

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Manager-Council Meeting
February 17, 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: Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer

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

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:20 PM, Tuesday, February 10, 2004, in the Town Hall conference room.

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

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 Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(3): Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss acquisition of property for Centennial Street. The Council agreed upon an offer of compensation to the property owners (Chapman, Bowling & Scott, Nancy Gasparovic, and Kelly & Stewart), with their decision needed prior to Friday morning, February 13, 2004, the date the Town will meet with State Highway Administration officials. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM.

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

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 4:00 PM, Friday, February 13, 2004, in the Town Hall conference room.

Present: Mayor Eckman, Councilmen Winkler, Fritz, Ambrogio and Hale; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager

On a motion made by Councilman Ambrogio, 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 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. The purpose of the meeting: Personnel matter - Town Manager. The Council followed up on the Town Manager's current evaluation. The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Minutes:

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

Petitions, Communications and Appearances

Rodney Saunders, McGladrey & Pullen, LLP – Audit Report

Mr. Saunders provided an overview of the FY 03 Financial Report and auditors' notes, and answered questions posed by the Council.

GP Homes presentation – Heritage Green

David Cooksey and Dan Anderton, of Loiederman Soltesz Associates, Inc., provided copies of master site development plan documents and letter to Mr. Cooksey from DMJM+HARRIS, the point of contact for CSX Transportation. Mr. Cooksey advised they may need to amend the master site development plan due to a problem obtaining the railroad crossing and difficulty building above or under the crossing. They noted they support the proposed Traditional Neighborhood Development category the Town is working on and will use it in the development of Heritage Green.

Mayor Eckman acknowledged the presence of Dick Keller, one of the consultants to the Vision Plan process, and asked if he had any questions. Following a brief discussion regarding performing a traffic study, Mr. Keller advised he would put together a scope of work for a traffic study involving Heritage Green.

Legislation (none)

Unfinished Business (none)

New Business

Joe Norris, Town Treasurer, provided a brief overview of the Treasurer's Report (dated 1/31/04), which was acknowledged as received by the Council.

Mr. Norris explained and requested certain budget amendments in the General Fund, as of December 31, 2003, a copy of which was provided to each Council member. Mr. Norris requested authorization to increase expenditures in the following accounts:

Department 115 Administration

\$12,375 Capital Outlay Town Manager's new vehicle cost \$22,875 – Transfer 10,500 from 140-098 Vehicle Replacement + Budget Amendment

Department 130 Law

\$15,000 Operating Expense Additional legal not budgeted \$10,000, pension debt finance and other issues.

Department 140 General Services

\$610,000 Capital Outlay Purchase Mudd property for new town hall.

Department 145 Other General Services

\$20,000 Beautification Trees-Oak Ave. - Reimbursed by Maryland Mayors Association and Building Industry Association.

Department 320 Protective Inspection

\$50,000 Operating Expense Misjudged cost of inspections, but there is extra revenue because of the additional inspections (MDIA)

Councilman Hale made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris explained certain budget variances from the adopted budget in the Sanitation Enterprise Fund (December 31, 2003) and the Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund (December 31, 2003), a copy of which was provided to each Council member.

Mr. Norris explained fund balances per audited financial statements (June 30, 2003), a copy of which was provided to each Council member.

Mr. Norris explained and asked for action on a Vehicle Replacement Plan he prepared to provide for funding to replace Town vehicles as necessary. A brief discussion was held regarding preparing a similar schedule for a road repairs program. Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the Vehicle Replacement Plan. Councilman Hale seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Norris explained certain long term debt balances as of June 30, 2004, a copy of which was provided to each Council member.

Work Session

Town Hall Gazebo

Description: Upon settling on the current Town Hall site, Civista will want the front lawn cleared of the Veterans Memorial and the gazebo. The logical place to move the gazebo is Redwood Lake.

Council Consensus: The Council agreed to move the gazebo to Redwood Lake and to ask the Beautification Commission to look at landscaping the Redwood Lake site.

Post Tornado Vision Exercise

Description: Comments were made as part of the Post Tornado Vision Exercise, such as the Town should reconsider the relocation of Town Hall to the proposed La Grange Avenue site. Are there any comments that should be acted upon before the February 21 retreat?

Council Consensus: It was acknowledged that this work session topic was developed for a previous meeting which was cancelled due to snow. Mr. Miller reviewed the agenda of the February 21 retreat, copies of which were provided to each Council member. The Council agreed to meet at the Town Hall at 8:00 AM to arrange carpooling to the retreat site.

Park and Ride: Washington Avenue

Description: MTA is ready to finalize their plans for a park and ride on Washington Avenue. The Council is not in full agreement on the location of the facility. Furthermore, the Town agreed earlier to maintain the facility (landscaping, grass cutting, trash collection). Is it still the intention of the Town to maintain this facility?

Council Consensus: The Council agreed that Mr. Miller should obtain more information regarding the cost of and man hours needed for the maintenance, to be provided at a future meeting. The Council also agreed that Mr. Miller should ask what other building options are available.

TEP Funding: Washington Avenue Sidewalks

Description: MDOT is accepting applications for 50% assistance for transportation projects. The only project that seems to meet the criteria is Washington Avenue sidewalks. Projects must go to construction within 24 months. Submittal deadline is March 1, 2004.

Council Consensus: The Council agreed to apply for this funding.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk