

Mayor and Council
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
March 11, 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

Guests: (See attached roster)

Minutes:

Mayor Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and welcomed members of the GFWC Shining Stars Juniorette Club: Andrea Havrilla, Ashley Merritt, Jennifer Morgan, Krista Timms, Erica Weaver, and Shirley Sellner (advisor.) Mayor Eckman invited the club members to lead the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, after which Ashley Merritt sang America the Beautiful.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Members of the GFWC Shining Stars Juniorette Club presented a donation of \$500.00 to Mayor Eckman and Councilman Winkler for the La Plata Disaster Relief Fund. The money was raised at a fashion show the Shining Stars Juniorette Club held on March 6, 2003. Mayor Eckman thanked the Shining Stars Juniorette Club on behalf of all of the residents who will benefit from their donation and their efforts.

Approval of February minutes

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11 meeting. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 25 meeting. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Legislation

Ordinance 03-1 Parking Requirements in the C-B Central Business District and C-H Commercial Highway District (For Introduction) - For the purpose of amending off-street and off-lot parking requirements in the C-B Central Business District and C-H Commercial Highway District, subject to certain conditions; specifying the conditions under which those off-street and off-lot parking spaces may be allowed in the Central Business District and Commercial Highway District zones; and all matters generally relating to said parking requirements.

Mr. Miller briefly explained this ordinance and advised that public hearings have been scheduled for the Planning Commission on April 1, 2003, and for the Mayor and Council on April 8, 2003.

Resolution 03-1 Wawa Annexation - 8.774 Acres (For Introduction) - For the purpose of

authorizing the annexation of 8.774 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 8.774 acres of land, more or less, into the Town of La Plata.

Mr. Miller spoke briefly about this ordinance and advised that public hearings have been scheduled for the Planning Commission on April 1, 2003, and for the Mayor and Council on April 22, 2003.

Resolution 03-2 \$285,000 Grant from Department of Business and Economic Development (For Adoption) - For the purpose of authorizing the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of La Plata to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of La Plata a Grant Agreement with the State of Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development for a grant in the amount of \$285,000, to be used to assist the Town in recovery and rebuilding infrastructure damaged by the April 2002 tornado; and all matters relating to said Grant Agreement.

Mr. Miller provided a brief explanation of this resolution. Councilman Fritz made a motion to adopt Resolution 03-2. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

Council Reports

Councilman Hale reported on topics discussed at the March 4 Planning Commission meeting. He also remarked that the committee met again to continue planning an event to commemorate the first anniversary of the tornado, noting that a military concert is planned for Friday, April 25 and a festival is planned for Saturday, April 26.

Councilman Fritz reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission cancelled their March 12 meeting due to several members not being able to attend. He noted that work on the lake project is on track.

Councilman Ambrogio reported on several topics: (1) The Kent Avenue Revitalization Committee is planning to hold two community clean-up days (Saturdays, March 22 and March 29, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM). Flyers were mailed to the community today. There will be free special pick-ups curbside, free paint for painting fences, some light labor will be available, and power washers will be available. Councilman Ambrogio said that everyone in that community is being encouraged to participate, and that volunteers would be welcome to come and help. (2) The next meeting of the Beautification Commission will be held March 17. (3) A discussion was held with SMECO about

improving street lighting in the Meadows neighborhood. A prototype street light has been installed at the intersection of Kalmia Court and Cedar Court. Mayor Eckman remarked that it appears to be about 30% brighter than the current street lights in that community.

Councilman Winkler reported on several topics: (1) The Historic District Commission did not meet in February, but will meet this month. (2) The La Plata Business Association will meet on March 13, at 8:00 AM. (3) A 4-way stop has been installed in Quailwood Subdivision at the intersection of Quailwood Parkway and East and West Quail Lanes. Work is ongoing to get SMECO to repair/replace street lights in Quailwood. Mayor Eckman suggested that Councilman Winkler have those street light locations be included on the log in the Town Hall, which is kept to keep track of when a request is made for repairs and when SMECO expects to complete the work. Mayor Eckman also noted that he has already received phone calls complaining about the 4-way stop. (4) The reforestation effort in Morgans Ridge will begin April 5.

In response to Mayor Eckman's request, Paula Winkler provided a brief update on the tree replanting program: (1) It is hoped that trees will be delivered and in the ground by the end of March or beginning of April on Wicomico Street, Worcester Street and Hemlock Court. (2) Planting begins in Morgans Ridge on April 5. (3) It is hoped that planting will begin in the ANS and wastewater treatment plant area during the first week of May. This area still needs more clearing work done. Mark Rose will arrange with Southern Maryland Works to provide the labor to plant the trees.

In response to Mayor Eckman's request, Cheryl McGuire reported that the Design Review Board is meeting on March 12 to hear three more grant requests.

Mayor Eckman reported that the Town went to closing on the purchase of the old post office building on La Grange Avenue on March 5, and noted there is an immediate need to make the building weather-tight. The Town met with Joe Husick and it has been determined that the front portion of the roof should be rebuilt/repared and the flat roof repaired for now. Mayor Eckman asked for a motion to make an appropriation of up to \$30,000 from fund balance and to contract with Husick Construction for the needed repair work. Councilman Ambrogio made the motion to appropriate up to \$30,000 from fund balance and to contract with Husick Construction for the needed repair work. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Councilman Winkler remarked that Sue Davis offered the Town an almost new air conditioning unit for the post office building. It was one they replaced on their building after the tornado. Mayor Eckman advised that Steve Schroeder looked at the unit and said a professional should look at it to be sure it still functions properly.

Mayor Eckman reported that the Vision Implementation Team met this morning to work on design guidelines for the C-H Commercial Highway District. They will meet again in two weeks. Councilman Winkler asked if those guidelines would be in place before the new CVS store installs their sign, noting that one of their proposed signs is 123 sq. ft., and the light from it will be glaring to those in that area. Mayor Eckman remarked that the Town needs to be sure that no signs exceed the square footage allowable, and that the Vision Implementation Team will be looking at sign

regulations. He also noted that the Town may be modifying the sign regulations.

New Business (none)

Public Forum

Noting the Wawa annexation petition, Joe Harrison asked if the Town should renew its efforts to obtain an information sign. Mayor Eckman noted that more information would be available after a meeting next week with Wawa.

There being no further business, Councilman Hale made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk