

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
December 9, 2003, 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; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Guests: (see roster)

Minutes:

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

Approval of November minutes

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2003 regular meeting. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2003 regular meeting. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

James DiMisa, La Plata Business Association

Mr. DiMisa acknowledged that the Business Association had accepted the Council's invitation to report on Association business at one Council meeting each month. Mr. DiMisa reported that the Association was officially organized in February, 2003, and currently has forty active members. He reported that the first task the Council asked them to undertake was a marketing plan for La Plata, on which they are working with Chris Jakubiak. The plan will be complete and available for distribution in January. Mr. DiMisa also reported that the Association participated in Bobbie Baldus' "Screw the Bulb" event, which was held to replace the many burned out bulbs in the Christmas decorations which are placed on Town streets. Mr. DiMisa reported that the Association held a dinner meeting in November and that the next general membership meeting will be a breakfast meeting on February 19, at 8:00 AM.

Legislation

Ordinance 03-8 Property Tax Credits – Business Improvement Incentive Tax Credit (For Adoption) – For the purpose of creating a new Chapter 45 to provide for a real property tax credit to the owner(s) of any renovated or rehabilitated business property located within the Town of La Plata whose business property assessed value increases as a result of the renovation

or rehabilitation of said real property; setting forth the purpose, scope, limitation and calculation of the tax credit; defining certain terms; and all matters generally related to the provision of a business improvement incentive tax credit.

Mr. Miller provided a brief summary of Ordinance 03-8. Mayor Eckman clarified that the tax credits are for the difference between the last assessment and improvements after the tornado. In response to Councilman Hale's question, Mr. Miller advised that this credit would be on an application basis only.

Councilman Hale made a motion to adopt Ordinance 03-8. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 03-17 Motorized Scooters and Motorized Skateboards (For Introduction) – For the purpose of prohibiting the use of motorized scooters and motorized skateboards on public property; and all matters generally relating to said prohibition.

Mr. Miller gave a brief explanation of Ordinance 03-17 and noted that the Town has some concerns regarding enforcement which will need to be addressed before the ordinance is adopted.

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Winkler reported that the Historic District Commission is not meeting on a regular basis. He also reported he met with Paul Summers regarding the proposed Ellenwood annexation and creation of 31 lots. Councilman Hale remarked he met with Mr. Summers last week and noted Mr. Summers is preparing a design to show the Clarks Run homeowners association.

Councilman Ambrogio reported that the Kent Avenue Revitalization Committee met last week. They are planning to have a Christmas decorations contest on December 18. In response to Councilman Ambrogio's request, Paula Winkler reported that the Beautification Commission's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony went very well.

Councilman Fritz reported there would be no Parks and Recreation Commission meeting until January. Councilman Fritz asked Mr. Miller to check with the contractor to determine why the large pavilion construction has not been started at Tilghman Lake.

Councilman Hale reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's December 2, 2003 meeting.

Mayor Eckman reported on several meetings he recently attended: the Hellman Commission, at which the final draft of the transportation report was discussed; EDC meeting; Legislative committee/MML held at North Beach, at which highway user funds was a topic; and a meeting supporting the Indian Head Navy base.

In response to Mayor Eckman's request, Mr. Miller provided an update on the Severn Trent issue, noting that LGIT is dealing with this issue.

New Business

Appropriation for tornado sirens

Following a brief discussion, the Council agreed they needed more information before voting on this appropriation. They agreed to discuss it again at their next work session.

Public Forum

Regarding the Hawthorne Greene Section 2 request for a variance, Cheryl McGuire noted she believes the property in the first section is being maintained by professional landscapers and that seniors won't need to jump over the required wall in the buffer yard. Ms. McGuire also noted she was on the Board of Appeals during the first section's petition for a variance, but they were not made aware of professional landscapers handling maintenance.

Mr. Miller advised that RFPs for the new Town Hall are due on Monday, December 15 and that copies would be put in the Council's mailboxes by that evening. Mr. Miller further advised that appointments would be scheduled with each company submitting an RFP.

Ms. McGuire advised that Town staff is working on a pamphlet regarding the new sign ordinance.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 8:19 PM. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk