

Mayor and Council Meeting
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
September 24, 2002, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager

Guests: (See attached roster)

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

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Eckman acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2002.

Petitions, Reports and Appearances

Mayor Eckman acknowledged Michael Dunn who was present and working towards his Boy Scout Merit Badge.

Legislation (none)

Unfinished Business

Council Reports

Councilman Winkler reported on several issues: (1) The County Disaster Relief Fund has approximately \$184,400 remaining of the \$500,000 donated. Three hundred thirty four applications for grants have been received and processed. The Town of La Plata Disaster Relief Fund has approximately \$47,100. Once the County funds have been exhausted, the Town will assess needs and disburse the funds accordingly. (2) The La Plata Train Station will be open on Saturdays, Sundays and Mondays from 11 AM to 4 PM until the end of October.

Councilman Ambrogio reported on several issues: (1) The following events have been scheduled:

December 2, 2002	Town Hall tree decoration - 9:00 AM;
December 8, 2002	Town Hall tree lighting - 5:30 PM;
December 14, 2002	Breakfast with Santa;
December 23, 2002	Christmas Decoration Contest.

(2) The Kent Square Homeowners Association held a start-up meeting. Mike Murphy was elected President. The major concerns were adequate lighting in the community and the entrance at the rear of the development.

Councilman Hale reported the Planning Commission would be meeting next week. In addition, the Pumpkin Jubilee was scheduled for Sunday, October 6 from 12 noon to 4 PM. The La Plata Fun Fest Day sponsored by the Crime Watch Council was scheduled for September 28 behind Town Hall and the Veterans Day program was scheduled for November 10.

Councilman Fritz reported the Parks and Recreation Committee was scheduled to meet on October 9 at 4:00 PM and the Reforestation Committee was scheduled for October 16 at 4:00 PM.

Mayor Eckman reported on several topics: (1) An update was given on the Ladysmith, Wisconsin tornado. (2) The Town was continuing to look at municipal parking opportunities. (3) A letter was sent to Congressman Steny Hoyer requesting federal funding for key projects critical for the rebuilding of La Plata. (4) An open-house style public workshop will be held on October 10, 2002 between 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall. This workshop will provide an opportunity for the residents and business owners to review the concept plan that has been developed by the Maryland Department of Transportation and the La Plata Task Force for streetscape enhancements on Charles Street to Garrett Avenue, Centennial Street, St. Mary's Avenue, La Grange Avenue and Maple Avenue. A follow-up workshop will be held in November/December for Quailwood to Rt. 301, Charles Street to Rt. 488, Washington Avenue and Route 301 from Centennial to Hawthorne.

New Business

Appointment of Board of Appeals Alternate

Councilman Hale moved to approve the appointment of Zakary A. Krebeck as the Board of Appeals alternate. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Director of Inspections

Councilman Winkler moved to approve the appointment of Jeffrey F. Guido as Director of Inspections. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Comprehensive Rezoning

Councilman Winkler addressed Mr. Jim Goldsmith's concerns about public notification procedures for comprehensive rezonings. Councilman Winkler suggested the Town Council explore possible changes to the public notification procedure.

Patuxent Court Pumping Station

Councilman Ambrogio addressed concerns of Mr. George Miller regarding trash and debris around the Patuxent Court pumping station. Councilman Ambrogio suggested a possible fence around the pumping station.

Public Forum

Michelle Zepko, 321 Goose Creek Drive, spoke regarding crime in the Meadows area. Chief Gittings will explore the possibility of creating a task force with the two neighborhoods to address some of the concerns and continue to work with the Sheriff's Department on these issues.

Jake Mitchell spoke in opposition to the Route 301 crossing at Centennial Street and the possible Lowes annexation.

Mike Hanks, 128 East Quail Lane, President of the Quailwood Homeowners Association spoke briefly about issues of concern in Quailwood.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia L. Bembe,
Assistant Town Manager