

# PUBLIC COMMENTS

*As read by the City Clerk at the council meeting of: August 20, 2020*

My name is Roger Holliday and I am a resident of 1st ward. First I would like to comment on your taking the handicap parking away from the front of the American Legion Post 29 on Railroad Ave. There were 2 handicap spots there within 10-15 feet of the front door as indicated by the blue curb until you painted over it. Now you give us 3 spots that are around the corner and 100 feet away from the front and after a rain they have to transverse a pond of water or worse in the winter, ice. These proud disabled veterans fought for you and I in multiple wars and this is their reward. They must now work to get their wheelchair, cane or crutches another 80 feet. I guess they carried you once and can do it again if they must. I believe they deserve more. Also if no parking on Railroad Ave ie Veterans Drive, please remove the bus parking signs at the rail depot.

On the second point of the city charter change. I believe we need a strong Mayor type of government with the Mayor having an equal vote at meetings. Also decreased councilmen/women. One per ward elected by ward members and one at large member voted on by the entire city. As far as a City manager, I do not believe it is needed as you have an operations manager at this time. If however you decide to hire a City Manager, they should have Human Resources experience. At that time the operations manager position should be removed and department heads should take over running their departments with input from the City Manager.

Thank you for allowing input from the people.  
Roger Holliday

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David Ferguson

I truly believe that Elkins is too small for a city manager and it would be a waste of our tax dollars. The Mayor of Elkins needs to have more control than what he has now. My problem lies with the city council, I have lived in first ward for 16 years and never seen a member come door to door to see if everything in the ward is up to par, except for last week when they finally came and looked at a drug house that needs torn down. This council has taxed the people of Elkins so much that must if not all cannot put money back into our houses, just take a look around several places are in need of help but no cash flow. The new water system that was put in is pretty much useless the water taste terrible and the pressure that is on the lines is way to high another reason for line blowouts, we pay \$176.00 water bill and we believe for that we should have water that you can actually drink. The very last thing on my agenda is giving the veterans there parking places back, they actually served our country, the city of Elkins should be ashamed of themselves, just because tour busses needed that space. The city has extra space in the area for the busses to park give the veterans back what they deserve "There Spots". Thank you for your time

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Sue Mallow

I'm a daughter of a world War 11 veteran, sister of the Vietnam War veteran. Mother of a Marine veteran, Mother in law of a Navy Corpsman. With that said. I had the privilege of helping one of our veterans to their vehicle that was parked not in front of the American Legion but parked in front of side of the Delmonte. He was so appreciative. Shame on you for taking away crucial parking for our beloved veterans. When did you stop carrying for our veterans? Instead its all about busses being able to come to Elkins and park on railroad Ave. We need parking for the disabled men and women who fought for us!  
Sincerely,

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Name: Michael Elza  
1311 South Kerens Ave., Elkins, WV First Ward

Subject: Proposed Charter Changes

I am currently for updating and making our charter better and fresher, but I think it should be put to the public for a vote. If the current council thinks it is critical to update the charter, lets put to public vote? What is the big hurry, or it appears that the city is in a hurry? I ask council to please table this issue until we resume normal council meetings, in public. Give the residents a chance to speak in person, as this could be a bad decision, and you all need to do your due diligence, and be transparent about it. What positions would it eliminate if you change to a city manager form of government? What would be the total cost of changing our charter and our form of government? Would there be any savings from this change? In my opinion, a different form of government is only a different organizational chart, and the same people would be doing the duties, so why do you all think it will be better? I will support our city no matter the outcome, but please consider putting this on the ballot, as it is the proper thing to do, and people will feel much more involved. Please consider this as a "Justifiable Objection" against the charter change, unless put on the ballet for the general election. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Michael Elza  
Resident of First Ward  
Elkins WV

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My name is Tom Domingo a Past Commander of the American Legion during the years 2013/2014. During my tenure I was the Commander that got the handicapped blue line and loading area in front of the American Legion approved by the city council and Mayor at the time some seven years ago. I think this has become a president and wish to bring this to light at the council meeting tonight and have them readdress this parking issue. With the speed limit on Veterans Memorial Road being only fifteen miles per hour it is highly unlikely a major accident has or could happen in that area if policed properly which to my knowledge has for the last seven years. Thank you for having this email read to the council and having this matter readdressed.

Tom Domingo Sr  
Past Commander of American Legion 2013/2014