Public Hearing
Charter Revisions
October 17, 2005

The Elkton Town Council held a Public Hearing in Council Chambers on Monday, October 17, 2005 to receive comments on the proposed Charter revisions. Mayor Wayne E. Printz presided. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
J. Dean
C. McDaniel
T. Pence
S. Sigafoose
R. Snow
P. Workman

Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Dennis R. Donachy, Treasurer Clairen Sipe, Director of Public Works Marty Shifflett, Economic Development Director Emily Burner, Sergeant James Morris, and Clerk of Council Richard Carey were also present.

Lee Dearing, 124 North Street, stated, "I have looked at the new Charter for the Town of Elkton and I will tell you this, as a taxpayer and citizen, this document scares the heck out of me." He noted there was no provision for citizen comments, nor were there limits placed on Council for spending taxpayer dollars. He believed the "new" Charter was void of its uniqueness by copying State Code, and he quickly made clear the Town of Elkton is not the State of Virginia and lacked the state's resources. "We are here to write a document that states what the citizens of Elkton want in their Charter," he said. He stated this revision is basically the same document that was rejected by the General Assembly during its last session. He adamantly opposed the stripping of the Mayor's powers and Council delegating all their authority to a Town Manager. Another concern was the absence of a definition for an "eligible voter in the Town of Elkton."

Cathy Murphy, 110 North Stuart Avenue, was present and agreed with Mr. Dearing that "this is pretty much the same document we saw a year ago." She had questions regarding the following sections:

Section 3.1 – Should the first Tuesday of November 2006 be changed to the first Tuesday of November 2008 for the election of Mayor and three Council members? She assumed the date would be changed.

Section 3.4 – She found the section contradictory. On one hand the Mayor was ceremonial and on the other "the Mayor shall see that the duties of the various Town officers are faithfully performed."

Section 3.6 – Currently the Mayor or any two Council members can call a Special Council Meeting. The revised Charter reflects that the Mayor or any four Council members can call a meeting. Attorney Miller clarified the point that if all Council members are present when a Special Council Meeting is scheduled, the members do not need to be notified. However, the rules of public notification need to be followed.

She added that language was needed for a quorum and for Second Readings.

Section 6.1 – Burial place for the dead needs to be clarified as to spending earned interest from the Cemetery account(s).

She asked should the Charter include the right for referendum.

As there were no additional comments, Mayor Printz closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk