Regular Council Meeting
December 18, 2000
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held December 18, 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
L. Sigafoose

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

Mrs. Horne offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Recognition of the death of Danny R. Lam, an individual active in town.
Copy of paper read from to be attached to the minutes

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Akers - Mr. Akers expressed his concern for the businesses of Elkton. He reported there are some businesses that are very good and that there are others that need improvements. He also commented on the need of pay phones within the town.

Mildred Shifflett- Elkton resident - Ms. Shifflett welcomed the new police chief and policeman. She expressed her hope for the town to be brought back to the way it used to be and also hoped the new council would take the cruising law off the books because kids need to be off the streets.

Hazel Crider- Ms. Crider commented on the speaker system that Councilman Sigafoose installed and how it is not working because people in the back cannot hear. She also mentioned that council members should not be verbally abused/attacked by citizen's comment.
Lucky Sigafoose - Mr. Sigafoose thanked Mrs. Stevenson for her help in attaining a new flag. He mentioned that he had a flag to be flown and Mr. Printz is working on getting a pole for the flag through a donation from Merck.

MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes were approved for October 16, 2000 regular meeting

Councilwoman B. Horne moved, second by Councilman W. Printz carried to approve minutes.

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

Approved (6-0)

Minutes were approved for October 16, 2000 special meeting

Minutes were approved for November 20, 2000 meeting

Councilwoman B. Horne moved, second by Councilman W. Printz carried to approve minutes.

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

Approved (6-0)

Minutes were approved for November 20, 2000 special meeting

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Mayor Dearing introduced John Atwood, whom is a qualified officer and is qualified in grants.
Mayor Dearing introduced Richard Pullen, new Chief of Police.
Councilman O'Neill read comments from the council to the new Chief of Police.
Mayor Dearing also commented on how Chief Pullen has been cleaning up the police department.
The Chief of Police report was discussed.

Treasurer's Report

Gedie Armentrout reported that the Treasurer's Office is presently posting taxes to customer accounts and also that they are preparing business licenses and vapor light bills. Mayor Dearing commented on the good customer service from the Treasurer's Office. Because there was no written report available, Council was unable to approve/disapprove at that time.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

No questions were asked of Mr. Flick. Councilman Printz commented that Stuart Ave. paving could not be done unless the temperature was around 50 degrees. Mr. Flick said that the citizens of Elkton had a right to be upset. Mr. Flick also said he will talk with VDOT on making the transition from state roads to town roads smoother. Councilman Sigafoose reported being upset by VDOT not meeting their date of December 1 for the pavement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Councilman Sigafoose reported there have been several accidents on Spotswood/Shenandoah Avenues. during the past two weeks, and more lighting is needed. Mayor Dearing reported the Chief of Police should also look into the lighting issue. Mayor Dearing also reported signs and parking lots should be reviewed to ensure that there are uniform standards throughout the town. Councilman Sigafoose also reported that Mr. Lawson could not move his pole at this time.

Finance

Councilwoman Horne reported the auditors came and reported a sound financial status. She also stated that when the new Treasurer is hired, the auditors will work with him/her to establish procedures and uniformity.

Personnel

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the committee has met several times to conduct interviews for the police department vacancies. She stated the Treasurer's job will be looked at again after the holidays and the town manager's job will be advertised until January 10, 2001.

Public Health & Safety

Mayor Dearing reported effective January 1, weekly street by street cleaning will occur. On the third Wednesday of each month there will be a pick up of household items (excluding several items) and individuals will have the opportunity to have wood chips by gathering them from the sewer plant. Mayor Dearing also reported the Town Manager will now be responsible for enforcing all town ordinances. On April 15, the Chief of Police will receive a list of people who did not get a town decal to further pursue for possible citation.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz reported that a meeting will be scheduled for the middle of January with the State. He also requested an ad be placed in the paper about the current trash and recycling pick ups.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Sigafoose had nothing to report at the time.

Recreation

Councilman Pence reported the Recreation Department had 116 kids sign up for basketball. He also mentioned that Lynn Meadows received a state reward. He reported the cost of renting the building on B Street for a year. Mayor Dearing asked Councilman Pence to meet with Lynn to go over some questions about kids participating in the recreation department, specifically regarding the annexation issue.

Planning Commission

Councilman O'Neill reported the commission met on 12/11/00 and they discussed new business items and also discussed the need to clarify issues within the new code book.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business reported.

NEW BUSINESS

New Code Book Adoption

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, second by Councilman W. Printz carried to adopt new code book, with changes as noted. It was discussed that it was lawful under the grandfather closure to have certain animals within the Town of Elkton. Councilman O'Neill amended his notion to include this discussion.

Councilman O'Neill made a motion to amend an animal issue within the book and to make a notation within the book to see another section. Mayor Dearing reported a change in the book regarding shooting of animals in the town of Elkton.

Mayor Dearing reported that if mistakes are found bring them to the attention to the council so changes can be made as soon as possible..

YEAS: B. Horne, T. Pence, and L. Sigafoose.
ABSTAIN: C. Murphy
Motion carried (5-0) with 1 abstaining vote

RanMar subdivision request

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, second by Councilman W. Printz carried to approve RanMar's request.

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

Motion carried (6-0)

Set public hearing for RanMar special exception request

Issue tabled and Mayor Dearing set a Special Hearing for RanMar to be on January 15, 2001

Re-paving road to reservoir

Councilman W. Printz moved, second by Councilwoman T.Pence to approve to the repaving of Pentecostal Camp Road with the Town's portion of cost not to exceed $2000.00

YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy, M. O'Neill T. Pence, W. Printz and L. Sigafoose
Motion carried (6-0)

OPEN DISCUSSION

New Lights

Councilman Printz reported how nice the new Christmas lights look in town. He also complimented the women in the Treasurer's office and mentioned that during closed session, the public be allowed to remain in council chambers and council go upstairs to meet. He mentioned cell phones towers be reviewed again.

Mayor Dearing reported the residents of Pentecostal need to discuss their problems with Mike Breeden and who is their representative for the county. Councilman Printz stated county residents should not pay more to participate in the recreation department. He also mentioned how schools need to be air conditioned.

Councilman Printz asked the committee to look into monitors for the council to use during meetings to eliminate paper work. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Mayor Dearing asked Department Heads to tell employees how much they are appreciated. Mayor Dearing mentioned others whom are greatly appreciated by the town of Elkton.

Mr. Miller has a list of 20 issues where questions have been raised and he would like the different issues to go back to committees and be prioritized for his firm.

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, second by Councilman W. Printz to approve executive session to discuss employee performance issues.

YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy, M. O'Neill T. Pence, W. Printz and L. Sigafoose
Motion carried (6-0)

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, second by B. Horne to resume regular session.

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

Motion carried (6-0)

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR: _____
M. Lee Dearing, Mayor

RECORDER: _____
Gedie Armentrout, Interim Clerk