Regular
Council Meeting
July 15, 2002

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held Monday, July 15, 2002 in the Council Chambers with Mayor Wayne E. Printz presiding. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT

J. T. Dean
C. H. Murphy
T. Pence
L. Sigafoose
R. Snow
P. Workman

Attorney Nathan Miller, Faye Vickers, Treasurer, Todd McCoy, Director of Public Works/Zoning Administrator, Richard Pullen, Chief of Police, and Richard Carey, Clerk of Council, were also present.

Rev. Donnie Meadows and Rev. Floyd offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Community Association for Rural Transportation (CART)

Betty Newell President, Board of Directors, and Laura Davidson, Coordinator of CART, announced that the organization has received public transportation funds from the State of Virginia. She thanked the Elkton Town Council for serving as the public body in order for CART to apply for State funding. A demonstration project will begin in October to service the Harrisonburg-Elkton corridor to address the transportation needs of the elderly, disabled, and/or low income. She described a feeder-collector system wherein smaller vehicles would go door-to-door to pick up the system users and "feed" them into the larger vehicles, vans perhaps, traveling the RT 33 corridor. A series of meetings will seek community input regarding special needs, fare amounts, and the viability of such a system.

State of the Town Address - Mayor Printz

The Council recently passed a balanced 2.7 million dollar budget. Financial security is the heart of a Town's strength and the FY 02-03 budget was balanced with no increases in the personal or property taxes. REPO has a balance of approximately $570,000.00 and the checking account closed with approximately $200,000.00 in reserve funds. The Town does have a heavy debt load with the purchase of the Mary E. Kite property and it is essential that the development produce an area that is self-sustaining.

The infrastructure must be maintained and improved. Streets and Sidewalks require significant improvements. Mayor Printz has asked Councilman Workman to present a comprehensive plan for the most needed areas. Crosswalks, downtown parking, and parking throughout Town need to be studied. Approximately $660,000.00 of the ISTEA grant will be spent in the lower Spotswood area.

The Town's water and sewer system is fairly good. The Town should look at a long-term capital plan to replace lines. The Blackwell study will help determine if the Pentecostal Hill area would be advantageous to the Town under annexation.

The electric department functions well but a better system of reading meters should be considered. Electric generation is an objective.

Our cable provider posses questions and should be discussed.

Under public safety, some of the issues are reinstatement of dispatchers, video cameras, and drug activity.

In summary, the Town is strong but can be made stronger by working with the County and promoting Elkton through some type of economic development committee, or person, and community events. Support is on Council for the development of a Community Center.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Frank Meleski read the following prepared statement:

Address to Town Council
July 15, 2002

Tonight the Council will choose a Vice-Mayor. There are a couple of things that I hope you will keep in mind when you make the decision.

1. Remember that you are choosing a person to represent the people of the town, and not to represent the council.
2. The person you choose should have impeccable moral character, not only as council members but also as members of the community.
3. I was told that the main requisite for being Vice Mayor is determined by seniority. I can't believe that this should be the reason for making the decision, and I can't believe that the Charter says that it is. But if the Charter does say that seniority must come into play, then the one with the longest Seniority serving the Town, would be Randall Snow, since he has served as an elected Councilman for more years than anyone on the council. Randall & I haven't always seen eye to eye, but I believe that he ran an honorable campaign and is a man of honorable character and he certainly has seniority.
4. For all the above reasons, I hope that you will consider Randall to represent the People of Elkton as Vice Mayor.

Mr. Harry Goodman, 101 Mapleleaf Lane, spoke in favor of Randell Snow for Vice Mayor.

Hazel Crider, 114 Hillside, stated that the Neighborhood Watch Night Out is scheduled for August 6. She added that a Vice Mayor should be able to work with the Mayor, they should be able to communicate without animosity or negativism, someone who can represent our Town by his or her knowledge. She felt Randell Snow met all the criteria to serve as Vice Mayor.

Mildred Shifflett, 112 West Spotswood Avenue, expressed appreciation to the Mayor and Town employees for responding to a transformer problem at her home. In agreement with the former speakers, she supported Randell Snow for Vice Mayor.

Mrs. Elaine Austin, 328 East Rockingham Street, asked for a date for repairs to a sidewalk on Rockingham Street. Mayor Printz said her concern will be sent to the Streets and Sidewalks Committee.

MINUTES

Councilman Snow moved, second by Councilman Dean, and carried to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing on June 17, the minutes of the Regular Council meeting on June 17, and the Special Council meeting of July 1, 2002.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Electric

Nothing to report.

Finance

Nothing to report.

Personnel

Councilwoman Murphy deferred to New Business.

Public Health, Public Safety, and Ordinances

Nothing to report.

Streets and Sidewalks

Nothing to report.

Water and Sewer

Nothing to report.

Recreation

Nothing to report.

Planning Commission

Councilman Dean moved, second by Councilman Sigafoose, and carried to approve a Special Exception request by Gary Wood and Ricardo Rodgers to construct mini-storage building number 9 on Shenandoah Avenue.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0)

OLD BUSINESS

Additional $8,000.00 Donation to the Elkton Volunteer Fire Department - First Reading

Councilman Pence moved, second by Councilman Dean, to donate an additional $8,000.00 to the Elkton Volunteer Fire Department from the railroad money for the purchase of a thermal imaging camera.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Approve FY 02-03 Budget Appropriations - First Reading

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Snow, and carried to

approve FY02-03 budget appropriations to include an $8,000.00 donation to the Elkton Volunteer Fire Department as approved.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0)

Amend Chapter 4, Authorities, Article I: Park Authority §4.4 Members - Second Reading

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Pence, and carried as a second reading to amend Chapter 4, Authorities, Article I: Park Authority §4.4 Members to include the statement that no more than 2 members shall be active members of the Elkton Town Council or Mayor.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0)

Amend Bylaws of the Elkton Park Authority, Article I - Officers, Section 2

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Workman, and carried to adopt the amended Bylaws of the Elkton Park Authority, Article I - Officers, Section 2 as deleted, the addition of Article IV - Meetings, Section 5, and the addition of Article 2, Section 3.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Appoint Final Two Members to the Park Authority

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Pence, and carried to appoint Councilman Snow to the Park Authority for a term as specified in the Bylaws.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Pence, and carried to appoint Councilman Workman to the Park Authority for a term as specified in the Bylaws.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Employee Raises

Councilwoman Murphy moved, second by Councilman Dean, and carried to approve a 3% cost of living raise for all permanent and temporary employees, to be made retroactive to July 15, 2002, pending final approval by second reading of the FY 03 budget appropriations.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Resolution - Pledge of Allegiance

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the words "under God" were added by Congress in 1954 at the direction of President Eisenhower, who stated at the time, "In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country's most powerful resource in peace and war."

WHEREAS, the Elkton Town Council proclaims in representing the citizens of Elkton that faith in one's own God is a proud part of our heritage and daily existence while raising our families, serving our country in the military, participating in our churches, watching after our youth or helping the sick and elderly in our community;

WHEREAS, the Elkton Town Council proclaims in representing our citizens of the Town of Elkton that the words "One Nation Under God" in the *Pledge of Allegiance* is not a violation of the First Amendment but an opportunity for us to express our unity and allegiance and love of our country with our flag as a symbol, and to recognize the strength and fortification that religion played in the history of our United State of America;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Elkton Town Council in representation of our Town citizens, strongly requests to retain the words "One Nation Under God" in our beloved *Pledge of Allegiance.*

Adopted by the Elkton Town Council on July 15, 2002.

_____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

ATTEST:_____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk of Council

Councilman Workman moved, second by Councilman Snow, and carried to adopt the Resolution and send to our elected officials.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Select Vice Mayor

Councilman Dean moved, second by Councilman Sigafoose, and carried to go into closed session under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711A to discuss the appointment of a Vice Mayor.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman Dean moved to go from closed session back into regular session and that each member, to the best of his or her 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. Councilman Sigafoose duly seconded the motion.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried (6-0)

Councilman Sigafoose moved, second by Councilman Workman, and carried to appoint Cathy H. Murphy as Vice Mayor of Council.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0)

Mayor Printz gave the remaining calendar year dates for the DMV mobile unit's Elkton visits.

Councilman Workman announced September 11 commemorative activities in Memorial Park. Details will be advertised as plans develop.

Attorney Miller told Council the annexation plat is now in the hands of the County's attorney. Boundary line adjustments for the Kite property and the Cemetery have been submitted to the County. The DeeDee Hensley line adjustment has created a problem, wherein it does not adjoin Town property because the Catholic Church owns property which breaks the connection of Mr. Hensley's property to Town property. Mr. Miller suggested someone contact the church to ascertain if they would be agreeable to a boundary line adjustment to bring them into Elkton's corporate limits.

Mayor Printz set committee meetings for August 13, 2002.

Councilman Dean moved, second by Councilman Workman, and carried to adjourn.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow, and P. Workman

Motion carried by voice vote (6-0)

MAYOR: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

RECORDER: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk