Regular
Council Meeting
November 20, 2006

The regular meeting of the Elkton Town Council was held on November 20, 2006 in the Community Room of the Elkton Area Community Center with Mayor Wayne E. Printz presiding. The following Council members were present:

PRESENT
M. Dearing
M. Isom
D. Kite (arrived at 7:18 P.M.)
M. O'Neill
T. Pence
S. Sigafoose

Town Attorney Tom Miller, Treasurer Clairen Sipe, Director of Public Works Marty Shifflett, and Chief of Police James Morris were also present.

Rev. Donnie Meadows gave the Invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Acknowledgement and appreciation plaques were presented to the Elkton Progressive Improvement Committee, former Council member Lucky Sigafoose (deceased), Elkton Area United Services, Goodin Bros. VFW Post 9292, Elkton Neighborhood Watch, and Sheila Monger.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Hazel Crider, 114 Hillside, was present and spoke against any increases in fees charged for Town services or utilities. Such increases would adversely affect the senior citizens living on fixed incomes. She favored a gated senior citizens development. Mrs. Crider believed it was time for the citizens to be informed of the status of the talks between Angler and the Town of Elkton.

Joint Statement on the Settlement of Contracts Between Angler and the Town of Elkton

Council member O'Neill read the following statement:

We are in the process of finalizing an amicable settlement agreement between the Town of Elkton and Angler Development reached through the professional and good-faith negotiations between Mayor Wayne Printz, town attorney Tom Miller, and representatives of Angler Development. This agreement will allow the Elkwood expansion to proceed in a manner that will benefit both the town and Angler. Under the terms of the draft agreement, neither the town nor Angler will owe the other any payments of damages or reimbursement of expenses with regard to the Dominion Ridge project. As the Elkwood project moves forward, the town will receive 3 to 4 million dollars in water and sewer fees to aid in the upgrading of the sewer treatment plant. In exchange, the Town has made reasonable concessions to Angler. The Town of Elkton looks forward to a rewarding and fruitful relationship with Angler in the coming years as we work together to move Elkton forward.

MINUTES

Council member Kite moved, second by Vice Mayor Dearing, and carried to approve the minutes of the Committee Meeting of October 10, 2006 and the minutes of the Regular Council meeting of October 16, 2006.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 voice vote)

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Sipe reported an ending ledger balance of $686,176.50 for General Government for the month of October 2006. Total available cash was $95,958.87.

Council member O'Neill moved, second by Vice Mayor Dearing, and carried to approve the Treasurer's report.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

NEW BUSINESS

Job Description for Public Works Administrative Assistant

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member Sigafoose, and carried to approve the job description as presented.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Hire Community Center Staff

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member Pence, and carried to hire the following individuals to staff the Community Center:

Allison Morris – full-time secretary
Elaine Senn – part-time
Olivia Diehl – part-time
Jessica Frazier – part-time
Casey Loker – part-time

The combined hours of the part-time staff will total 120 hours per week.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Planning Commission Voting Members Discussion and Possible Appointment

Sent back to Committee.

Proposed Amended FY 06-07 Budget

Council member O'Neill stated "Events" allocations were considered in line item "Economic Development Events." Also the Capital Equipment and police salaries line items were amended.

Brandon Carter Resignation

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member Pence, and carried to accept the resignation of Police Officer Brandon Morris.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Electric

Mr. Shifflett is awaiting a third quote for an electric generator. Council member Isom requested a meeting with Gerald Monger and Mr. Shifflett. Lights are being replaced throughout Town.

Finance

Council member O'Neill moved, second by Council member Isom, and carried to reinvest two REPO CD's, one for $100,000.00 and one for $20,000.00 for one year, based on the information provided by the Treasurer.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Abate Utility Bills

Council member O'Neill moved, second by Council member Kite, and carried to abate 15 customer accounts totaling $241.20.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Dance Studio

Vice Mayor Dearing requested that the fee charged for the use of the Dance Studio on B Street, which is operated by an independent citizen for profit, be discussed in Committee. The Town provides the utilities and maintenance for the building. Vice Mayor Dearing stated that, as of June, the Town has received less that $100.00 for the use of the building.

Community Center Use – Civic Organizations, EVFD, and Rescue Squad

First aid kits and CPR training will be provided. Currently, the exercise equipment is available to rescue and fire personnel at no charge. Free use of meeting rooms has not been discussed. Council member Kite requested time to consider the idea. The meeting rooms have been offered to in-Town non-profit organizations. A stipulation is a one-time donation or two fund raisers "that add up to that amount." Council member Kite invited discussion from organizations that require a meeting room.

Personnel

Retroactive Benefits

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member Isom, and carried to approve employee benefits for the four new maintenance personnel, retroactive to their date of hiring.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Criminal Histories

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member Kite, and carried to authorize background history (sexual offenders) for all Community Center personnel or anyone who would have contact with children in the Center.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Alcohol consumption in the Kite house and the Community Center was sent back to Committee. Council member Kite has received a copy of Rockingham County's policy.

Public Health, Public Safety, and Ordinances

Chief Morris is studying downtown parking issues and complaints of vicious animals. Mr. Shifflett spoke with Mr. Miller of the Central Shenandoah Planning District and he will be here after the holidays for a few days to devise a plan. A small lot beside The Country Inn could possibly be a small parking lot.

Mayor Printz has offered the grassy area beside his carwash on Wirt Avenue as a parking area.

Vice Mayor Dearing moved, second by Council member O'Neill, and carried for Mr. Shifflett to obtain three bids to pave the grassy area and the Town Attorney to prepare a contract between the Town and Mayor Printz to lease his lot. Mr. Shifflett will proceed with the paving based on the lowest bid.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Streets and Sidewalks

Council member Pence sought a standard height for wire connected to poles throughout Town. He mentioned a minimum of ten feet.

Water and Sewer

A discussion of Willow Oaks subdivision was sent back to Committee.

Recreation

Vice Mayor Dearing made it clear that the Community Center will succeed, even when members of the Community Center Committee try to undermine Council's every move.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commission approved the Comprehensive Plan with some minor changes in the growth zones. Mayor Printz sent the Plan back to Committee.

Rockingham County Comprehensive Plan

The County is updating its Comp Plan and will incorporate Elkton's plan next year. It will affect land use on the Town's borders.

Route 33 Water and Sewer Lines

An outstanding balance of $219,910.80 was provided to Mr. Shifflett. This is a current total, as the outstanding balance has not changed since 2001. Capacity and other questions regarding future connections were referred back to Committee by Mayor Printz.

Cemetery

No report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Vice Mayor Dearing wanted to ascertain with Department Heads that the Town would maintain sufficient staff during the holiday season.

The Skyline Literacy Coalition request for a donation of $250.00 was sent back to Committee.

Mr. Shifflett is desperate for a Committee meeting to receive Council's guidance and response to his backlog of issues. Mr. Shifflett announced that December 15 will be the final day for leaf pick-up. There is no charge for the service and the Town will accept bagged leaves.

Closed Session

Council member O'Neill moved, second by Vice Mayor Dearing, and carried to go into closed session under Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711.A.1 for discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective officials or employees, or appointment, promotion, performance or disciplinary actions with respect to the same, or discussion, interviews or consideration or candidates for appointment to boards and commissions and Section 2.2-3711.A.7 for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Town.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

Council member O'Neill 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 2.2 of the Code of Virginia were heard, discussed, or considered. Vice Mayor Dearing duly seconded the motion.

YEAS: M. Dearing, M. Isom, D. Kite, M. O'Neill, T. Pence, and S. Sigafoose

Motion carried (6 – 0 roll call)

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor: _____
Wayne E. Printz

Recorder: _____
Richard D. Carey, Clerk