**Regular Council Meeting**
**May 21, 2001**
**7:00 p.m.**

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held May 21, 2001at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Millard L. Dearing presiding. The roll call was as follows:

PRESENT

B. Horne
C. Murphy
M. O'Neill
T. Pence
W. E. Printz
L. Sigafoose

Nathan Miller, Attorney, Richard Pullen, Chief of Police, Todd McCoy, Director of Public Works and Donna Gooden, Sr. Clerk were also present.

Mrs. Horne offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**Carroll Campbell-** Mr. Campbell stated that he was led to believe before the election that those running for office were against the golf course and now there has been a complete turn around. Mr. Campbell wanted to know when the town started trimming trees and if it was done for all citizens.

**Lucille Shifflett-** Mrs. Shifflett stated that a year ago she requested a town map and to this day she still hasn't gotten it. Officer Conley has offered to make up some maps. Mrs. Shifflett also said that the dogs are still in the cemetery. Mrs. Shifflett was concerned over the fact that we have qualified people in Rockingham County to fill vacancies but they were not interviewed.

Personnel Chairman Cathy Murphy responded to Ms. Shifflett by explaining our hiring procedures.

**Casey Billhimer-** Mr. Billhimer stated that he would like to thank the Town of Elkton for helping out with the dedication of the Miller-Kite house.

**Mrs. Hutton** - Mrs. Hutton commented on the comparison of the electric to the golf course. Mrs. Hutton stated that electric is needed but that a golf course isn't.

**Randall Snow-** Mr. Snow stated that it didn't matter if no one in Elkton played golf every citizen in Elkton would use the revenue generated from a golf course.

**Mrs. Billhimer-** Mrs. Billhimer commented on the tree issue.

**Minutes**

**Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilwoman B. Horne and carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held April 16, 2001.**

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

**The motion was carried (6-0)**

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, seconded by Councilwoman C. Murphy and carried to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held April 26, 2001.**

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

**The motion carried (6-0)**

**Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilwoman B. Horne and carried to approve the minutes of the Special Council Meeting held May 2, 2001.**

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

**The motion carried (6-0)**

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

### Chief of Police

Chief Pullen commented on a piece of equipment that they have acquired, it is called a thermal imager. The thermal imager is used to detect body heat if a child is lost in the woods at night or if a person is in the river and any part of them is out of the water you would be able to see them at night. It detects heat from the body. It can also be used to detect if someone has a drug lab. It is a $20,000.00 piece of equipment and it cost the town $13.00.

### Director of Public Works

Councilwoman C. Murphy introduced Mr. Todd McCoy as the new Public Works Foreman.

### Treasurer

**Councilman M. O"Neill moved, second by W. Printz to approve the April 2001 finance report as presented.**

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

**The motion was carried (6-0)**

### Town Manager

Councilwoman C. Murphy explained that a special Council Meeting was held on April 26, 2001 to discuss the performance of Mr. Stroemple, it was decided at that time to ask Mr. Stroemple for his resignation effective April 30, 2001. The council did not receive a written resignation so therefore it will go record as a termination by this council. The personnel committee has met since then and it was agreed that we would be advertising for a Town Administrator instead of a Town Manager and there will be some changes made to the job description.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Electric

Councilman Sigafoose thanked the council for helping get the rest of the lights put up. There was a question brought up concerning the lighting at Debbie's Café and it was mentioned that we could put up a light that she will pay for each month. It was brought up concerning the lights on the tennis courts and Councilman Pence felt that there should be a timer put on those lights to come on at 9 p.m. and go off at 11 p.m.

### Finance

Councilwoman Horne stated that most of the time has been spent on budget.

### Personnel

Councilwoman Murphy reported that the committee had met and discussed several issues.

**Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilman T. Pence, carried to abolish the position of police corporal from the current classification table.**

**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 B. Horne, carried to reclassify the position of Equipment Operator, grade 6 to Heavy Equipment Operator, grade 8 on the current classification table.**

**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 B. Horne, carried to approve Personnel Policy 7-Smoking Regulations as presented.**

**YEAS: B. Horne, W. Printz, C. Murphy**

**NAYS: T. Pence, M. O'Neill, L. Sigafoose**

**Motion carried with Mayor Dearing breaking the tie with the stipulation that we will look at the possibility of some type of accommodations for those smokers.**

**Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by B. Horne, carried to accept the resignation of Harry Weber from the Planning and Cemetery Commission effective May 18, 2001.**

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

**Motion carried (6-0)**

Committee meeting for June were set as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Personnel Committee | Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 6 p.m. |
| Finance Committee | Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 6 p.m. |
| Public Safety | Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 6 p.m. |

**Public Health & Safety**

No report at this time.

**Streets and Sidewalks**

**Councilman M. O'Neill moved, seconded by Councilman L. Sigafoose, that the planned state renovation of Rockingham Street be relocated to Spotswood Avenue which is the primary artery between downtown Elkton and the Eastern boundary of the town subject to the following provisions: 1) The Mayor or his designate will inform the state of this charge that is to be effective immediately 2) The State will be directed to begin engineering the project in three phases with the first phase being the section of Spotswood Avenue between Business US Route 33 and US Route 340 and the second phase being the remainder of Spotswood Avenue to the eastern boundary of the town 3) The state will be requested to develop as soon as possible a comprehensive plan for the first phase of the project to allow for improvements along Spotswood Avenue to be implemented in accordance and compliance with that plan 4) The Mayor will inform the state that this action moves the project from a residential street Rockingham to a primary artery Spotswood Avenue in accordance with state funding guidelines.**
**Councilman M. O'Neill moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz carried to withdraw motion until Attorney Nathan Miller could look into it further.**

**Councilman W. Printz moved, seconded by Councilman M. O'Neill, to pass a resolution of the Town Council of the Town of Elkton, Virginia requesting a change in the traffic pattern and the traffic lights on Stuart Avenue at the intersection of Spotswood Avenue and Stuart Avenue and Spotswood Trail and Stuart Avenue.**

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

**Motion carried (6-0)**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ELKTON, VIRGINIA REQUESTING A CHANGE IN THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AND THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON STUART AVENUE AT THE INTERSECTION OF SPOTSWOOD AVENUE AND STUART AVNEUE AND SPOTSWOOD TRAIL AND STUART AVENUE WHEREAS THE ELKTON TOWN COUNCIL APPRECIATES THE**

**COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT AND ELKTON IN FUNDING AND MAINTENANCE OF OUR STATE MAINTAINED HIGHWAY WITHIN OUR TOWN LIMITS AND HOPES THIS RELATIOSHIP WILL CONTINUE WHEREAS THE ELKTON TOWN COUNCIL APPRECIATES THE STATES EFFORTS TO UPGRADE THE TRAFFIC PATTERN AND TRAFFIC LIGHTS ON THE NORTH AND SOUTH CORRIDOR OF STUART AVENUE WHICH IS 340 AT AND BETWEEN THE INTERSECTIONS STATED ABOVE WHEREAS IT IS THE RESPONSIABILTY OF THE ELKTON TOWN COUNCIL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE CITIZENS WISHES ARE REPRESENTED PROPERLY AND THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGES WITHIN OUR TOWN SHOULD BE WITH CONSULATION OF THE COUNCIL WHEREAS THE NEW TRAFFIC PATTERN HAS CAUSED MANY DIFFICULTIES, CONFUSION, TRAFFIC JAMS, COMPLAINTS FROM THE BUSINESSES ON ACCESS AND EGRESS, TRAFFIC LIGHT TIMING PROBLEMS, FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT ISSSUES AND IN SOME CASES SAFETY CONCERNS WHILE TRYING TO ENTER THE CORRIDOR FROM THE NORTH SOUTH CORRIDOR OF STUART AVENUE. BE IT RESOLVED THAT EACH OF THESE ISSUES STATED ABOVE WE THE ELKTON TOWN COUNCIL ARE REQUESTING:**

1. **THAT THE NORTH SOUTH CORRIDOR OF STUART AVENUE BE RETURNED TO A TWO LANE HIGHWAY EXALTY LIKE IT PREVIOUSLY WAS WITH PASSING LANES**
2. **THAT THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT STUART AVENUE, SPOTSWOOD AVENUE AND SPOTSWOOD TRAIL ONLY IN THE NORTH SOUTH CORRIDOR OF STUART BE RETURNED TO A NON DESIGNATED LEFT HAND TURN EXACTLY LIKE THEY WERE PREVIOUSLY**
3. **THAT THIS BE DONE IN A TIMELY MANNER SO AS NOT TO CREATE ANY MORE CONFUSION OR DISCOMFORT FOR OUR CITIZENS AND OUR BUSINESSES**

**Water and Sewer**

Councilman O'Neill stated that the committee has put together a list of water and sewer projects. Elkwood water pressure problem is currently at the top of the list.

