

The Mayor and Commissioners of the Town of Elkton

MINUTES

May 8, 2012

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.; Charles E. Hicks, V (arriving at 5:00 p.m.); Mary Jo Jablonski and Earl M. Piner, Sr.; Town Administrator Lewis H. George, Jr.; Finance Director Steven Repole; Assistant Finance Director A. Beth Moran; Director of Planning Jeanne Minner; Zoning Administrator J. Craig Trostle, Jr.; Administration Office Secretary L. Michelle Henson; and Town Attorney H. Norman Wilson, Jr.

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

Discussion – Ordinance 4-2012 Vacant Building Ordinance

Noting Commissioner Hicks’ absence at the beginning of the meeting, it was the consensus of the Board to rescheduled discussion on Ordinance 4-2012 to a subsequent workshop in order to have a full Board available for discussion.

Discussion – Fiscal Year 2013 Budget

Ms. Jeanne Minner, Director of Planning, asked the Board to consider a sidewalk replacement / upgrade project for East High Street between North Street and Locust Lane. She said the purpose of her request was that funding for the project could be applied for under Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds, and the deadline for the grant application was Thursday, May 10, 2012. Ms. Minner stated the Town’s portion of the costs associated with the project was approximately \$145,000 which would have to be identified in the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.

Discussion ensued regarding the scope of the project and associated costs.

Mr. George advised the Board that the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget had a General Fund deficit of \$1.8 million. He suggested that the Town could not afford the \$145,000 associated with CDBG funding, and suggested that the sidewalk project could be funded from other sources.

It was the consensus of the Board to not pursue CDBG funding for the sidewalk project.

Discussion ensued regarding the Town’s costs associated with trash hauling. Mr. Repole stated the Town currently paid \$7.43 per residential unit per month for trash / recycling removal but collected \$6.11 per residential unit per month. He stated an increase of \$5.47 per residential unit per month would correct the discrepancy and

generate additional revenue. He stated the increase would also make up for Cecil County's planned discontinuance of the Town's rebate at the central landfill, which would amount to an annual loss of \$7,000 in revenue to the Town. Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding an increase in the trash / recycling collection fee. It was the consensus of the Board to increase the trash / recycling collection fee.

Discussion ensued regarding proposed salary increases for Police employees and re-classification of specific employee positions and increasing benefit costs. Mr. Repole stated Police employees, through their contract, would receive an increase of just under 6%. He stated no increases were budgeted for non-Police employees. He stated the cost of a 1% Cost of Living (COLA) increase for non-Police employees would be \$25,000, and a 3% COLA would amount to \$75,000.

Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding re-classification of specific employees. It was the consensus of the Board to approve the requests to re-classify specific employees from the Elkton Police Department (EPD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW) and to deny the request for re-classification of an employee from the Human Resources Department.

Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding a 3% COLA for non-Police employees. It was the consensus of the Board to approve a 3% COLA for non-Police employees.

Discussion continued regarding proposed equipment purchases. Commissioner Jablonski stated the Planning Department's vehicle was in need of replacement. Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding purchasing new vehicles as requested by the individual departments. It was the consensus of the Board to obtain the requested vehicles through financing of costs to increase cash flow.

Discussion ensued regarding reports from the Code Enforcement Official, and the Board's process for addressing citizen queries. Mayor Fisona queried the Board regarding the frequency of Code Enforcement reports. It was the consensus of the Board that Code Enforcement would submit an activity report as part of the Board's monthly packet.

Hearing no additional business to come before the Board, Mayor Fisona adjourned the meeting at 5:54 p.m.

L. Michelle Henson
Administration Office Secretary

A RECORDING OF THIS MEETING RETAINED
AT THE ADMINISTRATION OFFICE