

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
October 28, 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

Town staff: Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, 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 September 30, 2003.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Town Seal – Joe Husick (Not present; to be presented at next meeting.)

Legislation (none)

Unfinished Business

Christmas star and pole

Mr. Miller advised he received a message from Mrs. Baldus that she would not be able to attend and that the cost for producing the star would be \$4,152. No information regarding details and strength of the pole were provided. It was noted that a decision could not be made until those details are provided.

Council reports

Councilman Hale reported that the Salute to Veterans Parade and Ceremony event is scheduled for Sunday, November 9, beginning at 1:00 PM. He noted that we will have three marching bands in the parade.

Councilman Fritz advised he would check on the status of the construction work at Tilghman Park, which the Town Council approved at the last meeting.

Councilman Ambrogio reported on the Beautification Commission meeting held October 20, noting that Joe Harrison resigned but still wishes to help on special projects, and that Paula Winkler was selected to be chairman. He noted the need to appoint someone to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Harrison's resignation. Mayor Eckman advised that Darlene Rose has expressed an interest in serving on the Beautification Commission and noted that this would be an agenda item under New Business.

Councilman Winkler reported that: (1) The La Plata Business Association met last week and is working on advertising/marketing La Plata to attract new businesses. (2) Lou Grasso, owner of the historic Ellenwood property, has asked to meet with the Historic District Commission in November regarding his wish to annex his property into the Town.

Mayor Eckman reported on the Charles County Economic Development Summit he attended today, noting that prospects look bright in Charles County and Southern Maryland. Mayor Eckman also reported he attended a meeting of the Hellman Transportation Commission in Denton last night, and noted that the Denton area has the same highway and traffic concerns as the Charles County area.

Councilman Winkler advised that he was also at the Economic Development Summit and reported that Mayor Eckman had been given Citizen of the Year Award for his work for the Town, the veterans' home in Charlotte Hall, his church, and for helping small communities work with their water systems.

Mr. Miller provided a brief update on the work being conducted on St. Mary's Avenue. He noted that the sewer system upgrade work should be done within the next six weeks, including some road repairs, and that the streetscape project to install 5' sidewalks, with curb, gutter and stamped border, from Charles Street to Charleston Terrace should be done this winter.

New Business

Award Bid for 2004 Chevrolet 2500HD Pickup Trucks

Councilman Hale made a motion to award the bid to purchase two 2004 Chevrolet 2500HD Pickup Trucks from Criswell, at a price of \$22,157.00 per truck. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion. In discussion prior to the vote, Mayor Eckman remarked that the unit price includes installation of a snow plow, which costs approximately \$4,000. Mr. Miller advised that these would be replacement vehicles for older equipment. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Appointment to Beautification Commission

Mayor Eckman recommended the appointment of Darlene Rose to fill the vacancy on the Beautification Commission. Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Public Forum

Jim Goldsmith provided a brief update on Safeway's tree planting project along the rear property line shared with Washington Avenue residents.

Paula Winkler noted that the La Plata Treescape Restoration Committee is working with Safeway so that the trees they plant are those on the list of approved trees. Ms. Winkler provided a brief update on the tree planting project along Oak Avenue. Regarding the DNR grant funding for Treescape projects, it was noted that Mayor Eckman had signed the paperwork and returned it to DNR.

A brief discussion was held regarding the Town's need to attract businesses. It was remarked that the Town may need its own economic development group to form a plan. It was pointed out that Chris Jakubiak is preparing a marketing plan, which may be available for review in January.

There being no further business, Councilman Hale made a motion to adjourn at 7:36 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk