Regular Council Meeting
March 19, 2001
7:00 p.m.

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held March 19, 2001 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, and Faye Vickers, Treasurer were also present.

Mrs. Horne offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Appointment of Town Manager

**Councilwoman Murphy moved to appoint Mr. Richard Stroemple as the Elkton Town Manager, seconded by Councilman Pence.**

**Mr. Stroemple will begin as Town Manager on March 19, 2001 with an annual salary of $46.670. Also he will receive 3 weeks vacation and a single payment of $500.00 for relocation.**

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

**Approved (6-0)**

Mr. Stroemple thanked the council and the town for their consideration and discussed his plans for the future as Town Manager.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Bill Acres- Mr. Acres commended the Elkton Police Department on the prompt response of an incident reported at the nursing home. He also addressed that the new Sheetz coming should have bathroom facilities and telephone booths. Mr. Acres recommended that some of the businesses in Elkton should be recognized for their outstanding public relations.

Douglas Meadows- Mr. Meadows, Vice President of the Elkton Historical Society, asked the mayor and council to approve the closure of East Rockingham Street on Sunday, April 29, 2001 from 1:45-3:15 for the dedication of the Miller Kite House and approval to install a new sign near Stuart Avenue.

Hazel Crider- Mrs. Crider, coordinator of the Neighborhood Watch Program, commended Chief Pullen and the police department for their support of the program. She commended Officer Conley as well. Mrs. Crider said that the police are becoming more visible and this makes her feel secure. Also she mentioned that there may be a possible problem in the park with dogs running loose and recommended that there be signs placed at the top of the park hill.

Mildred Shifflett - 112 Spotswood Ave. -Ms. Shifflett welcomed Mr. Stroemple to the town. She questioned whether town residents were going to receive any water/sewer assistance this spring. She also addressed the problem of Holtzman coming to Elkton.

Carroll Campbell - Mr. Campbell questioned two comments made by Mayor Dearing. He reported that his wife did not demand money from the town. Also he reported that there were no negotiations made by the council or landowners regarding town properties.

Vickie Hensley - Mrs. Hensley asked the council to approve the closing of streets for the Elkton Autumn Days Festival and car show. She submitted a letter from the president of EPIC for the council's consideration.

Caroline Brill - Ms. Brill reported that she was lobbying for the sewer cut for the coming summer. Also she expressed her concern for a water rate change promised, if certain people were elected to the council.

## MINUTES APPROVED

Minutes were approved for February 19, 2001 regular meeting

Councilman L. Sigafoose moved, seconded by Councilwoman B. Horne carried to approve the content of the minutes, yet change the format.

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

Approved (6-0)

Minutes were approved for March 13, 2001 committee meeting

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

Approved (6-0)

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

### CHIEF OF POLICE

Councilman Printz reported that the police reports were not confusing and well-written. Chief Pullen reported that there have been several improvements made since he began as Police Chief. He reported that the police department has increased traffic patrols, enforced drug raids, controlled school traffic, reinstated bike patrol, sent officers to community functions, conducted property checks for residents, and patrolled businesses at night. He reported that he has sent officers for training and seminars. Also he reported grants have allowed the police department to receive new electronics.

### PUBLIC WORKS

Due to not have a public works director no report was given. Mayor Dearing did report that he would be taking the place of the public words director until the town manager is comfortable with his position

### TREASURER'S REPORT

A full Treasurer's report was given with revenues and expenditures.

### TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

No report was given.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Electric

Councilman Sigafoose reported that two lights had been put up; one at the railroad crossing and another across from the bank. However, a power line had to be purchased to put up the light.

### Finance

Councilwoman Horne reported that the committee is still working on the budget.

### Personnel

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the committee met on March 13 and discussed a number of issues regarding positions that are currently vacant.

### Public Health & Safety

Mayor Dearing reported that there would be tickets given to those who have cars that are not properly tagged. He and the chief went around town to look at the possible abandoned vehicles and thus the ordinance will be put into place, where tickets will be issued.

Mayor Dearing also reminded everyone that on Wednesdays of each month people can request to have bulk objects picked up by the town. Also he mentioned the spring clean up.

