

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM  
July 24, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Michelle Gordon to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of June minutes

Councilman Newman moved to approve the minutes of the June 12 special meeting, June 12 work session, June 12 closed session, June 19 special meeting, June 19 closed session, and June 19 regular meeting. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated June 30, 2007.

#### Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

##### Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation

Mayor Ambrogio presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Michelle Gordon for her service on the Parks and Recreation Commission from August 2004 to June 2007.

##### Public Forum

Wayne Winkler, 214 Washington Avenue, spoke about the closed session topic of acquisition of property for a Public Works building and encouraged the Council to consider conducting a needs analysis for the projected population growth to 25,000 and the opinion of the Public Works Department as to location of the new building. Mr. Winkler also commented on the sirens test report given at the last meeting and suggested that he believed that the Town should have received a written vs. verbal report.

Kip Brown, 918 Sycamore Lane, spoke about the decline in the Phoenix Run neighborhood in the past year and a half and asked if the Town had any plans to help restore the neighborhood to a positive, better environment. Mr. Brown suggested the Town place curfews for youth as a strategic way of getting them off the streets.

Art Audley, 846 Holly Drive, advised he agreed with Mr. Brown's comments, and noted he was active in the neighborhood partnership group and they are working to reestablish the homeowners association. Mr. Audley advised they are trying to improve the neighborhood and that they would appreciate the Town's assistance.

### Legislation

Resolution 07-9 Support for a new rail crossing for Heritage Green Parkway (For Introduction and consideration of adoption) – For the purpose of urging federal, state and local elected representatives and railroad officials to support and assist the Town of La Plata's effort in obtaining a new rail crossing for Heritage Green Parkway in the Town of La Plata.

Mayor Ambrogio read Resolution 07-9 into the record.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 07-9. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

### Unfinished Business (none)

### New Business

#### Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's July 3 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Beautification Commission's July 16 meeting.

Councilwoman Mudd reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Board's July 18 work session.

Councilman Newman reported he spoke to Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Tom O'Farrell about the possibility of using Tilghman Lake for an educational center, based on information received from his discussion with an official with Department of Natural Resources (DNR) during the Maryland Municipal League Convention. Councilman Newman reported he asked Mr. O'Farrell to obtain costs for installing restrooms and conducting a clean-up at the Lake, and further reported that he will speak to DNR and bring more information back to the Town Council.

Mayor Ambrogio announced that the new Target store opened this evening and that they had donated \$1,000 to the Town for National Night Out events in the Town.

Kent Avenue Partnership NNO [*Grant application request was withdrawn by applicant.*]

### Voluntary Water Restrictions

Speaking on behalf of the entire Town Council, Mayor Ambrogio read the following statement regarding voluntary water restrictions, to which Councilman Newman added the suggestion that citizens only water lawns between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. to avoid water loss due to evaporation:

*In an effort to show the Town's commitment to conserving precious resources and environmental awareness, the Mayor and Town Council are asking all citizens to take voluntary water conservation measures in response to the Drought Monitor map released on July 19. The map shows all of Maryland in a moderate drought range, but Southern Maryland counties are shown in the severe drought range.*

*Citizens are asked to consider taking the following conservation measures:*

- ◆take shorter showers
- ◆run the dishwasher only when full
- ◆limit watering of lawns and gardens and power-washing
- ◆repair any leaks

*Voluntary water conservation is a proactive measure to the local drought problem, which hopefully will keep officials from having to implement mandatory water restrictions in the future.*

### CVS entrance revision

Councilman Newman lead a brief discussion regarding his concerns about the left turn from Hawthorne Drive into CVS recently approved by the Planning Commission, and stated that he had asked Mr. Mears to speak to SHA to obtain their opinion. Councilman Newman further stated he would like the Planning Commission to be asked to wait for that opinion, and to reverse their approval if the SHA opinion is in the negative. During discussion, it was noted that CVS is aware of the approval granted by the Planning Commission and that research would be needed regarding reversing the decision. It was further noted that the Town Council may need to consider retaining an engineering firm to perform reviews on an as-needed basis, and to establish criteria for the Town to conduct traffic studies.

### Kent Avenue Partnership

Councilwoman Mudd requested that time be scheduled on a work session in the fall to discuss a community center and problems in the Kent Avenue Corridor neighborhood.

### Motion for Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Councilman Newman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:44 PM. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk