REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
May 9, 1983

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held May 9, 1983 at 8:00 P.M. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present: V. L. Cook, Jr., R. E. Davis, S. P. H. Flick, B. B. Holt, T. G. Hulings, and R. L. Snow. Gerald Monger, Superintendent and Dale Davenport, Attorney were also present.

Mr. George Williams was present and stated that he knows Mr. Monger has been over on Washington Avenue, has done some surveying and they are still waiting to have their water problem corrected. Councilman Holt reported that while the committee was surveying the town regarding the weeds, junk, etc. they took another look at Mr. William's water problem and Mr. Monger has come up with a more economical way to drain this area and solve this problem.

Mr. Kenneth Whittington of Elkwood was present and expressed his appreciation for having the drainage problem on Mapleleaf Lane resolved.

Mayor Dean presented a letter from Mrs.Carolyn Gooden of the Blue Ridge Garden Club requesting permission to place tubs of flowers in appropriate places on the streets of Elkton.

Councilman Holt reported that he had received a telephone call from Mrs. Crider of Elkwood asking him to again raise the matter of the three things she is concerned about in Elkwood; the water pressure, the deterioration of the road structure and the lighting situation. Councilman Holt asked that these request be addressed under the appropriate committee reports.

Councilman Holt stated that he would like to make a remark regarding the report in the minutes of April 14, 1983 on their attendance at the Board of Supervisors meeting. He would like to make it quite clear that while the town is of course interested in helping the people across the river, so far as sewer and water are concerned the inquiry about town and county cooperation was initiated by the county. It was not something that the town asked for in the event something should arise about this in the future. He wanted this clarification as a matter of record.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, the motion was seconded and carried to approve the minutes of the regular meeting April 11, 1983.

Mr. Monger gave the following report:

1. The sewer project on the lower end of town is being advertised at present and bid opening is set for May 27th.

2. They have been doing some work on the Washington Avenue Project and a quick estimate on cost would be approximately $16,000.00 unless they find they can make some changes.

3. Paving has been advertised and bid openings will be May 20th.

4. They are getting some sidewalk prices but don't know when these will be in.

Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger what priorities have been set for the street paving. Mr. Monger listed them as follows:

1. Shenandoah Avenue from Kite's Trailer Park to Spotswood Trail.
2. Spring Avenue from Sixth Street to the Railroad.
3. "D" Street from Jackson Avenue to North Street.
4. If Route 340 is finished, we will pave Spotswood Avenue from where the State stops paving back to the West side of Hill Avenue.

Sidewalks were listed as follows:

1. From the Dry Cleaners to "D" Street.
2. From High's Ice Cream back to Lucky Sigafoose's house.

Mr. Monger reported he has been looking at rollers and has one he feels we should buy at a cost of $7,800.00.

Councilman Davis reported that the Public Safety Activity Reports have been distributed to council. They will be coming out in the near future with some new reports which will give comparative figures. He also reported that the officers are in their new uniforms.

Councilman R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Councilman V. L. Cook Jr. and carried to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Councilman R. E. Davis moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to go from Executive Session back into Regular Session.

Councilman Flick presented the Finance Reports for March and April.

Councilman S. P. H. Flick moved, seconded by Councilman B. B. Holt and carried to approve the finance reports as presented.

Councilman Flick presented the following First Reading on the 1983-84 Budget:

EXPECTED REVENUE	
Utility Accounts	
Electric Department	$ 873,500.00
Water Department	56,104.00
Sewer Department	122,815.00
	$1,052,419.00
General Fund	$ 277,986.00
TOTAL EXPECTED REVENUE	$1,330,405.00
EXPECTED DISBURSEMENTS	
Utility Accounts	
Electric Department	$ 764,354.00
Water Department	86,993.00
Sewer Department	122,216.00
	$ 973,563.00
General Fund	
General Government	$ 30,561.00
Garbage Department	72,617.00
Street Department	82,573.00
Public Safety	168,769.00
	$ 354,520.00
TOTAL EXPECTED DISBURSEMENTS	$1,328,083.00
SURPLUS	$ 2,322.00

There was some discussion regarding employee rate increases. The Finance Committee when preparing the budget included a 5% increase for pay raises. This was to include a 3.4% cost of living increase across the board for all employees and increases (including cost of living) up to 6% on merit. Some council members felt that in light of some job performances by some of the employees they could not endorse an across the board increase. It was decided that each Department Head would be allowed a total of 5% for increases and would prepare Job Performance Rating sheets with their recommendations of increases for each employee. The Mayor would prepare the ratings for the Department Heads. These ratings and recommendations would be reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved before the Second Reading is taken on the budget.

Mayor Dean reported that we have received a bill from Larry Hoover for representing the towns of Broadway, Elkton, Grottoes, Mt. Crawford and Timberville in their opposition to adoption by the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors of McGaheysville Community Service Area Plan in the amount of $200.00.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, the motion was seconded and carried to approve the payment of $200.00 to Lawrence Hoover.

A Public Hearing on the proposed 1983-84 Budget was set for June 6, 1983 at 7:30 P.M.

Councilman Hulings reported that we are in communications with Vepco as to their upcoming rate increase but have no specific amount at this time as the amount has not be approved as yet by either the SCC or FERC.

Mr. Monger stated that ElectriCities will be fighting this rate case but this will be the last time they will do this. In the event they do not fight according to the way we think they should, the Virginia Municipal Electric Association No. 1 is going to step in and take up that battle.

Councilman Snow stated he would like to wholeheartedly endorse the Blue Ridge Garden Club's beautification project and asked if council needed to take any action on this. Mayor Dean stated a motion was not necessary as everyone on council was in agreement with the project.

Mr. Monger was given permission by council to purchase the roller at a cost of $7,800.00.

Councilman Snow reported that the Street Committee did observe the cracking up of streets in Elkwood as requested by Mrs. Crider and decided that although it is a little unsightly, it is not an alarming structural problem at this time. At present it is a low priority item as far as the committee is concerned.

Mr. Monger reported that as far as street lights in Elkwood, all he has done is contact Vepco, not in regards to any more lights, but to try to find out who told them what kind of shades can be used, or how you can change bulbs, to make the lighting brighter. Vepco as yet has not given him an answer. Mr. Monger felt the only way this could be done is to change globes and this might require changing the whole light. Avery Whitfield verified that you would have to change the whole light to get a prism effect. Councilman Snow felt maybe we should try changing the lights on the old ones before putting any more street lights up. It was decided that the committee would look into the possibility of putting in two more lights, one at the corner of Mapleleaf at Mr. Whittington's and one going up the hill into Elkwood.

Councilman Holt reported that the Valley Banner had pretty well covered in the paper the inspection tour made by Councilman Davis, Councilman Holt, Mr. Monger and Chief Nadeau. This committee drove through almost every street and passable alley in town. In so far as junk spots are concerned, they came up with between thirty and forty different citable instances and approximately a page on a legal sheet of what we would classify as "junk" automobiles. Some of these will not qualify as they looked first at those automobiles not having current license plates, which does not necessarily mean they would fall within the provisions of the ordinance. They feel that the citizens have been aware of this and have had every possible opportunity to voluntarily comply, so they are going ahead with enforcement of these ordinances. They will start with the most flagrant violators first. After making the inspection, they felt it should be brought to the attention of the people who may have forgotten that Section 9-1-1 of the town code provides that it shall be unlawful for any person to keep any of the following animals in the town: horse, mule, donkey or pony; cattle, goat, hog, or other livestock of any nature. This is not a new ordinance and there are some instances of violation of this code. People are keeping livestock within the town boundaries and they will have to be removed. Also Section 9-1-3 says it shall be unlawful

for any person to keep or maintain in the town any chicken, turkey, duck, goose, guinea, or poultry of any description whether or not such fowl is penned or confined. They noticed quite a few fowl in the town. It is a violation of the ordinance and the violation has to be stopped.

Councilman Cook reported that as far as water pressure in Elkwood, we are still working on a loop which would come across the road at the Little League Ball Park and connect to a water line on North Street. Two things we need yet is an easement first and then we will have to bore under the highway. This will probably have to be done by a private contractor. Mr. Monger stated he feels the water pressure in Elkwood is no worse than in some other areas. It seems some people in Elkwood have water pressure problems and others do not, but the loop would help. Councilman Snow stated that the easement can be signed at any time.

Mayor Dean stated he has a request from the Blue Ridge Garden Club for a water hydrant down at the triangle. Mr. Monger stated that putting in a hydrant there would be a problem. When the plants were put in at the triangle there was an agreement with John Hostetler to get water from the hydrant there at the little service station. Mr. Monger did not know if anyone has talked with Rodney Harman about this since he took over, but felt that Mr. Harman would probably let us get water as it does not involve that much. Mr. Monger stated he would contact Mr. Harman if the Mayor wanted him to.

Carolyn Gooden stated she wasn't aware of the request at the triangle but thought they were asking for a faucet to get water on the outside of the Municipal Building so they could water the plants out front.

Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger and Councilman Cook to get with Carolyn Gooden and try to solve the problem at the triangle and see what they can do here at the Municipal Building.

Councilman Snow requested that should we put a hydrant or something on the outside of this building, if it would be possible to put a drinking fountain nearby. Mr. Monger stated they would look into this.

Councilman Davis stated that one thing that bothers him and numerous other citizens of the town is the lights burning on the tennis and basketball courts hours on end on bad nights when no one is around. He does not object to using this for recreation but he feels this is wasteful to burn lights when the courts are not in use. He recommended a committee, or some other method, be set up to study this problem and come up with an effective solution. He stated that he feels strongly enough about this that if we haven't implemented something within the next sixty days or by the July meeting, he will bring a motion on the floor at that time to discontinue the use of the lights on the courts until some efficient manner can be made to use them.

Mr. Monger stated that they were discussing this last week and decided the best thing to do is put a switch in the dispatcher's office and let her cut off the lights when the courts are not in use.

Councilman Davis suggested something be done so that we can cut off the lights on the tennis courts as they are not used during the winter months. Mr. Whitfield stated it would cost approximately $100.00 to separate the lights on the tennis court from those on the basketball court. Councilman Hulings stated that he has played out there and the present lighting system is lousy, as well as the court itself. He is surprised the town hasn't been sued. There are pipes sticking up that you can not see due to the shadows. He feels if we are going to the trouble to put a new switch out there we should put a couple more lights as it is not a good situation as much as it is used. Mayor Dean requested the Electric Committee to meet with Mr. Monger and Mr. Whitfield to try to work something out on the light situation by the next council meeting.

Mayor Dean asked Mr. Monger, that as people come in to give him prices on the paving of the streets, to get prices on what it would cost to put an inch of S-5 on the courts.

Mayor Dean stated he had made a mistake when presenting the bill from Larry Hoover for $200.00 and did not include the bill from Bill Wise who also helped in opposing the adoption by the Rockingham County Board of Supervisors of the McGaheysville Community Service Area Plan. Mr. Wise's bill is for $200.00 also.

Councilman B. B. Holt moved, seconded by Councilman T. G. Hulings and carried to pay Mr. Bill Wise the $200.00.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: Charles E. Dean
Charles E. Dean, Mayor

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