

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

August 11, 2010

A public meeting (workshop) of the Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton (“the Board”) was held on this date at 4:00 p.m. with the following persons present: Mayor Joseph Fisona, Commissioners Charles H. Givens, Sr.; Mary Jo Jablonski and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven Repole; Human Resources Director Venus Kincaid; Planning Director Jeanne Minner; Director of Parks & Recreation Mary Magaw; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr. Commissioner Charles E. Hicks, V arrived at 4:30 p.m.

Mayor Fisona called the Workshop meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion – Police Pension Plan and Amendments

Mr. Paul Madden, Esq., representing the Town in the creation of the Police Pension Plan, reviewed the previously submitted Executive Summary of amendments to Ordinance 8-2010 – Police Pension Plan. A copy of the Executive Summary was placed in the record of the minutes.

Mr. George stated Ordinance 8-2010 was approved for introduction by the Board on July 7, 2010, and was scheduled for adoption at the August 18, 2010 Mayor and Commissioners meeting.

Discussion – Elkton Gas Easement Request

Ms. Candy Davis, Operations Manager and Mr. Bruce Garrett, Construction Manager, were introduced to the Board.

Ms. Davis stated Elkton Gas planned an upgrade to existing gas service, which included running a new gas line from the existing service at Bridge Street (MD Rt. 213), through Marina Park, under the Big Elk Creek to Pulaski Highway (MD Rt. 40), and westward to the existing service at Landing Lane. She said the purpose of their appearance was to present a request for an easement from the Mayor and Commissioners to accommodate placement of the line.

Discussion ensued regarding the type of pipe that would be installed and the process used to bore under the creek.

Ms. Minner stated she previously met with Ms. Davis regarding the request. She said the activity would occur within the Critical Area, and said she questioned the depth of the bore, expressing concerns that the Town may, in the future, dredge the area to accommodate boat ramps. She said she asked Ms. Davis for the maximum depth.

Mr. Garrett said the goal was to bore at 17 feet but he would ask for a minimum depth of 10 feet, due to unknown obstacles, such as rock. He said if the pipe, in the future, presented an issue to the Town, Elkton Gas would relocate the pipe by hanging it from the bridge over the creek.

Ms. Minner questioned if Elkton Gas planned to compensate the Town for the easement. Mr. Garrett stated Elkton Gas would present a compensation amount.

Mayor Fisona questioned the project's timeline. Ms. Davis stated the project's anticipated start date was September or October, and was expected to last approximately 15 working days, depending on the weather. She said Elkton Gas would work to minimize service disruptions.

Commissioner Piner questioned if the Town's Engineer, KCI Technologies, reviewed the plan. Ms. Minner answered in the negative, stating she wanted to see if the Board was amendable to the easement request prior to incurring the costs of an engineering review of the plan.

Commissioner Piner expressed concerns regarding potential hazards of the gas line. He questioned inspection procedures of the pipe and construction activity. Mr. Garrett stated all State and Federal regulations would be followed, adding an inspector was onsite at all times. Commissioner Piner questioned the inspection process after the pipe was in the ground. Ms. Davis stated Elkton Gas inspected all pipes in residential areas every five years, which included walking the 88 miles of pipe located in Elkton.

Discussion – Homes for America Request for Project Support

Ms. Nancy Rase, representing Homes for America, introduced herself to the Board. She said Homes for America owned the Chesapeake Apartments and the proposed Fox Ridge Apartments, phases 1 and 2. She stated Homes for America planned the development of the Fox Ridge project as well as substantial rehabilitation of the Chesapeake Apartments, and as part of the loan and grant funding application process, Homes for America needed a letter of support as well as financial support from the local government. She said Homes for America would request waiver of building permit fees as the financial support component.

Commissioner Givens questioned the amount of the waiver. Ms. Rase stated it would be about \$30,000, adding that Mr. Craig Trostle, Zoning Administrator, provided the estimate.

Mayor Fisona polled the Board for a consensus regarding Ms. Rase's request. It was the consensus of the Board to approve Ms. Rase's request.

Discussion – Non-Police Employee Pension System

Ms. Venus Kincaid, Director of Human Resources, stated the Board requested information on Non-Police Employee pension plans at the July 14, 2010 Workshop. She said she contacted various municipalities and Cecil County regarding their pension systems, and presented a spreadsheet of the data to the Board. She added that she was waiting for additional information from the Maryland State Pension System.

Discussion ensued regarding the Town's current pension system.

Commissioner Hicks questioned if Ms. Kincaid met with Town employees regarding possible changes to the current system. Ms. Kincaid answered in the negative, stating she wanted the Board's input first.

Motion for a Closed Meeting

Pursuant to State Government Article § 10-508 (a) (1) the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation or performance evaluation of appointees, employees or officials over whom the Town has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; Mayor Fisona requested a motion for a Closed Meeting.

ACTION: The request for a Closed Meeting was approved on a motion made by Commissioner Jablonski. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hicks and approved by all present.

Mayor Fisona announced the Workshop would not reconvene.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Administration Office Secretary

A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED
AT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE