REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
March 11, 1974

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held March 11, 1974 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. R. E. Davis, Mr. H. A. Leet, Mr. W. H. McGahey, Mr. A. R. Thompson and Mr. H. A. Workman. Mr. Homer Ageon and Mr. William Herring, Acting Superintendents, Mr. Charles Hammer, Chief of Police and Mrs. Norma R. Leap, Clerk, were also present.

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

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting February 11, 1974.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the minutes of the special meeting February 26, 1974.

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the Finance Report for February 1974.

Paul Talbot came before the council in regards to some of the historical landmarks in the area. He has been making a study of these and has found many to be in bad condition and ask if anything could be done to improve these conditions. The council took the matter under advisement.

Mr. Ward Suitor of 302 North Stuart Avenue came before the council in regards to Route 340. He stated that he had been informed by a councilman that the State Highway Department does not intend to widen the two blocks requested by council from Business 33 to Spotswood Avenue only, but if any widening is done Route 340 through the entire corporate limits of Elkton from Business 33 North to Shenandoah will be done. Mr. Suitor presented a petition signed by 215 taxpayers opposing the widening of North Stuart Avenue or Highway 340 North.

Mr. George Hensley was present in regards to the light which was placed across the street from his house and he had come to council three months ago asking that it be removed. The matter had been turned over to the Electric Committee and he asked if any report had been made and if not he would be interested in their report.

Mr. Workman stated that he has met with those involved. The light was requested by two of the residents on the street and this was the first complaint he has ever received for too much light. There had been some consideration given to darkening one side of the light. The Electric Committee was asked to study this problem again.

Mr. Robert Lough came before the council in regards to the hiring of a Town Manager. He stated he felt there is some misunderstanding on the part of the town citizens. Many think we have gone to a Town Manager type government when in fact we have merely given a new name to what was previously titled Town Superintendent. Mr. Lough felt this should be clearly stated and the council should take immediate steps in the direction of a Town Manager government.

Mr. Leet pointed out that there is little differnece as in both type governments, the manager is answerable to council.

Mr. Davis stated that council had studied the recommendations made by the Advisory Committee but had more or less decided this is not the way to go.

Mayor Garber stated that the council had not been able to get anything done in regards to changing the type of government as we have not had an attorney.

Mayor Garber reported that he contacted an attorney in regards to the T.V. Franchise and he has made the necessary changes. It now has to be typed and should be ready by next week.

Mr. R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey and carried to approve the Second Reading to purchase a new roter rooter at a cost of $895.00.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis and carried to approve the Second Reading to purchase a new police car through the State at the cost of $3609.35.

Mr. Thompson reported that Mr. Owen Hensley has completed the work in the Treasurer's Office and is working on the tile in the library.

Mr. Thompson reported that Mr. Ayers was going to need an office and had indicated the small room off the kitchen on the first floor would be suitable. The Women's Club had become concerned about this, and the possible need for additional space. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Dean met with Mrs. Hutton in regards to this. There apparently is no written agreement in regards to the rooms on the first floor and the Womens Club would like the council to go on record as to how long they can use the rooms or at least to agree to giving them 30 days notice if the town finds they will need the rooms. This was turned over to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Herring reported that he is still trying to get bids on water proofing the Community Hall. Someone from Zirkle Paint Company had been down but had missed Mr. Herring so he is coming back next week.

Mr. Thompson presented the following quotes on the following office equipment.

2 Desks with L
2 File Cabinets
2 Secretary Chairs
1 Executive Chair

Harrisonburg Office Equipment	$1395.00
Service Stationers Inc.	$1053.50

Mr. A. R. Thompson moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey and carried unanamiously to approve the First Reading to accept the bid of $1053.50 from Service Stationers for office equipment.

Mr. Thompson reported that he would soon be starting on the budget and asked that the various departments turn in their requests as soon as possible.

Mr. Leet reported that the Public Health Committee had met again in regards to the garbage collection fee for small businesses. The following change was proposed.

Sec. 26-16

(C) <u>Businesses</u>

The businesses will be divided into three (3) catagories and charged as follows:

$2.50 small businesses generally having no more than 2 containers per week.

$5.00 medium businesses generally having more than 2 containers per week but requiring no more than 5 minutes per pick up.

$15.00 larger business generally requiring more than 5 minutes per pick up.

Mr. Dean stated he felt that the small businesses who would receive a break on the change in the garbage fee were already receiving a break in their business license and he did not feel the fee should be changed on garbage.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Davis to amend Sec. 26-16 Item (c) to read as follows:

Sec. 26-16

(C) <u>Businesses</u>

The businesses will be divided into three (3) catagories and charged as follows:

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$5.00 medium businesses generally having more than 2 containers per week but requiring no more than 5 minutes per pick up.

$15.00 larger business generally requiring more than 5 minutes per pick up.

The vote was recorded as follows:

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

Mr. Leet reported that after checking the parking area on Spotswood Avenue in front of the present basketball and tennis courts, the Recreation Committee has found that the proposed basketball court would not interfere with the tree and would be twenty five feet from the street line. He ask the council to be considering the proposal in regards to another court.

Mr. Leet reported that a Ping Pong Tournament will be held March 15th. and 16th. at the Elementary School Gym. Sixty five people have already signed up for this event.

Mr. Workman reported that half of the information required for the electric rate study has been completed and expect the remainder this week.

Mr. Workman stated that he did not tell Mr. Suitor that he was going to Richmond in regards to the widening of Route 340 but as a committee member on one of the Virginia Municipal League Committees. He stated that he has worked for the past years in regards to the widening of Route 340 from Route 33 Business to Spotswood Avenue.

Mayor Garber stated that at no time has the town asked for any widening of Route 340 except for the two blocks from Route 33 Business to Spotswood Avenue and that according to information he and several other councilmen had received, the State would not consider this unless requested by the town.

Mr. Suitor requested that the petition he presented be forwarded on to the proper State authorities.

Mr. Herring reported that the mulch pile at the river has caught on fire and that several people has asked for some of this mulch. The council gave Mr. Herring permission to give this mulch to those who want it.

Mr. Davis reported that they are still working on the filter system for the well but the Health Department is still the holdup. They hope to have this soon.

Mr. Davis reported that they have been in contact with several firms in regards to the infiltration into the sewerage system on North Avenue. There is a local firm in Waynesboro which is interested. The sewer backing up on the lower end of town is still presenting problems also.

Mr. H. A. Workman moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean and carried to authorize Mr. Davis to contact the Waynesboro firm to get fixed prices on the infiltration problems.

Mayor Garber reported that he had met with Mr. Robert N. Greathead of James C. Wilkins & Assoc. Inc. of Harrisonburg, Virginia, who would be interested in providing the engineering services if we do any annexing.

Mr. Dean reported that they had been unable to do any work on the sidewalks due to the weather but hope to get started next month. He also reported that they had been able to receive only one bid on the proposed street work.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. A. R. Thompson and carried to open the one bid.

Mr. R. R. Dean moved, seconded by Mr. H. A. Workman and carried to approve the First Reading of $19,818.90 from Elkton Paving, Inc. for the following street work:

Wirt Ave. - from Shenandoah to First and from First to Spotswood Ave. Prime & double seal 1,030' x 20'	$ 2,517.90
Terrace Ave. - A Street to Ashby Ave., apply 2" Black Base on 1,530' x 20'	7,020.00
Ashby Ave. - B Street to Spotswood Ave. 552' x 18' apply 1" Plant Mix, S-5	1,364.00

Ashby Ave. - C Street to Terrace Ave. 363' x 18' apply 1" S-5 Plant Mix	880.00
Fairfax Ave. - Sixth Street to Seventh Street 63' x 20' - apply 1" S-5 Plant	1,650.00
Marshall Ave. - Sixth Street to Seventh Street 670' x 20' - apply 1" Plant Mix, S-5	1,804.00
E Street - 340 to Jackson Ave. - 655' x 18' - apply 1" Plant Mix, S-5	1,605.00
Lee Street - C Street to D Street - 442' x 18' - apply 1" Plant Mix, S-5	1,078.00
Morgan Ave. - C Street to D Street - 448' x 18' - apply 1" S-5 to be widened 2' more to 18'	1,100.00
Morgan Ave. - D Street to Deadend - 20 tons Black Base on West side in low spot - 179' x 18' - Apply 1" S-5	800.00

Mr. Dean reported that Mr. Gerald Monger is working on the North Avenue water problem and will have some figures available soon.

There was some further discussion on the reported widening of Route 340.

Mr. H. A. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey to vote on the petition to show approval or disapproval.

Mr. Norris Shifflett stated that he feels a by-pass would kill the town as any town needs a main street.

Mr. Workman stated that he feels this council should not take a vote on the petition.

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from W. J. Osborne, Resident Engineer, in regards to a series of public meetings for the purpose of giving citizens and public officials additional opportunities to participate in the highway decision making process. The meeting for the Staunton District will be held at the Staunton District Office, Monday, March 18, 1974 beginning at 10:00 A.M.

Mr. Leet moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. McGahey to withdraw their motion.

Mr. W. H. McGahey moved, seconded by Mr. R. R. Dean to adopt into record the petition presented by Mr. Ward Suitor. The vote is recorded as follows:

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

A note from the Secretary of the Elkton S.C.A. was read thanking the council and Mr. Herring for the "Blue and Gold Drive" sign.

Mayor Garber reported on a copy of a letter he had received from Edwin W. Davis, Fire Chief of the Elkton Volunteer Fire Co. to Ms. Jane G. Valentine, Supervisor, Homes for Adults in regards to the inspection of Elkton Rest Haven, licensed under the names of C. B. and Alice G. Hamm. Mr. Davis states in the letter that his inspection found some discrepancies and that he did not recommend that the state renew their license. The town treasurer was instructed not to issue town license to Mr. and Mrs. Hamm until a letter is received stating that they meet the required standards and regulations to pass inspection.

Mayor Garber read a letter from Mr. C. B. Hamm asking for permission to clean up and use the strip of land behind his barn on "M" Street belonging to the town. He has no intentions of building anything, but may plant some peach trees and possibly some grape vines. The council denied Mr. Hamm's request.

Mayor Garber presented the following bid from Mr. H. R. Breeden to paint the library rooms.

We will furnish all labor, equipment, insurance and material to paint the subject rooms as follows:

1. Do all necessary prepatory work such as cleaning, sanding, covering and minor patching.

2. Apply the best grade of paint as manufactured by the Sherwin-Williams Company to all previously painted surfaces to your satisfaction for the sum of $366.00.

3. If ceilings are replaced a deduction of .12 per sq. foot will be made.

4. If texture is desired an additional charge of $22.00 per room will be added.

If accepted this work can be done at your convience and in type and color of your choice.

There was some discussion on paneling the rooms rather than painting. This was turned over to the Finance Committee to get prices.

Mayor Garber presented a notice from the Virginia Municipal League in regards to room reservations for the annual convention to be held in Roanoke in September and asked Mrs. Leap to make reservations for six rooms.

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from Governor Godwin in regards to Executive Order No. Two putting into effect a mandatory gasoline distribution plan. He cited paragraph VI of the order which leaves the part of the plan relating to the hours of operation of service stations to local initiative. He also ask that each locality would designate one of their local public employees or officials to coordinate all activities in this field and maintain contact with the State Fuel Allocation Office in Richmond.

Mayor Garber reported that the town has met with the local service station operators and have helped establish hours of operations.

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from the State Water Control Board in regards to a Survey of Needs for Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plants in 1974. The purpose of the survey is to determine long-range requirements for wastewater treatment facilities and to serve as a basis for Virginia's share of the Federal grant program in fiscal year 1976. The survey will be coordinated through the Planning District Commissions.

Mayor Garber reported on a letter from the Virginia Municipal League in regards to a recent decision in a case involving several localities and VEPCO where it was decided that sale of electricity to local governments does not fall under the jurisdiction of the SCC for rate setting. The letter is on file in the office.

Mayor Garber commented on his terms in office and made some suggestions of ways to raise additional revenue. One suggestion was raising the tax rate from $0.75 to $1.35 on Real Estate and Personal Property, and the electric rates. He also pointed out that we have been losing revenue due to VEPCO's increases which have not been passed on to the consumer.

Mr. Herring suggested the town be thinking about a sub-division ordinance. He suggested we ask other towns for copies of their ordinance.

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