Streets and Sidewalks

Councilman Printz reported that Route 340 near Elkwood was repaved and bumps were taken care of in the town. He also mentioned that no one was satisfied with the new lights and the traffic patterns. Councilman Printz reported that the new patterns were causing congestion in certain places. Lastly he reported other issues the committee needs to go through and make recommendations to council.

Water and Sewer

Councilman Sigafoose reported that summer sewer rates will be discussed in new business.

Recreation

Councilman Pence reported that the park was closed one evening and expressed his concern. He was given the reasons why the park was closed at that particular time. He also recommended that the Recreation director be present at all council meetings and also to provide a monthly report.

Planning Commission

Councilman O'Neill had nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Kenny Flick Resignation

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilman M. O'Neill carried to accept the resignation of Mr. Kenny Flick, Public Works Director, effective March 16.

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

Summer Sewer Rates

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, second by Councilman W. Printz carried to approve the provision to the code that read as follows:

In order to allow town residential water customers to water lawns and gardens, during the period between March 15-April 15 of each calendar year, town sewer customers may complete an application form requesting that their sewer bills for the months of May, June, July and August of that calendar year be capped at a maximum of the amount of their sewer bill for the month of April. The town shall grant this request only for those applicants who have no past-due accounts with the town. Should any account, a user has with the town, become past-due during the months of April, May, June, July or August, the cap shall no longer apply for the remaining part of that calendar year and normal changes will be assessed.

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

CART Program

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, seconded by Councilman T. Pence to approve CART program to be used in the town will the following provisions:

The Elkton Town Council endorses and wishes to participate in the coalitions of Rockingham County towns that the Community Association for Rural Transportation is establishing to apply for a Virginia Department of Rail & Public Transportation grant to develop a county-wide public transportation network. This network will operate for one year in an attempt to demonstrate the county's need for public transportation and will require no funding from the town. The Council believes that such a program would benefit many residents in the Elkton area and authorizes the Mayor to sign the necessary paper work to participate.

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

Appoint Chairman of Water and Sewer

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz appoint Councilman O'Neill as chairman of the water and sewer committee.

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

Reclassifying Position

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilwoman B. Horne to reclassify the electrical position from grade 9 to a grade 10.

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

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilman M. O'Neill to create a Public Works Foreman that would be on a pay grade 11.

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

Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilwoman B. Horne to establish a full time Zoning & Planning Administrator position that would be on a pay grade 12.

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

EPIC Autumn Days

Councilman W. Printz moved to approve the concept as written for the mayor regarding the closing of "B" Street for the Elkton Autumn Days Festival.

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

Historical Society

Councilman W. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman M. O'Neill to accept the request to close South Jackson and Rockingham Street for the Miller Kite dedication on Sunday, April 29 from 11:45 until 3:15.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman L. Sigafoose reported that he has been trying to find an appropriate flagpole for the flag sent to Elkton by the governor. He also reported that a handmade flag costs $875 and an aluminum flag costs $1298. The town is responsible for supplying lighting for the flagpole, reported Councilman Sigafoose.

Councilman L. Sigafoose moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz to accept the approval the expenditure for the new flagpole at a cost $1298.00.

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

Motion carried (6-0)

There was discussion regarding Chief Pullen's mode of transportation from home to work.

Councilman M. O'Neill moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz to go forth with the painting of the Blazer.

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

Councilwoman B. Horne moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz to have Branch Cabell take care of insuring money into CDs for the town.

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

Councilman W. Printz expressed to the council that something needs to be done to regarding the answering service at the town offices. He requested that someone answer the phones rather than an machine. He stressed that some people would have a hard time getting to where they desire to be regarding the answering service. Also he mentioned that someone answering the phones would be beneficial to the town.

Councilman W. Printz also discussed the microphones that are used in the council chambers. He reported that something new should replace the directional microphones.

Councilman Printz expressed his concern for closed session procedures.

Committee meetings were set for the month of April:
Sewer, Water, Electric and Finance - April 10
Streets and Sidewalks, Personnel and Public Safety - April 12

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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

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