Regular Council Meeting
February 21, 2000
7:30 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held February 21, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Millard L. Dearing presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

F. A. Bennett
R. C. Davis
C. E. Dean
W. E. Printz (late arrived at 8:02 p.m.)
R. L. Snow

ABSENT

B. B. Horne

Gerald Monger, Town Manager, Dale Davenport, Attorney, Robert Marshall, Chief of Police, Kenneth Flick, Director of Public Works and Julia Smith, Treasurer/Clerk were also present.

Councilman Bennett offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Mayor Dearing explained to the citizens that the golf course process. Mayor Dearing stated that anyone who would like to bring any issue to the councils attention may do so. Mayor Dearing stated that the golf course has been to the committee and discussed. Mayor Dearing stated that right now all we are doing is looking at the pros and cons of a golf course. Mayor Dearing stated that the committee has been studying this for a long time. Mayor Dearing stated that the committee will vote and then send their decision to the council.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Carolyn Brill- 148 Sweetgum - Ms. Brill stated that her concern is over the water and sewer proposal. Ms. Brill stated that the proposal should have been implemented years ago and that the apartment complexes have gotten over on us. Ms. Brill stated that on the summer sewer should continue because we pay for the water and the run off for washing cars runs off and does not go through the sewer system.

Hazel Crider - Ms. Crider stated that she supports Ms. Brill in her comments. Ms. Crider stated that there should be no reason not to give the citizens a break for washing cars, watering their gardens, etc. Ms. Crider addressed the concerns of the advisory committee.

Mildred Shifflett - Ms. Shifflett also stated support for Ms. Brills comment. Ms. Shifflett stated that she feels Councilman Dean has a conflict of interest where the summer sewer rate is concerned. Ms. Shifflett stated that not allowing the summer sewer rate is just another way of forcing senior citizens out of town.

Michael Claypool - Mr. Claypool stated that there has been an increase in beer bottles and litter on Wirt Avenue.

Betty Newell - Ms. Newell was present to address the CART program. Literature was passed out and Ms. Newell asked for a letter of endorsement from the council. Council approved Mayor Dearing to send a letter of endorsement for CART.

Minutes

Councilman C. E. Dean moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held January 17, 2000.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, C. E. Dean, and R. L. Snow

The motion was carried (4-0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Marshall offered to answer questions on his monthly report. Chief Marshall reported that he has addressed the blind spot at Big L Tire with Mr. Flick. Chief Marshall stated that Mr. Flick is to get with VDOT to address this problem.

Director of Public Works

Mr. Flick offered to answer questions on his report. Mr. Flick stated that he met with VDOT about a turn signal at Spotswood and Stuart. Mr. Flick reported that VDOT is more favorable on the turn signal than in the past and is awaiting a decision from VDOT. Mr. Flick updated council on the ISTEA project.

Treasurer

Councilwoman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman R. C. Davis and carried to approve January 2000 Finance Report as presented.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, C. E. Dean and R. L. Snow

Motion carried (4-0)

Town Manager

Mr. Monger offered to answer questions on his monthly report. Mr. Monger stated that he has been asked to see if the council will hold a special council meeting concerning the civic center. Mr. Monger stated that a letter of endorsement would be needed from the council for the group to explore possible grants.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Councilman Davis stated that there was nothing at this time.

Finance

Councilwoman Horne stated that there was nothing at this time.

Personnel

Councilman Dean stated that there was nothing at this time.

Public Health & Safety

Mayor Dearing stated that he has concern on the back porch of the municipal building. Mayor Dearing stated that the porch has rotted wood and the hand rail is unsafe. Mayor Dearing asked that the porch be closed off until repairs are made. Council agreed to close the porch until all repairs are made. Mr. Flick reported that the material to repair the porch has been back ordered twice.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz was not present at this time.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Bennett stated that there was nothing at this time.

Cemetery

Mayor Dearing stated that the Cemetery Commission had their annual meeting and discussed the budget. Mayor Dearing reported that the Commission would like to see more paving done at the cemetery. Mayor Dearing reported that there has been a lot of vandalism at the cemetery recently.

Recreation

Councilman Snow stated that there was nothing at this time.

Planning Commission

Councilwoman Horne was not present.

EDRC

Councilman Printz was not present at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

VMEA Voting Member

Councilman R. C. Davis moved, second by R. L. Snow and carried to approve Gerald Monger as our voting member of VMEA.

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, R. C. Davis, C. E. Dean and R. L. Snow

Motion carried (4-0)

Summer Sewer Rate

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, second by C. E. Dean and carried to offer the summer sewer rate for the months of May, June, July and August and all residents will sign up before April 30, 2000. The sign up form is to have a disclaimer that council can question any abnormal amount of water used.

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

NAYS: **F. A. Bennett**

Motion carried (4-1)

Set Public Hearing Date to Close Alley at 508 W Spotswood Trail

A public hearing will be held Monday, March 20, 2000 at 7:00 P.M.

Mayor Dearing stated that on February 28, 2000 at 1:00 P.M. he will appear in court for the charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest. Mayor Dearing stated that after court the bond will be lifted that took away his control over the police department. Mayor Dearing stated that after the court appearance he will meet with Mr. Monger, using Mr. Davenports guidance, and will delegate the administrative part of the police department to Mr. Monger. Mayor Dearing stated that any other duties he will retain. Mayor Dearing stated that on the morning of the 29th he will meet with the Chief of Police and the Public Safety Committee. Mayor Dearing noted that if the committee did not want to meet then he would meet with the Chief and get our police department headed in the direction in which it needs to go. Mayor Dearing stated that it has been one year since he has lost control over the police department. Mayor Dearing expressed concern over only one ticket being written in one month.

Closed Session

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman C. E. Dean and carried that council go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussion of pending personnel issues and to complete the Town Mangers evaluation.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved to go from Closed 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, C. E. Dean, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow**

Motion carried (5-0)

Committee meetings were set for Tuesday, March 14 and Thursday, March 16, 2000.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR: M. Lee Dearing
M. Lee Dearing, Mayor

RECORDER: Julia M. Smith
Julia M. Smith, Clerk