PUBLIC HEARING
May 29, 1973

A public hearing was held May 29, 1973 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with 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. Marvin Hillsman, Town Attorney and Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk were also present.

Mayor Garber opened the meeting with prayer.

The following town citizens were present: Mr. Lurty Baugher, Mr. Joseph Early, Mr. Ralph Hutton, Mrs. Juanita Jenkins, Miss Diane Jenkins, Mr. Chancelor Lough, Mr. Maurice Lough, Mr. Carl Schumacher, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shomo and Mr. Lloyd Winegard. A representative from the Daily News Record was present along with Rev. Charles Kindred, who lives outside the corporate limits and Mr. Kindred's father.

Mr. Leet read the proposed amended ordinance which the Ordinance Committee had drawn up at the request of the council to amend the present Sec. 26-16 to include a charge for picking up garbage, trash, refuse and other matter. Mr. Leet explained that the cost of handling garbage has steadily increased over the past three years and since we have been required to close our dump and take all garbage and trash to the county landfill there has been an even greater increase in cost. The council feels that with such an increase it has become necessary to start charging a fee for garbage collection.

Mr. Maurice Lough expressed concern over whether the ordinance as written will be enforceable. He also felt it left a lot to the discretion of the Superintendent and it made no provisions for billing, collection, etc. He raised the question as to whether the Garbage Department needs the expected $20,000.00 increase which is anticipated from the collection fees.

Mrs. Juanita Jenkins raised the question of the older citizens on fixed incomes and how they were going to be able to afford all these increases in cost of living. She also wanted to know what would be done about people outside of town placing their trash in trash cans within town without the owners knowing it. Her daughter questioned the council as to whether you would be assessed a collection fee if you hauled your own garbage to the landfill.

Mr. Ralph Hutton stated that he had been the only citizen to attend the Public Hearing on the Budget in the fall and had pointed out to the council at that time that the budget did not include anything to cover the cost of going in with the county on the landfill. He felt the proposed ordinance had too many gaps and that a collection fee was not necessary. He further stated that if the town would use the sources available such as passing the electric increases from VEPCO on to the consumers, taxing school property and policing the town only rather than surrounding counties they would not need a garbage collection fee. Mr. Hutton asked that a breakdown of what is needed in the garbage department budget be given the public.

Mr. Joseph Early felt that $5.00 for small businesses was excessive as for example in his business there would only be a small bag of trash per week.

Mr. Frank Shomo and Mr. Chancelor Lough both felt the purposed rates to be unreasonable and questioned whether they were necessary. Mr. Lough also ask why the council did not publish a more detailed account of the budget needs.

Rev. Kindred asked the town to consider picking up garbage outside of town for those people on town water, sewer and electric as they would be more than willing to pay for this service.

Mr. Hillsman stated that he had not drawn up the ordinance but he felt the ordinance as written was enforceable and Mayor Garber explained that the ordinance had been modeled after Harrisonburg's present ordinance. The council discussed and answered questions on the ordinance.

Mr. A. R. Thompson gave a brief report on the Revenue Sharing.

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

(Over)

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

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