

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

Present: Mayor William F. Eckman, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman Thomas W. Fritz, Councilman Gene Ambrogio; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier

Guests: (See attached 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 June 30, 2002.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances (none)

Legislation

Resolution 02-3 McPhee Annexation - 23.62 Acres (For Introduction) - For the purpose of authorizing the annexation of 23.62 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 23.62 acres of land, more or less, into the Town of La Plata.

Mayor Eckman invited Marty Martin, contract purchaser of the McPhee property, to provide a brief presentation of his plans for the property. Mr. Martin explained he would like to have R-8 zoning to provide for approximately 50 to 60 8,000 sq. ft. lots, upon which would be built single family detached homes that would sell in the \$160,000 to \$170,000 range. He noted that his engineer would provide a more detailed presentation at the public hearings scheduled on this annexation petition. Mr. Miller advised that the Planning Commission would hold a public hearing on August 6, and that the Mayor and Council would hold a public hearing on August 13.

Resolution 02-4 Department of Business and Economic Development Grant (For Adoption) - For the purpose of authorizing and empowering the appropriate officials of the Town of La Plata to accept and execute a grant from the Department of Business and Economic Development in an amount up to \$600,000 for the purpose of paying for not more than 70% of the costs of rebuilding the Town's infrastructure after recent tornado damage and all matters relating to said grant.

Councilman Fritz offered a motion to adopt Resolution 02-4. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business

Council Reports

Councilman Fritz reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission will resume meeting soon.

Councilman Ambrogio reported that the Beautification Commission met last Monday and discussed reforestation with Dave Flanagan of the Tree Foundation. He also noted that the Beautification Commission will need assistance from others due to the magnitude of work involved with reforestation. Mayor Eckman remarked that Mark Rose has agreed to chair a reforestation group for the Town. Joe Harrison remarked that the Charles County Garden Club has volunteered to help.

Councilman Winkler reported that more than 750 people have visited the La Plata Train Station since it opened on July 4, and advised that the La Plata Train Station Museum, the one room school house in Port Tobacco, and the Port Tobacco Courthouse are now open on Saturdays, Sundays, and Mondays, 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., through the end of October. He noted that nonprofit organizations may call him if they would like to schedule use of the Museum for a meeting place.

Councilman Winkler reported he met with Maryland Department of Labor, who is giving us a \$1 million grant which can be used in various ways, such as hiring two 3-person crews for stump grinding and a person to cover the Charles County Operations Center phone. He advised that \$404,198 had been donated to the Charles County Disaster Relief Fund and that 106 families (9 live in La Plata) received grants totaling \$93,425.29 from that fund, and that another \$100,000 has been allocated to the State of Maryland to hire contractors to grind or remove stumps. He noted that the Disaster Relief Fund's current balance is \$210,000. He advised that the Town would be sending grant applications to all in La Plata to apply to receive up to \$1,000 from the Charles County Disaster Relief Fund. Councilman Winkler also reported that at last week's concert Lisa and Paul Bales, of the Crossing at Casey Jones Restaurant, donated to the Town's Relief Fund more than \$6,000, which they raised by selling t-shirts and having an auction. Councilman Winkler noted that Lisa and Paul Bales made this sizable donation even though their restaurant sustained heavy damage and they lost income while the restaurant was closed.

Mayor Eckman complimented Councilman Winkler for doing a great job and remarked he was surprised by the number of visitors to the Train Station.

Mayor Eckman reported on meetings held with the architects and property owners. He noted that a meeting was held with property owners along the right-of-way of the extension of Centennial Street, which SHA is engineering. He remarked that there have been discussions regarding having angle parking along both sides of La Grange Avenue, which will require acquisition of a right-of-way on the east side. Mayor Eckman also reported on the meetings with property owners and Todd

Ray and Chris Jakubiak.

Mayor Eckman reported that the Town's Design Review Board held their first meeting and met with the first property owner. He noted that within the next two weeks the Town should be issuing three building permits, if the Fire Marshal's Office completes their review.

Mayor Eckman reported that Councilman Winkler, Joe Harrison, Michelle Miner and he met to go over the final details for Community Appreciation Day on Sunday, July 28.

New Business

Budget Transfer - Community Appreciation Day

Mayor Eckman explained that a budget transfer is needed in order to provide free food tickets to the volunteers we've invited to be thanked at our Community Appreciation Day, which he believes should be paid for by tax dollars rather than from money donated to the Relief Fund. Mayor Eckman asked for a motion for a budget transfer of \$10,000 as a special appropriation from fund balance to a special fund to pay for this item. Councilman Winkler made the motion to make the budget transfer. Councilman Fritz seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Public Forum

Acknowledging the presence of Jake and Sandra Mitchell in the audience, Mayor Eckman expressed his hope that they rebuild so that Wildes-Spirit Printing Company will return to La Plata. Mr. Mitchell noted he hopes the Town's architects team can come up with some recommendations.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 PM. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith T. Frazier