Committee Meetings
February 20, 2003

The Standing Committees of the Elkton Town Council met at 6:00 P.M., on Thursday, February 20, 2003 in the Council Chambers. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT

W. Printz
J. T. Dean
C. H. Murphy
L. Sigafoose
R. Snow
P. Workman

Faye Vickers, Treasurer, Richard Pullen, Chief of Police, Todd McCoy, Director of Public Works/Zoning Administrator, and Richard Carey, Clerk of Council, were also present.

Mayor Printz was contacted by the Dry Run Property Owners Association and was asked to reserve the Council Chambers for their meeting. Council expressed no objection to the request.

A resolution will be required to reduce the Bond interest rates from 5.0% to 3.8%. Farmers and Merchants and Rockingham Heritage agreed to match the terms offered by Sun Trust. Mayor Printz stated the terms with the two local banks remain the same, meaning no additional paper work, choosing a new plan, nor a Public Hearing would be required. Mayor Printz stated the yearly payment of $180,000.00 - $190,000.00 would drop to $140,000.00 per year saving the Town approximately $400,000.00 over a ten-year period. A discussion followed in which the terms of 15, 20, and 25 years comparisons among the banks raised questions about actual savings for the Town. Mayor Printz stated he would have Mr. Miller present the plan to Council at the Council meeting.

A lengthy discussion regarding electric connection rates ensued as a result of an inquiry from the McDaniels Group, which needs service to nine suites in ShenElk Plaza. The current $2,000.00 connection fee rate was considered to be too high by the McDaniels Group. Council was divided as to maintain rates or to lower rates. Mayor Printz stated he would assemble additional information for Council.

Out-of-Town Water and Sewer Connection Fees/Rates

Council was confused by a fax from Miller & Earle in which connection fees and water and sewer rates were addressed. Council asked for clarification of the memo, as Council could not recall being advised by the attorneys during the process of raising connection fees and rates that a study should have been conducted or that its actions could be open to interpretation of "fair and reasonable" by the courts, if their actions were challenged.

Council member Snow added that "fair and reasonable" are what Council could justify. He stated that pulling a figure out of thin air without data to support it was not justifiable, thereby failing to be "fair and reasonable."

Council member Workman believed these policies were enacted by an angry Council which was dissatisfied with the then stalled annexation negotiations, and it was, "right or wrong," a pressure move. Council member Snow stated, "Some of the things you guys did before, we are going to have to go back and redo because you did not have a logical basis, and I'm talking about water rates, out-of-town water rates. The letter I got said they won't stand up...I'll support lowering them."

Mayor Printz informed Council that the attorneys will be writing TYCO Corp., t/a Pizza Hut, regarding some issues.

The use of the senior citizen van should be coordinated with Lynn Meadows. Council insisted CART's insurance coverage be in place and proof of insurance must be presented to Council.

Bruce Senn has offered a piano for the Kite mansion. It will cost approximately $500.00 to restore it for use. Council member Dean wanted justification to spend $500.00 restoring something that might be used a couple of times a year. Council member Snow suggested the cost be added to a list submitted by Council member Workman for other needed repairs at the Kite mansion. The Town's maintenance crew could move the piano at no additional cost to the Town.

The feasibility study for the golf course will be presented on March 5.

The Spring event at the Kite mansion was again discussed. A date around the first of May was acceptable. Council member Snow stated the event would be of little cost, if any, to the Town if Council member Workman's plan of involving civic organizations materialized.

The Park Authority has a recommendation to fill the remaining term of Herb Baugher.

Council member Workman's list of repairs at the Kite mansion was given to Mr. McCoy.

Council member Snow reminded Council that Elkton's centennial year of 2008 was not that far away and plans should get underway.

Council member Workman was excused from the meeting.

Abate Adelphia Cable of $318.73, which represents pieces of several accounts due as a result of a bankruptcy filing, was requested by Treasurer Faye Vickers. Council will act on the request at the Council meeting.

Vehicles decals for emergency personnel will be on the Council agenda.

Vice Mayor Murphy stated Town employees had not been evaluated for at least two years. She rewrote the evaluation form and policy, which were distributed to Council. The rewritten policy reflects the absence of a Town Administrator. Vice Mayor Murphy asked Council to review the language and offer suggestions to her before the Council meeting, at which time the policy could be approved.

Employee evaluations are a tool for Council to determine across-the-board increases, or across-the-board increases with merit increases, or just merit increases. She favored getting away from across-the-board increases because there were exceptional employees who consistently go above and beyond what is required. A simply cost of living increase is also an option for Council.

Offering clarification on terms, Vice Mayor stated that the term "supervisory personnel" applied to a Town Administrator and the Department Heads. A matter of importance was that the evaluated employee would not see his/her evaluation until the evaluator and reviewer had reached a consensus on the final rating.

Stating fairness as the issue, Vice Mayor sought a uniform policy regarding the sending of flowers to a bereaved family. She preferred limiting the practice to Town employees and their immediate families, and those who serve on the Town's boards and commissions.

Council member Sigafoose requested an itemized total spent on snow removal.

Vice Mayor Murphy moved, second by Council member Dean, and carried to go into closed session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 to discuss land acquisition and personnel issues.

YEAS: T. Dean, C. Murphy, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow

Vice Mayor Murphy moved to go from closed session back into regular session and that each member, to the best of his or her knowledge, certified that only public business matters lawfully exempted from an open meeting requirement under Chapter 21 of Title 2.1 of the Code of Virginia were heard, discussed, or considered. Council member Dean duly seconded the motion.

YEAS: T. Dean, C. Murphy, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

RECORDER: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk