Public Hearing
Close "C" Street
March 20, 2006

A public hearing was held on March 20, 2006 in Council Chambers with Mayor Wayne E. Printz presiding. The purpose of the meeting was to receive comments regarding a request by the Rockingham County School Board to close "C" Street from Ashby Avenue to Terrace Avenue. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
J. Dean
C. McDaniel
T. Pence
S. Sigafoose
R. Snow
P. Workman

Town Attorney Nathan Miller, Town Manager Dennis R. Donachy, Director of Public Works Marty Shifflett, Treasurer Clairen Sipe, Economic Development Director Emily Burner, and Clerk of Council Richard Carey were also present.

Barry Hensley was present representing his father, George Hensley, who resides at 203 Ashby Avenue and owns additional parcels on "C" Street. "This (closing) considerably reduces the value of this property," stated Barry Hensley, because closing "C" street would deny access to two of his father's lots.

John Kidd, County schools Superintendent, sent a letter to Elkton Council members in which he wrote, " The school board, through Mr. Ed Powell, principal at Elkton Elementary School, would probably locate three mobile units inside the present fenced area in the back of the school, but after that, we would have to locate any additional units near C Street. For that reason, the school board would like to request closing C Street at the time of the location of the mobile units."

Barry Hensley said his father would be willing to sell the two lots to the school board. "If the school board is willing to purchase it, we think it's an adequate solution for the school board and my father," stated Mr. Hensley.

If the school board plan were followed, access issues would be created, to which Council member Dean responded, "Were not going to landlock anybody."

Madelyn Dixon, 214 Ashby Avenue, travels "C" Street, as do many other residents in that area. She stated she had an "affinity for closing streets" and hoped Council would consider the importance of "C" Street and not close it.

Dan Talbot, 611 – 4th Street, stated consideration must be given before closing any street. Mr. Talbot's position was the Town should make every effort to never abandon a right-of-way. He suggested offering the school board a temporary solution until an additional school(s) was constructed. On the other hand, if the school board purchased the property, that would create a different condition from the one being considered tonight.

Bobbie Rae Monger, 680 Stephen Conrad Road, stated that she and her son own a property at 115 Ashby. She understood that the school board sought to close the street from Terrace Avenue to the edge of the alley at the school. She favored the closing that section in order to keep the playground and eliminate speeding in that area.

Mike O'Neill, 425 East Rockingham Street, spoke of taxes paid by Elkton residents and stated, "It is the responsibility of the school board and the County Board of Supervisors to provide our children with a place to be educated." Mr. O'Neill believed closing a Town street would not be wise and questioned if the school board had considered other solutions.

As an informal action, there was unanimity among the Council to send the issue back to the Planning Commission for additional discussions with the school board.

There being no additional comments, Mayor Printz closed the public hearing at 6:54 P.M.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz, Mayor

Recorder: Richard D. Carey, CMC
Richard D. Carey, Clerk