

TOWN OF ELKTON
TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY MEETING
OCTOBER 2, 2023
5:30 p.m.

The Elkton Community Meeting was held on October 2, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at Riverside Park located on Ore Wash Road, Elkton, Virginia, with Mayor Joshua J. Gooden presiding.

Present: Mayor Joshua J. Gooden, Vice-Mayor Rick Workman, Council Member Jan Hensley, Council Member Virginia Fulginiti, Council Member Louis Heidel, Council Member Rachel Michael, and Council Aaron Napotnik.

Also Present: Town Manager Greg Lunsford, Chief of Police Mike King, Public Works Director Gaither Hurt, Community Development Director Delores Hammer, Community Center Director Jessy Beasley, Treasurer Donna Curry, and Deputy Clerk of Council Kim Shifflett.

Mayor Gooden opened the meeting. He stated the current meeting was the second in a series of community meetings to be held. The bids for the Elkton Downtown Marketplace were due by October 13, 2023. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 19, 2023, at the Town's new wastewater treatment plant with former Mayor Denton Flory in attendance to cut the ribbon. The Elkton Historical District was approved on September 21, 2023. The Town should know within the next three months if the district would be approved nationally. He noted the new district would allow tax credits for building and property owners.

Community Development Director Delores Hammer spoke regarding the recent Cruise-in held on September 19, 2023, which included more than 140 cars, a truck event, and helicopter. She thanked all of the volunteers, Big L Tire Pros and Bible Holiness Church for their hard work and efforts with the event.

STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager's Report: Mr. Lunsford reported that one of the biggest concerns/complaints over the last several years had been the empty businesses downtown and nuisance properties. The Town Attorney was working on code revisions to address those issues. The Veterans Day event was scheduled for November 11, 2023, which would include skydivers at Stonewall Memorial Park. He noted that Retired United States Marine Stephen Wilberger would be the speaker. He briefly discussed a new app called "Voyent Alert!" which was an alert system to citizens for emergencies or announcements such things as storms, electricity outages, and broken water pipes. The app was free and could be downloaded on cell phones, iPads, and be used with landline phones.

Chief of Police: Chief King reported that Ryan Insana was promoted to Sergeant, Charles Roberts was promoted to Corporal, and Aaron Meek was a new hire from the UVA Police Department. Aaron had four years of experience and many hours of training in investigations, CIT (Critical Incident Training), school shootings and event preparedness. The police department needed to be in local schools and know how to react to certain situations. He had requested permission from the Rockingham County Sheriff's Office for training in that area. There were two open positions for certified and experienced officers.

Public Works Director: Mr. Hurt reported on the upcoming paving projects taking place in Town. The walking tract at the boat landing would also be paved. He reminded everyone that the Town was in a severe drought and asked for citizens to continue to conserve water.

Community Center Director: Mrs. Beasley announced the following events: November 3, 2023 Valley Victory Lap 5k to benefit the American Cancer Society and the Elkton Area United Services, October 15, 2023 Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Walk, October 31, 2023 Halloween Hoo-Doo. The center had a new step machine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Policy & Personnel Committee: Chairperson Hensley reported no additional business.

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Vice-Mayor Workman: Chairperson Workman reported that the Elkton Woodworker Club had a model of the Elkton Downtown Marketplace on display at Ace Hardware in Elkton. He noted that EPIC would assist the Town with fundraising for the project.

Finance Committee: Chairperson Michael reported she was very impressed with the new utility bill program called Paystar. She noted that Treasurer Curry would be moving the savings account in order to earn a better return on the Town's money.

Treasurer Curry reported the auditors had been at Town Hall that day to perform preliminary work. She noted that they would return in January for the audit. The Repo account would earn a 5.4% interest rate when moved and make the Town \$26,000 in annual interest.

MAYOR'S BUSINESS

Mayor Gooden noted the following upcoming events:

- 37th Annual Elkton Autumn Days & Fall Festival (October 21 – 22)
- Christmas tree Lighting (December 7)
- Christmas Parade (December 9)
- Downtown Christmas Marketplace (December 16)

Other items discussed:

- 1) Status of the water project.
- 2) Preliminary Engineering Report was due October 12 – 13, 2023.
- 3) USDA approval 3-4 months.
- 4) Glo Fiber.
- 5) Lantern flies.
- 6) Opening for an alternate on the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- 7) The play "Can't Feel at Home" scheduled for East Rockingham High School in November, which was a free production.
- 8) Single-sided Veteran Banners could be purchased until October 6, 2023.
- 9) Donations were still being accepted for the Elkton Downtown Marketplace.
- 10) Elkton Autumn Days would be held "In memory of Larry Baugher" who had 37+ years of service to EPIC.
- 11) ARPA Funds had been designated to include the new Police Department, Elkton Downtown Marketplace and a portion of the water project.

With no additional business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor: 
Joshua J. Gooden

Recorder: 
Denise R. Monger, Clerk