REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
December 10, 1973

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held December 10, 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. A. R. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Workman. Mr. R. E. Davis and Mr. W. H. McGahey were absent. Mr. Homer Ageon and Mr. William Herring, Acting Superintendents, Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police and Mrs. Norma Leap, Clerk were also present.

Mr. R. R. Dean opened the meeting with prayer.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting November 12, 1973.

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

Representatives from the Skyline Cablevision Inc. were present to answer questions on their bid for the T.V. Franchise. Mr. Workman ask about the poles to be used. They plan to use existing power and telephone poles where possible and will pay for any adaptions necessary, and where necessary will place new poles or go underground.

Mayor Garber reported that Mr. McGahey had checked with Woodstock and they are happy with the service they are receiving from Skyline. Mr. Leet checked with Stanley and Luray and they also are satisfied.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried unanimously to accept the bid from Skyline Cablevision Inc. for cable television.

Mr. Dean reported that the attorney which he had mentioned before would be willing to meet with the council but no action could be taken before January.

It was reported that Mr. Eye has completed the spouting repairs and had cleaned out all the others he could get to. Sealer had been put on and the library is now ready to paint. The Women's Club has requested that the town put accustical tile in the library. The council stated they would need some figures before making any decision.

Mr. Ageon reported that work is being done in regards to electric rates, power meters, etc., and Mr. Franz plans to get on this project as soon as possible.

Mr. Herring reported that he had given Mr. Davis information on the upgrading in testing at the sewage treatment plant which the State Water Control Board wants started as soon as possible. He also gave Mr. Davis some quotes from Mr. Ed Forrester to do this additional testing each month.

Mayor Garber stated that possibly he will call a special meeting before Christmas and this matter will be put on the agenda.

A request from Mr. Raymond Gooden for an outside water and sewer connection was presented. This matter was left to the Water and Sewer Committee to bring recommendations back at the Special Meeting.

Mr. Herring reported that the fence in front of the Municipal Building is in bad shape and he wanted to know if the council wants to repair the fence or take it down.

It was reported that Carl Brill ask several years ago to have first chance at the fence if it was ever taken down. Mr. Herring was asked to see if Mr. Brill is still interested in the fence and what he would pay for it.

Mr. Herring reported he had made emergency repairs on Sunday to a fire hydrant. He now needs 3 six inch clamps at $27.00 each and 1 six inch fire hydrant at $280.00 to replace those used in repairs.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to purchase the 3 six inch clamps and the 1 six inch fire hydrant.

Mr. McGahey and Chief Hammer reported that they felt the Town should pay Mr. Hillsman a small fee for the help he is giving until we hire an attorney and if he doesn't present a fee, the Town should send him one anyway.

Mr. Dean reported that he did not have anything yet on sidewalks.

Mr. Dean presented a request from the attorney representing Mr. and Mrs. Lambert who own property on the corner of Shenandoah Avenue and Spotswood Trail. The Lamberts purchased the property from J. L. Farren and are trying to sell the property but find the building is twenty feet over into the right-of-way on Shenandoah Avenue and would like the Town to sell them this twenty feet of land.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to deny this request.

Mr. Gerald Monger ask the council what they plan to do when the Lamberts come back and ask what they are to do about this problem.

The council stated they felt they have the right to not act on this or to force the building to be removed.

Mr. Workman reported that he is working on the electric rates and that a letter has been written to Mr. Franz authorizing him or whoever he sees fit to help with this.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Leet and carried to approve the First Reading to appropriate $700.00 for triplex cable.

Mr. Workman reported there has been some controversy with the Fire Company in regards to cutting wires in case of fire. Mr. Ageon has tried to explain to the Fire Company the danger and that they should not take this responsibility. Mr. Workman stated he would like to write a letter to the Fire Company to absolutely not cut any lines. The council took no action but stated they would look into this.

Mr. Leet made the following report on questions and recommendations in regards to the garbage collection fees.

1. There has been a request for separate billing from electric.

   Recommend not make separate billing but would be willing to give a receipt at the end of the year.

2. Some say they have no trash, what if individual hauls their own and what about residents who are away during winter months, vacations, etc.

   Recommend stick to original billing. The service is provided and must be paid even if not used. Must keep things uniform.

3. Requested that where Non Profit Organizations are involved they not be billed on Small Business rate.

   Recommend the Non Profit Organizations be billed $1.50 per month.

4. Businesses in households and businesses with very little trash felt they were being discriminated against when having to pay $5.00 a month.

   Recommend that if it is a business, regardless of how small, they should pay the business rate.

5. What should be done with those refusing to pay.

   Recommend cutting off their electric service if they don't pay their garbage.

It was felt by some that you could not cut off peoples electric if they didn't pay their garbage fee.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to accept the first four of the above recommendations.

Mr. Leet reported that the Parks and Recreation Committee felt there is a need for an additional tennis court and ask if the council would approve the North End Parking Lot for a basketball court so the present court could be converted into another tennis court. The committee is not asking for money.

There was no strong opposition on the part of the council, but they asked that there be some measurements made and plans set up to prevent kids from being too close to the street.

Mr. Thompson reported that there could not be a Second Reading on the audit bill as all the councilmen voting on the First Reading are not present.

It was reported that all the windows are in the Scout Hut but the bars have not been installed yet.

The town Christmas lights will be turned on for two hours each night beginning December 19th. and continuing through December 25th.

Mayor Garber read letters from Governor Linwood Holton in regards to the energy crisis in which the speed limit has been set at fifty-five miles per hour on any highway and another letter in which suggestions were made on ways to reduce energy uses.

Mayor Garber read a report on the meeting of the Towns of Rockingham County at Bridgewater. None of our council were in attendance. The next meeting will be the second week in February at Broadway.

Mayor Garber reported that it is too late to make a change in our charter in regards to Town Manager but we can make the change in regards to election and time of taking office in regards to the council. Prefiling begins November 13th. and must be in by January 15, 1974 to meet the deadline for Local Bills 1974 General Assembly.

Mayor Garber reported he has written a letter to Delgate Nathan Miller to see what steps are necessary to have this charter change enacted. If necessary to have legal assistance, he will ask Mr. Hillsman if he will help for a fee.

There will be a special meeting December 19, 1973 at 8:30 P.M. to take up matters of business which need to be taken care of before the January meeting.

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