

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
January 11, 2005, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; B. Gayle Curry, Town staff liaison to Beautification Commission; Chief Cassin B. Gittings, La Plata Police Department

Guests: (see roster)

Minutes:

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 November 30, 2004.

Approval of December minutes

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2004 regular meeting, December 16, 2004 special meeting, and December 18, 2004 special meeting. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Presentation to Charles McPherson

Mayor Eckman read and presented a Town Seal to Charles McPherson in appreciation of his service to the Town of La Plata while serving as a member of the Design Review Board, May 14, 2002 to October 18, 2004.

Beautification Commission presentation of Certificates of Appreciation (2004 Christmas Decorations)

Paula Winkler, Chairman of the Beautification Commission, Councilman Ambrogio, and Gayle Curry, Town staff liaison, presented certificates of appreciation to those present of the people who won the 2004 Christmas Decorations Display contest in the residential and commercial categories:

<u>Residential-1st Place</u> Mr. and Mrs. Glen Frank 1326 Redwood Circle	Mr. and Mrs. Craig Cavalier 1035 Suffolk Drive	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jimenez 1113 East Patuxent Drive
<u>Residential-Honorable Mentions</u> Mr. and Mrs. David Osborne 1035 Norfolk Drive	Mallory Tevis 132 Kalmia Court Santy DiSabatino 1018 Norfolk Drive	<u>Commercial – First Place</u> Lois Robertson Marie’s Family Restaurant 6325 Crain Highway
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Cox 324 Jennie Run Drive	Mr. and Mrs. Don Bladen 1346 Redwood Circle	<u>Commercial – Honorable Mention</u> Lawrence Abell & Associates 314 Charles Street
Mr. and Mrs. Keith Smith 608 Worcester Street	Mr. and Mrs. William Yeckley 115 Mallard Lane	

Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc. - Diggs Circle contribution

Robert Tourigny, Housing Administrator, Southern Maryland Tri-County Community Action Committee, Inc., and Debra Jones, Community Consultant, presented information and asked for the Council’s support of a tax credit program to help pay for the preliminary planning phase of renovations and modernizing needed for the twenty Diggs Circle rental units, and support of a request to the County for a PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program. Following their presentation and discussion with the Council, Mayor Eckman advised that the Town may be able to help with items such as permit fees and may be able to help with the PILOT program request.

Legislation

Ordinance 05-1 School Seat Allocation Policy (For Introduction) – For the purpose of establishing a policy, a methodology and a process for the Town to determine and allocate available school seats in the Charles County Public Schools; prohibiting the approval of certain final plats of subdivision unless sufficient school seats are available for allocation to the proposed subdivision in accordance with the allocation policy and process; requiring as a condition of approval and issuance of a building permit for a residential dwelling unless sufficient school seats are available for allocation to the proposed dwelling in accordance with the allocation policy and process; providing certain exemptions from the requirements of this Ordinance; providing appeals from certain determinations and decisions relating to the allocation of school seats; establishing a temporary moratorium on the approval of final plats of subdivision and the issuance of certain residential building permits; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

It was agreed that this item would be discussed at the next work session and be included on the next regular meeting agenda. Mr. Miller suggested that courtesy letters be sent to the development community to solicit comments: GP Homes, Somerset, Agricopia, and Jerry Lenhart.

Resolution 05-1 Grasso Annexation – 31.5 Acres (For Introduction) – For the purpose of authorizing the annexation of 31.5 acres, more or less, of contiguous land into the corporate limits of the Town of La Plata by amending the corporate limits of the Town; establishing certain terms, conditions and

circumstances applicable to such land and to the owners thereof; providing for the zoning of such land upon annexation; and all matters relating to the annexation of such 31.5 acres of land, more or less, into the Town of La Plata.

Mayor Eckman briefly described Resolution 05-1 and noted that hearings would be held February 1 by the Planning Commission and March 11 by the Town Council.

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Winkler reported that the Historic District Commission has reversed their opinion that the DeAngelis building be saved, and now believe that if the Town is able to purchase the property, demolish the building, and widen the road and add a traffic signal, they will support the project. Councilman Winkler also reported on topics discussed at the La Plata Business Association meeting held this morning.

Councilman Ambrogio reported that the Kent Avenue Revitalization Committee has been renamed the Kent Avenue Neighborhood Partnership, and will refocus efforts from revitalization to stabilization.

Councilman Back advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission meets January 12 and will be hearing a presentation by an Eagle Scout who wants to help.

Councilman Hale thanked the Town for replacement of the vandalized playground equipment at Silver Linden Park. Councilman Hale advised there were no issues to report on from the previous Planning Commission meeting. Councilman Hale recommended the Council move ahead regarding filling the vacancies on the Planning Commission. Mayor Eckman advised the Council there are four applications and they should advise Mr. Miller if they want to interview them at the next work session.

In response to positive comments from the Council regarding the Open House, Mayor Eckman advised that over 500 people attended and toured the Town Hall.

Police Station bid

Mr. Miller recommended that the Town Council instruct him to work with the low bidder, Dennis Anderson Construction, to conduct value engineering. That information would be brought back to the Council, and, if the amount is acceptable, the Council could award the bid. Or the Council could start the bid process over. In response to Councilman Hale, Mr. Miller advised that the grant deadline has been extended, making it possible to negotiate the June 15 project completion date. Councilman Back added that his only caveat on Dennis Anderson Construction would be that the Town would get a guaranteed completion date from him. The Town Council agreed to direct Mr. Miller to negotiate with Dennis Anderson Construction, to conduct value engineering, and bring that information back to the Council for a possible bid award.

In response to Councilman Winkler, Mr. Miller provided a status report on the proposal to move the gazebo from the lawn at the previous Town Hall on Garrett Avenue to Redwood Lake. Mr. Miller advised that Town has to reevaluate the ability to move the structure as the Town's Project Manager feels it won't survive the move; however, Bobbie Baldus disagrees, so the reevaluation process will include her counsel. Councilman Hale asked to be advised if the Town moves the gazebo to Redwood Lake.

New Business (none)

Public Forum

Burkey Boggs asked for the status of a resolution to support grant money for the carousel museum project. Mr. Miller advised that a letter was sent that the Town believes satisfied the requirement. He further advised that he would double check and advise Mr. Boggs.

Councilman Winkler expressed interest in discussing the “Critical 11” at the next work session, particularly the Washington Avenue sidewalk item. Mr. Miller advised that the Town just received the cost estimate.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 PM. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk