REGULAR
COUNCIL MEETING
March 21, 1994

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held Monday, March 21, 1994 at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers with the Mayor Charles E. Dean presiding. The following council members were present:

PRESENT

F. A. Bennett
W. E. Printz
R. L. Snow
T. R. Whitfield III

ABSENT

R. C. Davis
M. B. Fuller

Robert Keefer, Attorney, Norma R. Leap, Clerk, Gerald K. Monger, Superintendent and Warren Pence, Chief of Police were also present.

Mrs. Jeanie Eye, Teacher and several students from the Elkton Elementary School were present. They would like council to consider renaming "B" Street to something historical. She presented council members with a little booklet which was prepared by some of the teachers as a study of local history for third graders. The title of the book is "Elkton Our Heritage". Elizabeth Dofflemyer, Fifth Grader and Ashley Foris, Jessica Gooden, Adam Elder and Bryan Ailes, Third Graders, all read letters they had written suggesting a name for the street and why they chose that name. Mrs. Eye reported that the name Adam Miller was the first choice of the majority of the students. They presented a list of names for consideration.

Mayor Dean thanked Mrs. Eye and the students for their interest and stated this would be passed on to the Streets & Sidewalks Committee for further study.

Mr. B. W. Gooden was present in regards to Warren Avenue and the water run off problem. He stated that Warren Avenue was suppose to be widened, drainage put in and the sidewalks repaired. However he has been told this has been put on the back burner due to the upper Spotswood Avenue project. He pointed out that he really feels sorry for the residents on Spotswood but that job has been on the back burner for so long it is probably spoiled by now. He feels the town should get their priorities in order, schedule the jobs, set a completion date and work toward the completion of these projects.

Mr. Kenny Kite stated he is in agreement with Mr. Gooden. Warren Avenue does need to be widened and the sidewalks are in need of repair. He requested council consider setting up a time schedule for the completion of the Warren Avenue project. He pointed out that the dumpster in front takes up a much needed parking space and feels this could be moved to another area.

MINUTES

A motion was presented by Councilman R. L. Snow, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz and carried to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing March 21, 1994 and the Regular Meeting March 21, 1994 as presented.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Pence reported that they have not received the new police car as yet. He also reported they charged an individual yesterday for the vandalism at Mr. Bill Holt's place of business.

Town Superintendent

Mr. Monger had presented a written report to council. He added to the Water Report that they had to replace a motor at the well. Mr. Monger stated they will need to bring up the boat ramp contract later in the meeting.

A Public Hearing was set for Monday, April 18, 1994 at 7:00 p.m. on the request by Mr. Sherman Stover for a Special Use Permit to operate a Home Occupation Business at 96 Ashby Avenue.

Treasurer

A motion was presented by Councilman R. L. Snow, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to approve the Finance Report for February 1994.

Mrs. Leap reported she has received the renewal proposal from the Local Choice Benefits Program for the health insurance. This is the only proposal received as of this date. She has given information to another company but they have not come back with a proposal as yet.

Mrs. Leap reported that the donation the town gave to the Rockingham Public Library in memory of Ralph B. "Penny" Hutton was used to purchase the book "Folk and Decorative Art of the Shenandoah Valley" by the Shenandoah Valley Forklore Society. The book is located in the Elkton library.

Mrs. Leap requested council remove a number of 1992 Taxes in the amount of $884.87 which have been abated by the county or the people did not live in the town.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric Committee

Mr. Monger reported that the Regulator Station is approximately 90% complete. Footings were dug Friday for the control building.

Finance Committee

Councilman Snow reported that his committee is still waiting to receive information from NationsBank regarding investments before making any recommendations.

Public Health, Ordinances & Recreation Committee

Councilman Whitfield reported that at a prior meeting the council had requested the design firm of Frazier & Associates of Staunton to submit design perspectives for the town hall to be renovated under the Virginia Main Street Program. These perspectives were received and there were some suggestions for an update on this. Councilman Whitfield stated he will be meeting with Cathy Frazier of Frazier & Associates on March 31st to discuss with her the facade changes and at that time they will come back with a cost estimate.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee

Councilman Printz thanked Mr. Gooden for his comments on Warren Avenue. He pointed out that one of the main reasons they have had problems with establishing a schedule and getting the work accomplished is the cost. The committee did tour the town, listed all the problems and set priorities. Warren Avenue was a lower priority. Councilman Printz stated he would make a commitment to Mr. Gooden to set up some kind of scheduling program. The committee will be meeting this week and they will look at this problem and get back with Mr. Gooden on what they feel can be done regarding a schedule.

Councilman Printz reported that the parking problem in the lower section is a serious problem. This will need to be studied further and there will need to be some type of parking arrangements made.

Mr. Gooden stated he feels it would help the town if "A" Street was opened.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett to approve the application to proceed with the boat ramp.

Mr. Monger reported that there was some problems with the first contract. Mr. Davenport has worked with Mark Parrott of the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries and they have come up with a contract they feel everyone can live with. This project has to be completed and all bills in by June 20, 1994. The estimated cost is $49,300.00. The town's part would be about $12,500.00 and would come from the Recreation Department's budget. Mr. Monger stated he feels this can be completed if the weather permits.

A vote was taken and recorded as follows:

YEAS: F. A. Bennett, W. E. Printz, R. L. Snow and T. R. Whitfield III

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman T. R. Whitfield moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to approve on Second Reading the allocation of funds not to exceed $45,000.00 to renovate the former Elkton Police Department for use as a community library.

Councilman Printz stated the deciding factor for him in spending this money was the handicapped access factor.

Mayor Dean and Mr. Monger have talked with several contractors regarding this project and they will definitely get some firm prices before beginning work and let council know the cost.

Councilman Bennett pointed out that this is town money being used for the county. He stated he is not opposed to a library but he feels this decision to spend this much money needs a lot of further consideration. More space is needed in the town offices and council needs to look at the overall picture before undertaking any major renovation project.

Mr. Gooden reported that some of the women in the Woman's Club are interested in trying to raise money to build a new library. His wife was wondering what the time schedule is, how long the town would give the Woman's Club to try to raise the money and if the town would donate the $45,000.00 as a start toward a new library.

Councilman Whitfield felt the $45,000.00 would be money well spent in renovating the old police department and would be an incentive to others.

Mrs. Leap read some statistics prepared by Joyce Moyers, Director of the Rockingham Public Library on the Elkton Library. In the ten year period 1982-83 to 1992-93, circulation of books and periodicals has increased from 4,047 to 7,902, a 95% increase. Comparing the past two years, Story Hour attendance (3 to 5 year old children) has increased from 519 to 560, a 7.9% increase. In comparing the past two years, Summer Reading Club membership has increased from 69 to 118, a 71% increase.

Councilman Bennett asked if there was a breakdown between county and town resident usage. Mayor Dean stated that this isn't broken down but is probably comparable to recreation which is about 70-30.

The vote was taken on the motion and recorded as follows:

YEAS: W. E. Printz and T. R. Whitfield III

NAYS: F. A. Bennett and R. L. Snow

Mayor Dean voted **YEA** to break the tie.

Councilman Printz reported that he has received several calls from people in the EAUS and they feel council is voting against them by trying to put the library down there. He stated he supports EAUS very strongly and this is not a vote against them. Council is just trying to correct some problems which exist with the library the way it is now.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman W. E. Printz to approve the resolution regarding the landscaping project for the two entrance ways to Elkton.

Councilman Bennett asked if this project is going to be bid and Mayor Dean stated, as a member of the EDRC Design Committee, he will insist on this being done.

The vote was taken on the motion and carried.

Councilman R. L. Snow moved, seconded by Councilman F. A. Bennett and carried to abate 1992 Taxes in the amount of $884.87.

Councilman F. A. Bennett moved, seconded by Councilman R. L. Snow that council accept the recommendation from the Board of Zoning Appeals to recommend the reappointment of Leroy M. Leap to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Councilman Whitfield stated he is a strong advocate for term limits across the board in government and he will be voting no solely on this basis, no reflection on Mr. Leap.

The vote was taken on the motion and it carried 3-1.

Mr. Monger stated he has been in touch with the residents on Spotswood Avenue and they are aware that the Water and Sewer Committee will be meeting to discuss the water problem.

Mayor Dean distributed interview schedules to the council members.

Mayor Dean asked the Street Committee to set up a meeting to talk about renaming "B" Street and also to get with Mr. Monger to discuss what the town wants to do about the upper Spotswood Avenue priority and to set some priorities.

Councilman Snow reported that Mary Liz Humphrey had given a presentation at the last Recreation Meeting on the Dance Program and he had asked her to present this to council.

Ms. Humphrey presented a report to council on the great progress that has been made in this area. She distributed a copy of her schedule, etc. to council members and expressed her gratitude to council and the Recreation Commission for their sponsorship.

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