**Councilman M. O'Neill moved, seconded by Councilman C. Murphy carried to approve a maximum of $5000.00 be appropriated from the Professional Services budget for the town's portion of the cost of a water and sewer engineering study of the Chicken Hill area and that the Mayor be authorized to sign a contract with Blackwell Engineering and proceed with this study.**

**YEAS:** **B. Horne, C. Murphy, M. O'Neill, T. Pence**

**NAYS:** **W. Printz, L. Sigafoose**

**Motion carried (4-2)**

**Recreation**

**Councilman Pence moved, seconded by Councilman L. Sigafoose to review and revise the recreation commission bylaws: A) Move out of town commissioners from the commission B) Revise rates in town and out of town C) Set a commission whereas the commission member is responsible for overseeing the recreation programs.**

**After discussion Councilman T. Pence motion was withdrawn.**

**Planning Commission**

Councilman M. O'Neill reported that the Planning Commission did not meet.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Councilwoman C. Murphy moved, seconded by Councilman W. Printz to approve Public Safety Policy 7: Police Ride Along as presented.**

**YEAS:** **M. O'Neill, W. E. Printz and L. Sigafoose**

**NAYS:** **B. Horne, C. Murphy and T. Pence**

**Mayor Dearing broke the tie vote. Motion Failed**

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, seconded by C. Murphy, to use railroad money for town improvements only.**

**YEAS: B. Horne, C. Murphy and T. Pence**

**NAYS: M. O'Neill, W. Printz and L. Sigafoose**

**Mayor Dearing broke the tie. Motion carried**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Attorney Nathan Miller explained concerning how the bond issue came about. Attorney Miller has gotten a number of options on the table for the town, but in order to evaluate and arrange those options with Miss Kite, it is necessary to be able to purchase the land if that is the decision the council makes.

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, seconded by C. Murphy, a resolution authorizing the Town of Elkton Virginia to reimburse itself from the proceeds of a Financing for acquisition and development of passive and active community and rural recreational facilities and future needs of the town including the issuance of general obligations by the Town of Elkton, Virginia in the maximum amount of 2 million dollars.**

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

**NAYS: W. Printz and L. Sigafoose**

**Motion carried (4-2)**

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, second by C. Murphy, carried to approve the 2001-2002 proposed fiscal as presented.**

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

**Motion carried (6-0)**

Mayor Dearing brought up the Business License and stated that seventeen letters have been sent out to businesses that have not paid their business license fee. Councilwoman Horne stated that the business should be requied to show a Schedule C before issuing a license.

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, second by C. Murphy, carried that people be required to pay for a business license as far back as they have been in business or set a limit to seven years and if they do not purchase their business license we will notify them that we will take action and we will report them, and if they need a special use permit then they must apply through the Planning Commission for a Special Use permit**

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

**NAYS: W. Printz**

**Motion carried (5-1)**

**First Reading of Utility Ordinance**

**Councilwoman B. Horne moved, seconded by C. Murphy to approve the Town of Elkton ordinance to advise the content of utility parts to accept the changes required for deregulation Section 148-10 in addition to taxes effective with the first bill for electric energy rendered from master readings on or after January 1, 2001 the rate of tax on the electric energy delivered to the user within and outside the town limits as follows: Residential user would be .0011354 per kw hour with a minimum tax of $1.05 per month and a maximum tax of $1.50 per month I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was adopted by a unanimous vote.**

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

**Motion carried (6-0)**

**Councilman M. O'Neill moved, second by W. Printz that the following changes be made to committee assignments add Wayne Printz to the Electric Committee, ass Mike O'Neill to Finance Committee, add Cathy Murphy to Water and Sewer Committee, add Theodore Pence to Mike O'Neill's Personnel Committee, add Mike O'Neill to Streets and Sidewalk Committee.**

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

**Motion carried (6-0)**

**Councilwoman C. H. Murphy moved, second by Councilwoman B. Horne to replace W. Printz as a member of the Personnel Committee with T. Pence. After discussion Mr. Printz offered to resign from the Personnel Committee and the motion was withdrawn by C. Murphy.**

Councilman W. Printz resigned from the Personnel Committee and was put on Electric Committee.

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

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

**RECORDER:** Donna J. Gooden
**Donna Gooden, Clerk**