

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
June 14, 2005

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer, Catherine D. Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; B. Gayle Curry (AV operator)

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Councilman Newman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated May 31, 2005.

Approval of May minutes

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 9, 2005 special meeting, May 10, 2005 regular meeting, May 10, 2005 closed session, May 17, 2005 work session, and May 24, 2005 regular meeting. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Burkey Boggs and Bob Boyce, Southern Maryland Carousel Group, Inc.

Mr. Boggs and Mr. Boyce presented a video and provided information regarding the carousel project. During the discussion on this topic, they advised they need a \$15,000 commitment from the Town and a letter stating that to go with their grant application, and property for a 12,000 sq. ft. building with 40 parking spaces and a water park. They would also like the Town to establish an Arts and Entertainment district.

Mayor Ambrogio advised that the Town Council would discuss this at the next work session.

Legislation

Ordinance 05-11 Dimensional Requirements for Two-Family Dwellings (For Introduction) – For the purpose of amending dimensional requirements for Two-Family Dwellings; and all matters generally relating to said dimensional requirements.

Mr. Miller explained that this ordinance will require public hearings before the Planning Commission (July 5) and the Town Council (July 12).

Ms. Flerlage described the text amendment and displayed a photograph of an example of the larger duplex which has been built on a lot large enough to accommodate it in Agricopia, noting that the Town is making some “housekeeping” amendments to lot size and width, and that Steuart-Kret Homes has asked for the increase in lot coverage in order to build larger duplexes on their Agricopia lots. She noted that density does not increase. Councilman Winkler pointed out that a change to the Code applies to all developers and not just for one developer who may do a good job.

Resolution 05-7 Schedule of Holidays (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the schedule of holidays to be observed by the employees of the Town of La Plata for FY 2005-2006; and all matters relating to said schedule of holidays.

Mr. Miller briefly explained the purpose of Resolution 05-7.

Councilman Winkler made a motion to adopt Resolution 05-7. Councilman Newman seconded and the motion. In discussion before the vote, Mr. Miller confirmed for Councilman Back that this is the same number of holidays as in at least the last five years. Vote on the motion: passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Back reported on topics discussed at the June 7 Planning Commission meeting.

Councilman Winkler reported on topics discussed at the June 14 morning meeting of the La Plata Business Association. Councilman Winkler also advised that the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department has given the Town permission to install an emergency warning siren on their property, which he noted would be paid for by Wawa as part of their annexation agreement. Mayor Ambrogio thanked Councilman Winkler for his work on the emergency warning sirens for the Town.

Councilwoman Mudd and Councilman Newman had no reports.

Award of police station bid

Mr. Miller described the bids received and the three alternates. He advised that the lowest base bid is from Facchina Construction Company, Inc., followed by John L. Mattingly Construction Company, and noted if they include Alternate #1 (pavers) that Mattingly's bid would be the lowest. Mr. Miller advised that it is recommended that Alternates #2 and #3 (roof) not be considered, and that a new roof (steel trusses) be constructed.

Councilman Winkler advised that he believed we should not include pavers, which are attractive, but experience at the old town hall property showed that they rise and fall, making walking on them difficult. Councilman Winkler also agreed that a new roof be constructed.

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged John Mattingly and asked him if he had a comment. Mr. Mattingly stated that including Alternates #2 and #3 would be a cost savings of approximately \$45,000, and stated he believed the roof was sound and there was no reason to remove it. Mr. Miller advised that this is not just a matter of money, that there is a Code compliance issue. Mike Pellegrino, PAS/architect for the police station, advised that a structural engineer evaluated the roof and advised that it was not structurally sound.

Councilman Winkler made a motion to award the police station bid to Facchina Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$1,369,000, to exclude pavers and to replace the entire roof. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Councilman Back noted his agreement regarding having a new roof, noting that if the Town is spending almost \$1.4 million it is not worth the risk of not replacing the roof. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, Mudd and Newman voted aye. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

New Business (none)

Public Forum

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged the attendance of Nico Montes, Boy Scout Troop 1780, who is working on his citizenship badge.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 8:03 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk