

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
September 28, 2004, 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; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: 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 August 31, 2004.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Bolton-Latham presentation – Stagecoach Crossing

David Hruda, representing Somerset, advised they brought their civil engineers, Bolton-Latham, and planners, DPZ, to make the presentation. Michael Watkins, DPZ, provided a visual display of examples of village development versus sprawl development and elements of each. Mr. Watkins explained they would conduct a public design process during the first part of November and would present results of that design process at the November 9 Town Council meeting.

Legislation

Ordinance 04-6 Traditional Neighborhood Development (For Adoption) – For the purpose of creating Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) as a floating zone within the Mixed Use District; specifying criteria and regulations for TND, defining certain terms; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Eckman acknowledged that this ordinance has been introduced and public hearings have been held by the Planning Commission and Town Council. Mr. Miller provided a brief explanation of this ordinance.

Councilman Winkler stated he did not fully understand the ordinance and wanted to discuss it at the next work session. Mayor Eckman advised he could make a motion to defer the ordinance. Councilman Winkler made a motion that Ordinance 04-6 be deferred for two weeks and be discussed at the next work session. Councilman Hale seconded the ordinance. In discussion before the vote, it was noted that many of the amendments are stylistic in nature. Vote on the motion to defer: the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 04-11 Development Plan Review Fee (For Adoption) – For the purpose of levying a Development Plan Review Fee for the review of development plans for Mixed Use Developments (MUD) and Traditional Neighborhood Developments (TND); and all matters generally related to the MUD and TND Development Plan Review Fee.

As this fee is directly related to TND, Mr. Miller asked that adoption of this ordinance also be deferred. Councilman Winkler made a motion to defer Ordinance 04-11 for two weeks. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Hale announced that the Great Pumpkin Jubilee would be held Sunday, October 3, and that the Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk would also be held that day.

Councilman Fritz reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission's next meeting would be September 29, and noted that the chairman, Tom O'Farrell, laid out the 1 ½ mile course for the Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk.

Councilman Ambrogio reported on topics discussed at the Beautification Commission's meeting on September 20. He also advised that the first 500 participants at the Shape Up La Plata Fun Walk would receive visors.

Paula Winkler, chairman of the Beautification Commission, reported that they are finalizing the landscape design for Town Hall, preparing to implement the DNR grant for streetscape trees, and that fall plantings have begun at the Town sign and planters.

Councilman Winkler advised he had no report from the La Plata Business Association or Historic District Commission. He reported that the federal and state governments are giving the Town a grant of \$80,000 to plant more trees, and that Paula Winkler will be meeting with the Beautification Commission and Town staff on September 29 to determine where the trees can be planted. Ms. Winkler confirmed for Mayor Eckman that St. Mary's Avenue is one of the areas.

Mayor Eckman reported on a meeting he attended with the County Commissioners and Maryland Department of Transportation Secretary Robert Flanagan regarding transportation priorities. He also advised that construction of the new Town Hall is progressing on schedule, and that a tentative move-in date is the weekend of December 11.

Meeting cancellations

Mayor Eckman announced that the November 23 Town Council meeting has been cancelled due to dismantling of the current meeting room for relocation to the new Town Hall. The December 14 meeting will be held in the new Town Hall. Mr. Miller advised that the October 19 work session is also cancelled.

Public Forum

Paula Winkler advised that the standing water problem at the CVS intersection of Hawthorne Drive and Crain Highway is growing in volume, and she believes it may be from an underground source. Mayor Eckman advised it would be checked out.

Burkey Boggs announced that the Southern Maryland Woodcarvers Show and Sale would be held at the Town Hall October 2 and 3, and that a carousel horse would be on display.

Councilman Winkler provided an update on the installation of three tornado sirens, noting they would be installed Wednesday morning, and that a fourth siren would be ordered this week.

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

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk