

La Plata Planning Commission  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Regular meeting  
February 5, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: Chairman Rich Gilpin, Keith A. Hettel, Garyton C. Echols, Jr., Mark Rose, Debra W. Posey, James Goldsmith – Commission members; Cathy Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Steven F. Schroeder, Project Manager

Minutes:

Chairman Gilpin called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked Mr. Goldsmith to lead the Commission and audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of January minutes

Mr. Hettel moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Mr. Echols seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### Public hearing: Ordinance 08-2 Appointments to Board of Appeals

*[A staff report dated February 5, 2008 was included in the Planning Commission's meeting packets.]*

Chairman Gilpin called the hearing to order. Ms. Flerlage entered into the record the Certification of Publication that the notice of the hearing was properly advertised in the January 18, 2008, edition of the Maryland Independent newspaper.

Chairman Gilpin asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding the ordinance. No one wished to speak.

In response to Mr. Hettel's request, Mr. Goldsmith provided a brief explanation of the purpose of the amendment, noting it provides for having the entire Council make appointments. During discussion, it was recommended that the Town Council place an advertisement in the local paper when there are openings on the Boards and Commissions and that appointees be Town residents representing the different wards.

There being no speakers, Chairman Gilpin closed the hearing at 7:10 PM.

#### Recommendation to Town Council on Ordinance 08-2

Following discussion, Mr. Goldsmith moved to recommend that the Town Council adopt Ordinance 08-2, and recommend that the Town Council also include the Town residency requirement and, where feasible, there be representatives from as many wards as possible on the Board. Mr. Rose seconded the motion. During discussion before the vote, Mr. Gilpin asked Mr.

Goldsmith to amend his motion to state “and, where feasible, consider ward representation as part of the selection process.” Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Rose agreed to the amendment. The motion as amended: Recommend that the Town Council adopt Ordinance 08-2, and recommend that the Town Council also include the Town residency requirement and, where feasible, consider ward representation as part of the selection process. The amended motion passed by unanimous vote.

Water and Sewer Improvement Team Project Update – presentation by Bill Eckman

Mr. Eckman provided an update on the water and sewer improvements project and answered questions posed by the Planning Commission and members of the Port Tobacco River Conservancy (PTRC) who were in attendance. At Mr. Goldsmith’s request, Mr. Eckman provided a brief description of the plan to provide effluent to Mirant.

*[Chairman Gilpin called for a brief recess at 9:10 PM; the meeting resumed at 9:22 PM.]*

Comprehensive Plan – Discussion of Goals and Objectives

*[A staff report dated February 4, 2008 was included in the Planning Commission’s meeting packets.]*

Ms. Flerlage advised that the Comprehensive Plan will be a topic on every future meeting agenda and that work sessions will also be needed. Mr. Mears provided a brief overview of the new elements that are required to be in the Plan and noted that the Planning Commission and Town Council should have a joint meeting to discuss potential development in the next seven or so years. Mr. Mears advised that the Town Council also wants to restart the Visioning process. Information regarding HB1141 is to be provided to the members of the Planning Commission.

Other business

There being no further business, Mr. Rose moved to adjourn at 9:52 PM. Mr. Goldsmith seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk