REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
December 11, 1972

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held December 11, 1972 in the Council Chambers with the Mayor, Edward F. Garber presiding. The following council members were present: Mr. R. E. Davis, Mr. R. R. Dean, Mr. H. A. Leet, Mr. W. H. McGahey, Mr. A. R. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Workman. Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police, Mr. Marvin C. Hillsman, Jr., Town Attorney and Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk were also present.

Mayor Garber opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting, November 13, 1972 as amended.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey to approve the Finance Report.

The Second Reading of $2,100.00 for tires for the front-end loader was deferred until Mr. Liskey could give a report on recaps.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to approve the Second Reading of $2,400.00 to drain the water on Washington Street.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the Second Reading of $1,413.50 for the audit by Bosserman, Alt, James & Stickley.

The Second Reading to amend Section 30-1 regarding trailers in town was brought before the council. A petition signed by 46 voters was presented to the council objecting to any change in the Town Ordinance which would allow the establishment of trailer parks within the town limits.

Those present opposing the ordinance change were Mrs. Charles Miller, Mr. R. B. Hutton and Mr. L. P. Hale.

Mayor Garber stated that the Health Department had been contacted but stated that they could not take any steps or make any decisions until they receive an application for a trailer park at a definite location.

Mr. R. B. Hutton felt the proposed ordinance change would leave the citizens at the mercy of anyone wanting to place a trailer park in town, would decrease the value of real estate in the vicinity of any trailer park and hasten the deterioration of any area in which they are allowed. He further stated that the proposed ordinance did not place any restrictions or spell out exactly what constitutes a trailer park.

Mr. Hale felt that if this change is made, people will be trying to place single trailers on lots and this would be hard to stop. He felt the present ordinance should continue.

Mr. Tom Hammer came before the council stating that he presently owns a trailer and travel trailer which are not parked in town. He plans to move into the town limits and felt that if he will not be allowed to park his two trailers beside his home, neither of which will be lived in, then he felt trailer parks should not be allowed in town.

Mr. Lewis Jolly, an attorney for Mr. Leroy Kite, spoke in behalf of allowing trailer parks in town. He pointed out that no trailer park could be placed in town without councils permission and pointed out the terms and conditions his client would agree to if allowed to place a trailer on his land in the town limits.

Mr. Leet reported that he had received numerous calls since last council meeting. He had felt at first that the council could control trailers in town but after further study and talking with others who have been involved with these situations, he has become convinced that the council would be foolish to open the door at all. Mr. McGahey said he agreed with Mr. Leet.

Mr. Thompson and Mr. Workman both stated that they felt the change should be given further study.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman to vote on the Second Reading to amend Sec. 30-1. (copy of proposed ordinance in Nov. 13th. minutes). The vote was recorded as follows:

Davis	-	nay	McGahey	-	nay
Dean	-	nay	Workman	-	nay
Leet	-	nay	Thompson	-	nay

Mr. Dean reported that he has not talked with the Methodist Church about the suggestion to make "B" Street, from Ashby to Terrace, one way. This was tabled until the next meeting.

Mr. R. E. Davis reported that midway between "C" & "D" Street there is a storm drain emptying an excessive quanity of water into the sewage system which should be removed. The estimated cost to do this would be $850.00.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to approve the First Reading of $850.00 to remove the storm drain between "C" & "D" which is emptying into the sewage system.

Mr. Leroy Leap pointed out that there is another storm drain on Hill Avenue which is putting a great amount of water into the sewage system. Mr. Davis said that his committee is aware of this and others but plan to remove the biggest contributors first.

Mr. Workman said he would not ask the council to sign any agreement as yet as all the co-ops and municipalities have not approved the purposed agreements which he read at the last meeting. He reported that the VEPCO rate increase is in the hands of the attorneys for further study and there should be a meeting the first of the year to make some final decision.

Mr. Workman reported that Mr. Liskey is out of the hospital but will be unable to return to work until the first of the year. He also presented a price of $4,575.00 from Shaffer Equipment Company for a chipper. This price will go up after December. He felt the council should give some though to purchasing a chipper. No action was taken on the chipper.

Mr. Dean reported that he had turned his list of water problems over to Mr. Liskey and he had said he would get to them as soon as possible. He also reported that the safety barricade on the West side of Terrace Avenue where "B" Street enters has been erected.

Mr. Leet reported that he had checked the drainage in the park and the last time he had freed the end of the tile and water is gushing from it and he did not feel that the present tile could handle anymore water. He suggested the council consider additional drainage using 12 inch rather than 8 inch.

Mr. McGahey reported that he has received numerous questions in regards to our building codes and the issuing of building permits which violate the codes. There was considerable discussion on how to correct this problem. The council decided to study this for thirty days.

Mr. Thompson reported that as Mr. Liskey isn't working, he had ask Mr. Ageon to check the leak in the library.

Mr. Hillsman reported that if the council wishes to change the charter now it would be necessary to have a public hearing the last week in December but they could wait until next December. The council decided to wait until next December as there may be other changes by then.

A letter from Bosserman, Alt, James & Stickley who did the audit was read in which they made the following recommendations:

1. That the town continue to make monthly deposits to a Reserve Fund for emergency repairs to the electric system, and this fund be converted into Certificates of Deposits as the money is available.

2. That the amount of utility deposits required for service from the Town be studied and increases be made for same. A provision should also be made to return deposits to customers after some satisfactory period of paying accounts promptly.

3. That purchase orders be used by all departments in purchasing materials and supplies.

They also suggested that the town make the necessary arrangements to purchase their gasoline and oil in bulk quantities.

No action was taken on these recommendations.

A letter was read from Mrs. John W. Adams, Chairman of the Beautification Committee, Blue Ridge Garden Club, stating that the Garden Club is undertaking the beautification and landscaping of the Elkton Elementary School Grounds. Approximately $3,000.00 will be needed to complete the plans which were drawn by the landscape architect which was consulted. The cost makes the project prohibitive without the financial help of the various organizations, civic groups and local city government and the club ask the towns cooperation.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to donate $75.00 toward the beautification and landscaping of the Elkton Elementary School Grounds.

As there was no further business, Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to adjourn.

MAYOR: Edward F. Garber
Edward F. Garber, Mayor

RECORDER: Norma R. Leap
Norma R. Leap, Clerk