some situations to committees. The police department will look into town vehicle removal and enforcement of sidewalk ordinance. Mr. Flick was asked to look into street repair, commuter parking lots, trash and town clean up. Ms. Murphy was asked to look into a night dispatcher.

Committee Procedures

The council decided to keep the same routine and the recorder. Also they recommended someone be designated to take minutes. The next meetings will be December 12 and 14.

Christmas Luncheon

December 6, the town will have it's employee Christmas luncheon for all employees and council members.

Council Spokesperson

Cathy Murphy was designated to be the town council's spokesperson.

YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, W. Printz and L. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6-0)

Bike Program

L. Sigafoose reported needing help to support the bike program.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR:_____
M. Lee Dearing, Mayor

RECORDER:_____
Gedie Armentrout, Interim Clerk