

Mayor and Council Meeting
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
February 12, 2002, 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

Guests: (See attached roster)

Minutes:

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

Approval of January minutes

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 4 special meeting. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it carried.

Regarding the January 8 minutes, on page 2, paragraph 3, Councilman Fritz remarked he remembered that during the presentation on Burleigh House, it was mentioned that there would be a full-time photography studio.

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8 meeting. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22 meeting. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it carried.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances (none)

Legislation

Mr. Miller provided a brief description of each ordinance, noting that Ordinances 02-2 through 02-10 deal with regulations formerly referred to as the BOCA Code.

Ordinance 02-1 Rental Licenses (For Introduction) - For the purpose of providing for the licensing and regulation of rentals of dwellings, dwelling units and rooming units for human habitation in the Town of La Plata; specifying the fees for such licensing and regulation; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-2 International Building Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Building Maintenance Code 2000, with certain modifications and additions, as the building code for the Town of La Plata, with certain exceptions; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the

provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-3 International Electrical Code – Administrative Provisions 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Electrical Code-Administrative Provisions 2000, with certain modifications, as the code for the regulation, and control of the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of electrical systems in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-4 International Energy Conservation Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Energy Conservation Code 2000, with certain modifications, as the energy conservation code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-5 International Fire Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Fire Code 2000, with certain modifications, as the fire code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-6 International Fuel Gas Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Fuel Gas Code 2000, with certain modifications, as the code for the regulation and control of the design and installation of fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-7 International Mechanical Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Mechanical Code 2000, with certain modifications, as the mechanical code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-8 International Plumbing Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Plumbing Code 2000, with certain modifications, as the plumbing code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-9 International Property Maintenance Code 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code 2000, with certain modifications,

as the property maintenance code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-10 International Residential Code for One and Two Family Dwellings 2000 (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adopting the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings 2000, with certain modifications, as the code for the design and construction of certain one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 02-11 Purchase of Property Subject to Indebtedness (Old Firehouse) (For Introduction) - For the purpose of approving and authorizing the Clerk-Treasurer to execute on behalf of the Town a certain Contract of Sale between La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, Incorporated and the Town of La Plata for the Town to purchase 2,693 square feet of improved real property located in the Town of La Plata, subject to long-term indebtedness.

Unfinished Business

Mayor Eckman asked Councilman Winkler to give an update on the caboose. Councilman Winkler advised that the caboose is being released to us and that Gene Coffman's company will be bringing it from Indian Head to White Plains, from which location CSX will bring it to La Plata. Mr. Coffman's company will provide the crane to move it onto our track. Councilman Winkler noted he hopes to have the caboose in place by the end of February, then begin a refurbishing project that will be complete in time to have the caboose open for visitors if the Town has another 4th of July parade and celebration as was held last year. Mayor Eckman praised Captain Siedband for the "magnificent job" he did with the paperwork process of donating the caboose to the Town.

Joe Harrison reported he had received SHA approval on the street poles with brackets; however, he noted he has not been able to speak to anyone at Indian Head Ironworks yet as their yard is closed. He will check again later. Mr. Harrison remarked that he is having modifications made for a better fit and hopes the poles will be in place by spring.

Councilman Fritz asked Mr. Harrison if he had spoken to Bobbie Baldus yet regarding purchasing more Christmas decorations, noting the Town is prepared to donate the money for the purchase. Mr. Harrison advised he was sure she would be in touch with him. Councilman Hale asked Mr. Harrison if he would coordinate with her regarding repairs to the existing decorations. Mayor Eckman asked Mr. Harrison to find out what Mrs. Baldus wants the Town to do to accomplish the repairs.

Mayor Eckman reported on the St. Mary's Ave. upgrade meeting. He advised that an aerial photo is needed in order to proceed with the design phase.

Mayor Eckman reported on the Vision Implementation Team meeting [Feb. 12, 9:00 AM], noting they discussed the comments made at the Planning Commission on the proposed rezoning of properties on Kent Avenue. He noted their main concern was La Plata Mill, which will be unable to do many things if rezoned to CB. Mayor Eckman asked Councilman Hale if there were any other negative comments made at the Planning Commission hearing on the Comprehensive Plan. Councilman Hale reported that other than those asking for zoning to remain the same on the Kent Avenue properties, comments were favorable for rezoning. Councilman Winkler remarked that Stu Geisbert, La Plata Farm Supply, also had concerns about retaining the ability to have outside display of merchandise if rezoned to CB. Councilman Hale remarked that the Town needs to take a hard look at what is authorized under CB zoning.

In response to Councilman Ambrogio, Mr. Miller described the pedestrian safety system the Town is trying out at the crosswalk in front of Civista. Pedestrians carry a bright orange flag to increase their visibility to drivers as they walk across the crosswalk. The flags are stored on both sides of the crosswalk.

New Business

Councilman Fritz reported that Michelle Miner has confirmations from three military bands for the next concert series, and he is hoping to get bands from the Army and Coast Guard.

Councilman Winkler reported on the EDC summit he attended today, remarking it was not what he expected. The summit dealt with incubators for start-up businesses. Mayor Eckman remarked that the incubator program may be applicable to the Town's plans for the downtown, and that it could be useful in advising us what we need to provide to support small businesses.

Councilman Winkler apologized for the comment about attending more meetings than members of the Town Council, which was given as a quote in an interview he had with Jay Friess, a reporter with the Maryland Independent. He advised he didn't remember saying that, and noted it may have been taken out of context in a discussion regarding having attended meetings since his mother was on the Town Council.

Councilman Fritz reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission will meet on February 20 to discuss RFPs for creating a recreation facility at Tilghman Lake, and briefly explained the process of phasing development of the facility. In response to questions from Councilman Hale and Mayor Eckman, Councilman Fritz explained that, based on data collected from the county, the facility

could be left open and not require that a staff person be on duty after hours, but that signs would have to be posted and kept in place. He noted that the insurance would not increase. Councilman Fritz advised that Parks and Recreation would probably have other work sessions and asked that the Council pass along any ideas at the Mayor and Council work session.

Public Forum

Don McGuire advised that the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department has offered to the county government the siren which is on the roof of their station on Charles Street. Mr. McGuire advised that the county has no use for it. Mr. McGuire asked if it could be put on the old firehouse the Town is contracting to purchase from the fire department. A brief discussion ensued regarding possible uses of the siren, during which Mayor Eckman pointed out that there would be objections to its use as a fire or rescue squad siren due to the neighboring church. Mr. McGuire remarked that it had historical value to the old firehouse as it is a 1938 siren. Mayor Eckman advised that the Town would take it under advisement.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier