Public Hearing
Elkton Town Council
September 17, 2001
6:00 p.m.

The Elkton Town Council held a Public Hearing on September 17, 2001 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers with the Mayor Millard L. Dearing presided over the hearing. The roll call was as follows:

**PRESENT**
C. Murphy
T. Pence
W. Printz
L. Sigafoose
M. O'Neill
T. Dean

Burns Earle, Attorney, Ray Clary, Town Administrator, Todd McCoy, Director of Public Works and Zoning and Faye Vickers, Clerk were also present

Mayor Dearing stated the public hearing was being held to take comments on the adoption of Chapter 4, Authorities, Article 1, Park Authority.

Mary Hutton-Elkton Ms. Hutton stated she had appealed to Council previously to consider budgeting and appropriating taxpayers' money. She said she would like to emphasize a few of the phrases in the Daily News Record notification of this meeting on September 1. Ms. Hutton stated her concerns on sections 4-3 (Powers), 4-4 (Members) and 4-5 (Offices). She is concerned the members of the Authority can elect a secretary and treasurer who need not be a member of the Authority. She is also concerned with the date of the existence of the Authority until August 20, 2031 and with the section stating the Authority shall remain binding unless the Town Council of Elkton, Virginia, agrees to assume and pay said obligations. Ms. Hutton stated she did not feel this was the reason the citizens of Elkton elect Council members, so they can delegate their authority to people who may have an office in California. Ms. Hutton is concerned, that according to this article; the offices of the Authority could be located in any state. Ms. Hutton said this Authority will be telling us what parks we want and where these parks will be. The Authority may be in Las Vegas, using money the Town of Elkton will be obligated to repay should they go under.

Mayor Dearing stated the Council would appoint the Authority. The date of 2031 was chosen because anyone wishing to lease the property for development would have the property long enough to see a return on their investment. No one would invest 2 to 7 million dollars to develop this property with a one-year lease. The Town does not want to build a golf course. By placing the land into this Authority, the Town is taking the liability away from the Town citizens. Not one penny of the taxpayers' money will be used for the Authority. The Authority will find the money to develop this property. Should the developer decide to build the golf course, they will assume all responsibilities. If for some reason, the developer fails, the Town will have the authority to take the property back, and buy that business. Or the Town would have the option to let if be foreclosed, and take the property back.

Councilman O'Neill asked if the Authority would have term limits?

Mayor Dearing stated the Authority would have term limits of 2-4 years. Some of the members will start at four years with some starting at two years. There will seven members appointed by the Council, with one Council member who will sit on the Authority under the by-laws.

Mayor Dearing asked Todd McCoy if the Public Hearing was advertised.
Mr. McCoy stated the Public Hearing was advertised in the Valley Banner and Daily News Record for two weeks.

As there were no further comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

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

**RECORDER:** Faye H. Vickers
**Faye H. Vickers, Clerk**