

Mayor and Council Meeting
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
April 23, 2002, 7:00 PM

Present: Councilman Wayne Winkler; Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier

Guests: (See attached roster)

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Eckman, Councilman Hale chaired the meeting. Councilman Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report

Councilman Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated March 31, 2002.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

La Plata Police Chief Cassin B. Gittings presented to each member of the Mayor and Council framed color renditions of the new shoulder patch and vehicle decal. He explained that Stuart Bowling drew the design, a black and white sketch which depicts the train station and train on the tracks, and that Cpl. Robert Padgett, of the La Plata Police Department, worked with the emblem company to produce the color version for the shoulder patch and vehicle decal.

Legislation

Ordinance 02-13 Design Review Board (For Introduction) - For the purpose of adding a new Chapter 16, consisting of Sections 16-1 through 16-9, inclusive, to the Code of the Town of La Plata (1998 Edition and Supplements); to establish a Design Review Board for the Town of La Plata; to specify the composition and terms of the office of members of the Board; to specify the powers and duties of the Board; and all matters generally related to the establishment and operation of a Design Review Board for the Town of La Plata.

Mr. Miller briefly explained that this ordinance was the first in a three-part process to provide for Design Review. After the adoption of this ordinance, the Town's Zoning chapter will be amended and then the actual design standards will be adopted. He advised that anyone interested in being considered for appointment to the Design Review Board should notify the Town.

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Winkler reported that the caboose had been moved to the Town's tracks at 6:30 this morning. He is expecting a company to arrive this Saturday to deal with the lead based paint. After that work is finished, his crew of volunteers will begin refurbishing the caboose. The paint color chosen for the caboose is red. He believes the caboose will be ready for the July 4th dedication ceremony.

Councilman Ambrogio reported that the Beautification Commission discussed the information sign proposed near Wawa. It was noted that the land has not been annexed yet and that they still hope the Town will be able to install the sign.

Councilman Fritz reported that the 2002 Concert Series begins May 31 and ends September 6. There are four military bands scheduled. The Army has promised to be on next year's schedule. He reported that the Memorial Day Ceremony will be on Monday, May 27, at 11:00 a.m., with Captain Livingstone as keynote speaker.

Councilman Hale reported that the Planning Commission is working on the final phases on the Comprehensive Plan, and noted that the Vision team has also been very busy.

New Business

Parks and Recreation Commission - consulting contract

Tom O'Farrell, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, advised the Town Council that they interviewed three companies who responded to the Town's request for proposals for a master plan for the Tilghman Lake property development. Parks and Recreation selected D. H. Steffens, who quoted \$32,000 to do the initial phase, and are recommending that the Town Council approve their selection. Mr. Miller noted that the money would initially come from the parks fee in lieu fund balance. During the brief discussion which followed, Councilman Winkler remarked that the Town should work with the County to discuss some type of fee arrangement or County help to address the issue of a park funded by Town residents being open to residents of the county.

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the selection of D. H. Steffens. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Public Forum

Pat Howe, 200 Shining Willow Way, reminded the Council that he spoke at the April 9 Town Council meeting regarding the condition of the sidewalk in the area of Sacred Heart Church on St.

Mary's Avenue. Mr. Howe advised that the Sacred Heart parish council met about this topic. He presented a petition signed by 393 people in support of extending the planned upgrade of sidewalk on St. Mary's Avenue all the way down to Glen Albin Road, and displayed pictures of the sidewalk in the area of the church, which show the water ponding problem. Mr. Howe suggested that the Town could sell bonds to get the money to make the additional improvements to the sidewalk. Councilman Hale noted that the Town would take the request into consideration.

Jim Huffman remarked that the Town needs to install safety features at the train station to keep children off the tracks. Councilman Winkler and Mr. Huffman are to meet to talk about safety concerns and solutions.

Joe Harrison, market master, advised that the Farmers Market would open on Saturday, May 11, rain or shine.

Councilman Winkler remarked that he and Mr. Miller had been discussing what to put on the water tower after it has been sandblasted and painted, such as American and Maryland flags, the name of the Town and date established. He asked that anyone who has a suggestion to call the Town.

Councilman Fritz and Paula Winkler remarked that WalMart corporate headquarters announced a new business, that of selling used cars on their current lots. The first one is in Texas.

There being no further business, Councilman Fritz made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier