Regular
Council Meeting
February 24, 2003

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held on February 24, 2003 in Council Chambers with Mayor Wayne E. Printz presiding. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
J. T. Dean
C. H. Murphy
T. Pence
L. Sigafoose
R. L. Snow
P. Workman

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

Mayor Printz offered the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Lebert Roach, 516 Chestnut Avenue, spoke on behalf of the Elkton Church of God and sought corrective action for on-going sewer backups in the church basement due to severe storms. He stated the church has one floor drain that connects to the sewer system, but the church would correct that problem. Council member Dean was appointed to look into the problem.

Hazel Crider, 114 Hillside, questioned who owns the lots to be sold around the proposed golf course, and who was liable for debts incurred with the construction and possible demise of a golf course. She suggested cameras be placed to observe and protect Elkton's water supply. An invitation was extended to attend the 7:00 P. M., meeting of the Neighborhood Watch tomorrow night at the County Inn. A video of the Elkton Police Department's K-9 will be shown.

In response to Mrs. Crider, attorney Miller stated all the real estate associated with the golf course is owned by the Town. "The golf course issue has not developed to the level where there is any obligation on the Town at all," stated Mr. Miller, whose mission from the beginning was to protect the Town's interest by eliminating any liability associated with the development of a golf course. The Park Authority is now developing a plan, which includes the selling of lots and how that would be handled if that becomes part of the plan. The information gathered to this point has not been sufficient for the Authority to develop a plan. When the Authority has a plan it will be presented in open forum to the community. Mr. Miller added, "There are lots of pieces to this puzzle. One of the big pieces to the puzzle is the one that I am trying to help the Council and Authority to put together to not expose the Town to the obligation directly. At this point, there is no obligation out there because no land has been transferred to the Authority."

Chief Pullen recognized officers Rodney Hensley and James Morris for receiving a Letter of Commendation from the Commonwealth's Attorney office.

MINUTES

Council member Snow moved, second by Council member Dean, and carried to approve the minutes of the regular Council meeting of January 20, 2003.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Chief of Police

Chief Pullen presented his report.

Director of Public Works/Zoning Administrator

Mr. McCoy presented his report.

Treasurer

Mrs. Vickers reported the General Government ending ledger balance for January, 2003 was $388,539.73 with available funds of $279,651.73. The Bond Account balance for the same period was $48,547.77.

Council member Snow moved, second by Vice Mayor Murphy, and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

No report.

Finance

Budget preparations will begin at a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2003.

Personnel

Vice Mayor Murphy deferred to New Business.

Public Health, Public Safety, and Ordinances

Some blight ordinances need to be reviewed and strengthened. Council met with the Director of the Drug Task Force in closed session. The telephone number to call to report suspected drug activity is 434-1229.

Streets and Sidewalk

Several projects are pending awaiting better weather conditions.

Water and Sewer

Council member Dean deferred to New Business.

Recreation

Park bathrooms will be closed during the winter months.

Mayor Printz read the following letter:

January 24, 2003

Little League Baseball International Headquarter
ATTENTION: Tee Ball on the South Lawn
U. S. Route 15
South Williamsport, Pennsylvania 17702

Gentlemen:

The cohesiveness of many small communities across the United States is a direct result of sports programs, where our young learn sportsmanship, citizenship, teamwork, the exaltation of victory, and the heartbreak of defeat. Each is a valuable life lesson.

Such is the situation in Elkton, Virginia, a picturesque village snuggled in the wonder of the Shenandoah Valley, with a population of 2,035. We are a resourceful people who embrace all available opportunities, one, of which, being Elkton Little League.

The one constant of our program is the smiling faces of our youth as they participate in, and enjoy, America's past time. Elkton Little League was sanctioned in 1969 and, in 2002, there were over 90 tee ballers who played in Elkton's Little League baseball program. Not enough can be said about the adult volunteers who give of their time and talents to provide such a valuable program for our children.

Without reservation or hesitation, I recommend, on behalf of the Elkton community, Little League sending a tee ball team to Washington, D. C., to participate in Tee Ball on the South Lawn of the White House.

Very truly yours,

Wayne E. Printz
Mayor

Planning Commission

Council member Workman moved, second by Council member Sigafoose, and carried to approve the Planning Commission's recommendation to approve the subdivision of Dr. Trabosh's property on Spotswood Avenue, Lot 1, Block 5, Section 3.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

Park Authority

Council member Snow will contact Virginia Boxwoods regarding the shrubbery at the Kite mansion. A recommendation to fill the remaining term of Herb Baugher will be presented under New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

CART Request

Council member Snow moved, second by Council member Workman, and carried to approve CART's emergency use of the Senior Citizen van, under the condition that their insurance will cover the van.

Vice Mayor Murphy requested a written agreement for the use of the van.

Council member Snow amended his motion to include "...and a contract provided by our attorney."

Council member Dean stated that the van would be available only if it did not interfere with use by Lynn Meadows or any other Town need.

YEAS: J. Dean, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman
NAYS: C. Murphy

Motion carried (5 - 1 voice vote)

NEW BUSINESS

Out-of-Town Water and Sewer Connection Rates

Sent back to committee.

Vehicle Decals

Vice Mayor Murphy moved, second by Council member Snow, and carried to approve donating a Town sticker for calendar year 2003 to all members of the Rescue Squad and Volunteer Fire Department who live within Town limits. This applies to one sticker per member. All emergency vehicles of the Volunteer Fire Department housed within the Town of Elkton will receive a decal free-of-charge.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

Resolution to Lower Bond Interest Rates

Originally, two local banks, Rockingham Heritage and Farmers and Merchants, each floated a one million dollar bond at a rate of 5% with a ten year call, over a twenty five year period. Mayor Printz relentlessly sought a lower rate and found it with SunTrust which offered 3.8% with a ten year call, over a twenty year period. Mayor Printz calculated a $400,000.00 savings to the Town over a ten year period with the SunTrust offer. The local banks were approached and agreed to match the 3.8% offered by Sun Trust.

The confusion appeared to be in the repayment schedule. The repayment tables among the three banks differed and Mayor Printz was not satisfied with the information, considering all three banks were calculating at 3.8%. Considering the possibility of exposing the Town to repeat the process of the original bonds, Mayor Printz sought to remain with the Rockingham Heritage and Farmers and Merchants. Mr. Miller advised that legally the Town could reissue the bonds through other banks without another Public Hearing. Another option was to lock-in a lower rate for a fifteen year period.

With all the additional information and options, Mr. Miller suggested that the Finance Committee meet with Mrs. Vickers and give him direction.

Personnel Evaluation Form

Vice Mayor Murphy moved, second by Council member Dean, and carried to approve Personnel Policy 13.0, Employee Performance Evaluation, as presented.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals

Vice Mayor Murphy resolved, second by Council member Snow, and carried to reappoint Daniel Goodson to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a term beginning April 1, 2003 and ending March 31, 2008.

RESOLUTION OF THE ELKTON TOWN COUNCIL
Recommendation of Daniel Goodson for
Appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council for the Town of Elkton, Virginia, as follows:

1. A position on the Board of Zoning Appeals has become vacant for a five (5) year term beginning April 1, 2003 and ending March 31, 2008.

2. The Board of Zoning Appeals has nominated and recommended DANIEL GOODSON to fill the vacancy.

3. By vote on this Resolution, the Town Council is making a formal recommendation to the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, Virginia for the appointment of DANIEL GOODSON to fill the vacancy.

NOW THEREFORE, the Town Council hereby recommends DANIEL GOODSON for appointment to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the vacancy for a five (5) year term beginning April 1, 2003 and ending March 31, 2008.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 roll call)

Appointment to Recreation Commission

Council member Pence moved, second by Council member Dean, and carried to reappoint Wayne Hall to the Elkton Recreation Commission for a term beginning March 1, 2003 and ending February 28, 2005.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 roll call)

Appointment to the Park Authority

Council member Snow moved, second by Council member Pence, and carried to appoint Barry Ream to the Park Authority to serve the unexpired term of Herb Baugher, ending May 16, 2004.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 roll call)

Meetings

Mayor Printz set March 11, 2003 for Committee meetings and the regular Council meeting was set for March 17, 2003.

Adelphia Cable Abatement

Council member Snow moved, second by Vice Mayor Murphy, and carried to authorize Treasurer Vickers to abate Adelphia Cable's utility balance of $318.73, as a result of bankruptcy filing.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 voice vote)

Vice Mayor Murphy moved, second by Council member Dean, and carried to go into closed session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 to discuss personnel matters and under 15.2-2907D to discuss annexation.

YEAS: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 roll call)

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: J. Dean, C. Murphy, T. Pence, L. Sigafoose, R. Snow and P. Workman

Motion carried (6 - 0 roll call)

Mayor Printz sought a representative from Council to start attending the Board of Supervisors meetings and report to Council. Council suggested perhaps we could recruit a citizen to attend the meetings.

Vice Mayor Murphy stated she may be able to attend the night meetings. Another suggestion was invite Mr. Mike Breeden to visit Council, perhaps quarterly, to summarize the actions of the Board.

Mayor Printz was instructed to have Mr. McCoy start filling the pot holes in Town.

Council member Workman was unanimously appointed chair of the "May Day" event and was authorized to contact clubs and organizations to seek their participation.

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned.

MAYOR: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

RECORDER: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk