

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Regular Meeting  
September 14, 2004, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: Chief Cassin B. Gittings, La Plata Police Department

Guests: (see roster)

Minutes:

Mayor Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of August minutes

Councilman Ambrogio remarked that he may have misspoken information he provided and asked that the minutes of the August 24, 2004 meeting be changed. On page 2, under "Council reports":

Change "*Councilman Ambrogio reported on Beautification Commission activity, noting that two large oaks have been planted.*" to read "*Councilman Ambrogio reported on Beautification Commission activity, noting that two large oaks planted on Oak Avenue are dying.*"

Change "*Councilman Hale reported that the Planning Commission meets next week, and further reported that the Pumpkin Jubilee is scheduled for Sunday, October 3. Councilman Ambrogio remarked that the Get Fit La Plata walk through the Kent Avenue neighborhoods will be held in conjunction with the Pumpkin Jubilee.*" to read "*Councilman Hale reported that the Planning Commission meets next week, and further reported that the Pumpkin Jubilee is scheduled for Sunday, October 3. Councilman Ambrogio remarked that the Shape Up La Plata walk through the Kent Avenue neighborhoods will be held in conjunction with the Pumpkin Jubilee.*"

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2004 and August 24, 2004 (as amended) regular meetings. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Burkey Boggs - Woodcarving Museum

Burkey Boggs, Robert Boyce and Steve Crescenze presented information regarding a proposal by the Southern Maryland Woodcarving Club to establish an Historical Carousel/Woodcarving Museum in La Plata, and asked for a letter of support from the Town Council, support in obtaining financing and a site, and suggestions and information that would help them, such as obstacles, parking, and grants. They provided handouts consisting of a cover letter, grant application, and brochure. They explained they needed a building that is 11,000 square feet in size and that the project could cost \$3 to \$4 million overall. The building would house a 36-horse carousel, gift shop and banquet space. They also proposed to conduct a project similar to those in Calvert County and Ludlow, Vermont, where funds were raised by auctioning fiberglass seahorses (Calvert County) and llamas (Vermont) that had been decorated by individuals or groups. They proposed that fiberglass carousel horses be decorated, placed in Town businesses, and be part of a walking tour through town.

Following this discussion, Mayor Eckman remarked he believes the Town Council is in favor of the project, but that the Council needs to discuss further. It was suggested that they make a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Mayor Eckman advised he would ask Michelle Miner to contact them regarding being on the October Parks agenda.

Unfinished Business

Wawa Annexation Agreement

Mr. Miller explained that the Annexation Agreement would need to be adopted prior to voting on Resolution 03-1 if the Council wished to have the Agreement apply to the annexation. Mr. Miller briefly described the basic requirements contained in the Agreement. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the Wawa Annexation Agreement. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Council reports

Councilman Hale reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's September 7 meeting. He also announced that the Pumpkin Jubilee will be held on Sunday, October 3, 12:00 to 4:00 PM, and that a Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk will begin at 10:00 AM that day, walking through the Kent Avenue neighborhood.

Council Fritz reported on Parks and Recreation Commission topics, noting that the chairman, Tom O'Farrell, would lay out the course for the Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk. He also reported that Tilghman Lake Park opened three weeks ago and that the Parks and Recreation Commission would discuss needed improvements at all Town parks at the October meeting.

Councilman Ambrogio reported that the Tilghman Lake Park looked great. He also noted that personnel from Ironworks Gym will be providing warm-up exercises prior to the Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk.

Councilman Winkler reported on topics discussed at the La Plata Business Association's September 14 meeting. He also noted that the Historic District Commission will need to meet regarding the arson at the Lawlor property, which is the oldest building in La Plata.

Mayor Eckman reported on a meeting held last week regarding the historic firehouse museum, noting that papers to incorporate will be filed and then they will apply to become a 501(c)(3) organization. He also reported that the Streetscape Project on La Grange Avenue is underway, that it has a time table of 120 working days to completion, and a monthly update newsletter will be provided for our web page.

### Legislation

Resolution 03-1 Wawa Annexation – 8.774 Acres (For Adoption) – For the purpose of authorizing the annexation of 8.774 acres, more or less, of contiguous land into the corporate limits of the Town of La Plata by amending the corporate limits of the Town; establishing certain terms, conditions and circumstances applicable to such land and to the owners thereof; providing for the zoning of such land upon annexation; and all matters relating to the annexation of such 8.774 acres of land, more or less, into the Town of La Plata.

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve Resolution 03-1. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Councilman Winkler advised he would not vote against the annexation because the Wawa is already built, but noted he would always wonder about the holding tanks being installed. He also noted that he would not vote against the annexation due to the recent tornados and because of the requirement in the Annexation Agreement that Wawa purchase and install an emergency warning siren. Councilman Ambrogio noted he would vote against the annexation because Wawa was not considered when the study was conducted in 1999 to determine the sizing of the wastewater treatment plant and it is unknown what will develop on the former Amoco parcel, which also has an environmental concern due to the gas tanks. Councilman Ambrogio further expressed concern regarding the impact on existing Town businesses. Councilman Hale noted that Wawa has met all items requested by the Town, and further noted that the annexation will have an impact on existing Town businesses but will not change those who already use Wawa. Councilman Ambrogio responded that he agreed to adoption of the Annexation Agreement but questioned adding to the use of the wastewater treatment plant. Mayor Eckman called for a roll call vote: Mayor Eckman and Councilmen Winkler, Fritz and Hale voted yea; Councilman Ambrogio voted nay. The motion carried by majority vote.

Ordinance 04-10 Dimensional Requirements in Senior Living Communities (For Introduction) – For the purpose of amending dimensional requirements in Senior Living Communities; and all matters generally relating to said dimensional requirements.

Mr. Miller briefly described Ordinance 04-10 and advised that hearings have been scheduled before the Planning Commission on October 5 and before the Town Council on October 12.

### New Business

#### Award of truck bids

Mr. Miller advised that bids for a dump truck and a pickup truck were received from Hunt Ford (dump truck - \$30,283; pick-up truck – \$22,716) and Criswell (dump truck - \$33,841; pick-up truck - \$22,657). Mr. Miller recommended accepting Hunt Ford's bids on both vehicles, noting that it would cost the Town at least the \$59.00 difference between pick-up truck bids to go and pick it up from Criswell.

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the purchase and accept Hunt Ford's bids on both trucks. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### Award of I & I Evaluation RFP

Mr. Miller briefly described the I & I project, advised that seven responses had been received to the RFP and four companies were interviewed. He recommended awarding the contract to URS Corporation, noting that their references were checked and had been positive responses. Mr. Miller recommended that options be included for hydraulically mapping the sewer collection system and for a general tv-inspection of the entire system. Mr. Miller advised that the cost of the project will be approximately \$125,000, all of which is reimbursable from the MDE loan.

Councilman Hale made a motion to award the contract to URS Corporation. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Winkler received confirmation from Mr. Miller that the Wawa annexation will not be effective until 45 days have elapsed and that they must provide the siren within 180 days. Councilman Winkler also received clarification from Mr. Miller that Ordinance 04-10 Dimensional Requirements in Senior Living Communities will remove the difficulty a recent Hawthorne Greene homebuyer experienced with yard requirements hampering the ability to add a deck to the home.

Councilman Fritz announced that the Civista Health Foundation's wine tasting event has been rescheduled to October 1.

Councilman Winkler advised he would be meeting soon with Mark Rose regarding the upcoming expiration of the GIS agreement.

In response to Councilman Winkler, Mr. Miller advised a meeting with the engineers would be held Thursday to go over some of the problems with some of their basic data in the water and wastewater study.

Councilman Winkler asked that the Washington Avenue sidewalk project be placed on a future agenda, and that Joe Norris, Town Treasurer, be present to explain the financial aspects.

In response to Councilman Winkler, Mr. Miller advised that discussion of amendments to the sign regulations will begin at the October 5 work session.

Councilman Hale acknowledged that the Town put the American flags up on the September 11 anniversary of the terrorist attacks. Councilman Fritz remarked he had received many positive comments.

#### Public Forum

Burkey Boggs announced that the Southern Maryland Woodcarvers Show would be held at the Town Hall the weekend of October 2 and 3, and that they will have a carousel horse on display.

There being no further business, Councilman Fritz made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

---

Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk