REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
March 12, 1973

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held March 12, 1973 at 8:00 P.M. in the Council Chambers with the Mayor Edward F. Garber presiding. The following council members were present: Mr. R. R. Dean, Mr. H. A. Leet, Mr. W. H. McGahey, Mr. A. R. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Workman. Mr. R. E. Davis was absent. Mr. Homer Ageon and Mr. William Herring, Acting Superintendents, Mr. Charles W. Hammer, Chief of Police, Mr. Marvin Hillsman, Town Attorney and Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk were also present.

Mr. Alan R. Thompson opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting February 12, 1973 as corrected.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to approve the minutes of the special meeting March 1, 1973.

Mr. Arthur Shifflett and Mr. and Mrs. John Fridley of Fourth Street were present to discuss the parking situation in front of their homes. This was deferred until later in the meeting.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the Finance Report for the month of February.

Mr. A. R. Thompson presented a quote from Dodson Bros. Exterminating for $442.00 to eliminate the pigeons at the Municipal Building. It was felt this was rather high and Mrs. Leap was asked to try to get another quote from some other company.

Mr. Thompson stated that it would be necessary to decide from which fund the money for leveling the dump would be taken. As Mr. Davis was absent, no action was taken on this matter.

Mr. Thompson stated that he would not request any action on purchase orders at this time. He also reported that due to fuel shortage nothing can be done in regards to the suggestion from the auditors to purchase our fuel oil in bulk.

Mr. Thompson reported that he had contacted Berlin Eye in regards to the leak in the library, but Mr. Eye has not been able to check the situation yet.

Mr. H. A. Leet reported that there could not be a Second Reading on the leveling of the dump due to the absence of Mr. Davis.

Mr. Leet reported that the Sanitation Committee has bids from two companies but would like to get another bid before making any decision on a new garbage truck. He felt it might be necessary to have a special meeting to act on these bids as some have dates by which the bid would have to be accepted in order to get the reduced price.

Mr. Leet reported that he had checked the ordinances in regards to heights of signs and could not find anything restricting the hi-rise signs.

Mr. Leet reported that the Recreation Department had sponsored a Dribble and Shoot contest last Saturday and that there would be a Ping Pong Tournament this Saturday.

Mr. Herring requested the council consider revising the ordinance pertaining to keeping lots mowed in the town as he feels the present ordinance is hard to enforce. This matter was turned over to the Ordinance Committee.

There was a discussion with Mr. and Mrs. John Fridley and Mr. Arthur Shifflett in regards to their parking problems on Fourth Street which they had been unable to dissolve between them. After considerable discussion, Mr. Hillsman pointed out that Section 17-6 of the Town Code delegates the authority to regulate the operation and parking of vehicles within the corporate limits to the Chief of Police. This matter was turned over to Chief Hammer.

Mr. Dean reported that all three of the "Welcome to Elkton" signs have been painted and repaired. He felt there should be one more sign erected on Route 33 West. Mr. Jeddie Hensley will make an 8 x 16 sign to place on Route 33 West at a cost of $287.00. Mr. Dean stated it would also be necessary to find some area to erect the sign that it could be seen from the highway.

This matter will be studied further and recommendations will be brought back at the next meeting.

There was some discussion on the parking problem on West Rockingham Street. It was felt that possibly one of three things could be done to correct this problem. One was "Two Hour" parking signs be erected, two was "Four Hour" parking signs and three was "Residential Parking Only". This matter was turned over to Chief Hammer.

Mr. Fridley stated that he would like to object to the Town placing a "Welcome to Elkton" sign at the end of Marshall Avenue behind his house before the council takes action on this matter.

Mr. Dean explained to the council that the Town had placed gravel on land belonging to Mr. Herbert L. Baugher rather than on the lots which they are leasing from the Elkton Improving Company by mistake and that Mr. Baugher feels that if people are going to continue to park on his land he should be receiving the rent for a parking area from the Town. Mr. Baugher's offer to rent his land is $25.00 a month or $300.00 annually. This matter was tabled for further study and the council told Mr. Baugher they would give him an answer within two weeks.

Mr. Ageon reported that it was going to be necessary to do some tree trimming on Route 33 and 340 and that due to the red tape involved plus some danger he did not feel the Town could do this themselves. He has contacted Rockingham Construction Company for prices to do this job.

Mr. Ageon also reported that due to the installation of improper equipment at the well and North Avenue pumping station there had been some problems and it would be necessary to make the needed corrections.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to make the needed adjustments at the North Avenue Pumping Station and the Well at a maximum cost of $500.00 and this will be charged to the Water and Sewer Departments.

Mr. Herring reported that he has been having some problems with people living outside the corporate limits bringing their trash and leaving it at the home of friends or relatives for the Town to pick up. He has stopped the ones he knows about and where the people complaining have been willing to act as witnesses but in the areas where those complaining are not willing to be a witness, he does not know what to do about the problem. There was some discussion but no decision was made as to how to correct the problem.

Mr. Herring reported that Mr. Garland Davis's property on North Avenue is partially in town and partially out, and wanted to know what should be done about garbage collection. The council instructed Mr. Herring to check to see if the corporation line takes in any part of his house and if so to give him a garbage pick up, but if not we would not be able to pick up the garbage.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to accept Patrolman Thomas R. Painter's resignation effective March 14, 1973. Mr. Painter resigned to accept another position.

Mayor Garber reported that he had had a long discussion with Mr. Herring and that Mr. Herring had stated that with all the other work he has to do he would like to be relieved of his position as Acting Superintendent. Mayor Garber stated that he has written ads to be placed in the local papers for a Town Superintendent. There was some discussion as to whether the duties of Town Superintendent should be increased to include duties of a Town Manager or going to a Town Manager type government which would require a change in the Town charter. It was also brought to the council's attention by Mr. Herring and Mr. Ageon that there was a need for extra help.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to give Mr. Herring and Mr. Ageon permission to hire a man for the Maintenance Department to help in all areas where needed.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to set the starting salary for this position at $2.10 an hour.

Mayor Garber reported that he had written to the State Department of Highways in regards to removing the bank around the dump but had not received a reply.

Mayor Garber reported that he had written the State Health Department in regards to the water situation at Leroy Kite's chicken houses. He had told the Health Department that as Mr. Kite's chicken houses are out ot town, he did not feel that we were involved in any way. Mr. Herring stated that he felt we would be responsible as there was a possibility that the town system could be contaminated under unusual circumstances if Mr. Kite does not meet the State Health Department specifications.

Mayor Garber reported that he had received a call from Mr. Jim Moyers and that our financial aid for flood damage had been approved except for $500.00 for a flood gate. Mayor Garber stated that there were some reports which Mr. Moyers has not received and will be necessary before payment can be made. Mr. Workman stated that he had mailed the required papers but would make copies and mail them again.

Mayor Garber reported that he had been contacted by Mr. Price in regards to the building code which requires each locality by September 1st. to have a building inspector to inspect buildings periodically. It has been suggested that possibly the towns may want to go in with the county. This was turned over to Mr. Hillsman.

A letter from Mr. Roy E. Davis, President of the Elkton Parent-Teacher Association, was read which contained the following resolution passed by the PTA February 19, 1973:

> "Whereas recent developments have caused considerable discussion regarding parking at the Elkton Elementary School, and since the solution of this matter rests with the Elkton Town Council, the P.T.A. would like to ask the Town Council to give consideration to solutions which would be as favorable as possible to the faculty at Elkton Elementary School".

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from the Virginia Municipal League stating that the league has been notified by the Office of Revenue Sharing that the U. S. Treasury Department will recompute the Federal Revenue Sharing allotments for Virginia's localities. The reason is because the original calculations did not allow for the fact that Virginia had dependent school districts. This means that since monies for school expenditures are drawn from general fund revenues, it is not always clear what proportion of locally raised taxes are allocated to education. It is understood that Virginia's total share was correctly computed. This means that the recomputation of the local entitlements will result in some locality shares being increased while others will decrease. The adjustments will most likely be made in the revenue sharing checks due in April.

Mayor Garber reported that he had a letter announcing that Virginia's first Conference on Public Transportation will be held on March 28th. at the John Marshall Hotel in Richmond, Virginia.

A letter from the Daily News-Record was read in which they requested notice in advance of each of the council's special meetings, and asked that their letter be treated as a continuing request for notice of all special meetings, including informal gatherings work sessions and similar events.

Mayor Garber reported that he had received a notice that the State Water Control Board will convene a series of hearings for the purpose of receiving testimony as to whether or not the Board should amend present water quality standards. A copy of this notice which contains the admendments proposed for adoption and a list of the scheduled hearings is on file in the Treasurer's office.

Mr. Workman reported that there will be an electric meeting April 4th. and 5th. which he plans to attend.

Mr. Herbert L. Baugher asked the council if there was any ordinance which would prohibit his putting some calves on his property behind his house as he would like permission to do so. Mr. Baugher was told that they knew of no ordinances which would keep him from doing this.

Mr. Herbert L. Baugher also stated an interest in allowing overnight campers to park on his lots near the river. This matter was tabled for further study.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

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

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