

Mayor and Council Meeting
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
December 11, 2001, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman William A. Hilleary, Jr., Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Roy G. Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier

Guests: (See attached roster)

Pursuant to the requirement of Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Mayor and Council was held at 7:45 PM, Tuesday, November 27, 2001, in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Present: Mayor Eckman, Councilmen Hilleary, Fritz, Ambrogio and Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier

On a motion made by Councilman Hale, seconded by Councilman Fritz, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(8). The purpose of the meeting was to consult with staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigation in regard to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Contract. Councilman Hilleary offered a motion to direct the Town Manager to advise the contractor that the Town will not pay the \$106,862, will waive the 47-day penalty, and will hold to the contract for any further delays. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

Pursuant to the requirement of Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Mayor and Council was held at 5:00 PM, Thursday, November 29, 2001, in the Town Hall Conference Room.

Present: Mayor Eckman, Councilmen Hilleary, Fritz, Ambrogio and Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier; Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney

During the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Council on November 27,

2001, a motion was made by Councilman Fritz, seconded by Councilman Hale, and passed by unanimous consent of the members present to conduct a closed session on November 29, 2001, at 5:00 PM. The authority under which the session was closed was Maryland Annotated Code, State Government Article, Section 10-508(a)(7). The purpose of the meeting was to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice in regards to the Heritage Green Annexation Agreement. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Eckman called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of November minutes

Councilman Fritz made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 13 meeting. Councilman Hilleary seconded the motion and it carried.

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 27 meeting. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it carried.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances (none)

Legislation

Ordinance 01-9 Stormwater Management Transition Period (For Introduction) - For the purpose of incorporating a transition provision into the existing stormwater management regulations applicable in the Town of La Plata; and matters generally relating to stormwater management in the Town of La Plata.

Mr. Miller briefly explained the proposed transition provision and advised it could be adopted at the January 8, 2002 meeting. There being no questions or comments at this time from the Mayor and Council, it was agreed that Ordinance 01-9 be placed on the January agenda.

Unfinished Business

In response to Mayor Eckman's request, Wayne Winkler provided a brief update on the relocation of the caboose, noting he is working with CSX for a waiver. He also advised that help from CSX is looking more promising. Responding to a question posed by the Mayor at a previous meeting, Mr. Winkler reported that Gene Coffman said he had actually checked on the height of power lines.

Mr. Miller reminded the Mayor and Council of the grant the Town has been awarded for

Tilghman Lake, and praised the efforts of Boy Scout Troop 1321, who put in over 300 man hours last weekend doing clean-up to prepare for the picnic area planned for the Tilghman Lake park.

New Business

After a brief discussion, Mayor Eckman asked for a motion to cancel the December 25 meeting. Councilman Hale made a motion to cancel the December 25 meeting. Councilman Hilleary seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Mayor Eckman invited everyone to attend the Holiday Open House at the Town Hall on Thursday, December 27, 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Eckman asked for a motion to revise the morning work session meeting time. Councilman Ambrogio made a motion that the work sessions begin at 7:00 AM and end by 9:00 AM. Councilman Hilleary seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Councilman Hilleary remarked that the bulletin board by the front door and the newsletter will need to be changed to reflect the 7:00 AM start time. Councilman Hale remarked that the time change is effective with the January, 2002 work sessions. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Miller announced that two bids (copies provided) had been received for a new dump truck, which is in the current budget: (1) Criswell Chevrolet, Inc., Gaithersburg, Md., bid \$26,610.34; and (2) Hunt Ford, Inc., La Plata, Md., bid \$27,310.40. In the brief discussion which followed, it was remarked that obtaining maintenance service would be more accessible from Hunt Ford, Inc. in La Plata. Councilman Fritz made a motion to accept the bid from Hunt Ford, Inc. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

Public Forum

Wayne Winkler reminded the Mayor and Council that they had mentioned at a recent work session that bottoms are coming out of dumpsters in the town. He asked if it was possible to make repairs to them by welding metal to them. Mayor Eckman advised Mr. Winkler that such had been done so often that it was no longer possible to repair them. He also remarked that the Mayor and Council are reviewing proposals from companies for a possible change in containers.

Joe Harrison asked if Mr. Miller would have Steve Murphy send a crew to work on fixing the Christmas lights on the outdoor tree as an entire block of lights is out.

Councilman Hilleary remarked that most of the street decorations lights are working. Mayor Eckman remarked that not all were working, some of which had been in need of repair for several years, and we still need to determine why.

Paula Winkler advised that the two entrance signs on Crain Highway have been decorated for Christmas by the Beautification Commission.

Councilman Ambrogio reminded everyone that the Town's Blood Drive is scheduled for January 19, and encouraged donations.

Motion for Executive Session

Councilman Hale made a motion to have an executive session immediately following this meeting, pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland Section 10-508(a)(1)(i): the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; to discuss various personnel issues. Councilman Hilleary seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, the Mayor and Council adjourned to executive session in the conference room at 7:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier