

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
October 23, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Jerry Volman to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of September minutes

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve the minutes of the September 11 special meeting, September 11 work session, September 11 closed session, September 18 work session, and September 25 regular meeting. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated September 30, 2007.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Trick or Treat Proclamation

Mayor Ambrogio read the Proclamation declaring October 31, 2007 as Trick or Treat Evening in the Town of La Plata.

Public Forum

Mike Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, spoke about the holiday tree discussed at a previous meeting and expressed his opinion that the Town purchase one tree and that it be planted in the circle rather than purchasing one every year. Mayor Ambrogio announced that the Town Council accepted the offer of Bob Johnston, a local realtor, to donate the money to purchase the tree for this year, and that Mr. Runfola's comments will be taken into consideration for future discussion.

Public hearing

Resolution 07-10 Amendment of the Grasso Annexation Agreement – For the purpose of approving and authorizing the amendment of a certain Annexation Agreement between the Town

of La Plata, Pamela D. Grasso and Gerard T. McDonough, Substitute Trustees, and others; and all matters relating to the amendment of the Annexation Agreement.

Mayor Ambrogio called the hearing to order at 7:06 PM. The Clerk entered into the record the Certification of Publication of the notice of the hearing in the October 10 and October 17, 2007 editions of the Maryland Independent.

Mayor Ambrogio asked if anyone wished to speak.

Thomas F. Mudd, attorney representing the Grasso interests, advised that he met with Councilman Newman and Mr. Mears regarding the issues and concerns of the Planning Commission and the neighboring Clarks Run Subdivision residents, and that those issues have been addressed: (1) issue regarding headlights shining into existing dwellings in Clarks Run Subdivision that are across the road from where the future road will connect into Clarks Run Subdivision – the road will be aligned however the Planning Commission directs; (2) storm water management; (3) no subdivision signage will be installed at the road connection into Clarks Run; (4) won't disturb existing vegetation at the boundary with Clarks Run Subdivision.

Jim Gotsch, of Loiederman, Soltesz Associates, spoke about the road alignment, buffer yard, and natural conditions of the stream valley.

Councilman Newman advised he wished to see the resolution of the issues in writing. Mr. Mudd noted that the items are contained within the existing agreement and that the amendment was only to modify the time allowed to complete the manor house.

Willie Chin, 400 Butternut Court, asked if the current plat had any changes to that shown on the plat when P. F. Summers was to develop the property. Mr. Gotsch responded that it was slightly different, noting that the houses will be constructed a little further away from the existing dwellings on Butternut court and that the road will connect into Clarks Run Subdivision.

There being no other speakers, Mayor Ambrogio closed the hearing at 7:20 PM.

Legislation

Ordinance 07-11 Design Review Board Membership (For Adoption) – For the purpose of altering the composition of the Design Review Board membership by converting one regular membership to be an Alternate Member; specifying the term of office of the Alternate Member; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Ordinance 07-11. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (none)

New Business

Award bid for paving overlay

Mr. Mears advised that the Town received five bids for paving overlay of Somerset St., Wicomico St., Garrett Ave., Linden Ln., Severn Dr., Anne Arundel Ave., Frederick Dr., N. Maple Ave. and Baltimore St. and that staff recommends awarding the bid to the low bidder, All-Pro Asphalt, in the amount of \$159,400.

During discussion, the Town Council agreed that there be on-site inspection of the work by Town staff and that homeowners be notified prior to the work beginning. It was also agreed that, even though it was not included in the bid, striping will need to be done on some of the streets.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the bid for the paving overlay project to All-Pro Asphalt in the amount of \$159,400.00. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Appointment to Design Review Board

Mayor Ambrogio recommended Tom Hinman to serve a 3-year term as Alternate Member on the Design Review Board, effective December 6, 2007.

Councilman Newman moved to approve the appointment. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's October 2 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Board's October 3 and October 17 meetings.

Councilwoman Mudd reported that the Beautification Commission created a scarecrow to be displayed during the Festival of Scarecrows, and that it is to be installed in front of the Town Hall on October 24.

Mayor Ambrogio reminded everyone that the Fall Festival – Taste of La Plata – Festival of Scarecrows kick-off event is scheduled to be held on the Town Hall grounds on Sunday, October 28, noon to 5:00 PM. Mayor Ambrogio also announced that the Salute to Veterans Parade and Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 11, at 1:00 PM.

Motion for Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(8) – Consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn at 7:32 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. The Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk