

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Special Meeting and Work Session  
May 8, 2007, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: Chief Cassin B. Gittings and Lt. Wayne Wathen, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

### **Special Meeting**

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

#### Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

##### Proclamation – Poppy Day – May 11, 2007

Mayor Ambrogio read the proclamation and presented it to representatives of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 82: Kitty Dawson, Junie Goff and Deborah Bridge.

##### Proclamation – Police Week – May 13 – 19, 2007 and Peace Officers Memorial Day – May 15, 2007

Mayor Ambrogio read the proclamation and presented it to Chief Gittings.

#### New Business

##### Selection of engineering firm for WWTP upgrade and expansion study

Mr. Norris gave each Council member a copy of a memorandum to Mr. Norris from William F. Eckman, Consultant, dated May 3, 2007, summarizing the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee's process of interviewing finalists for the contract to conduct a feasibility study on the upgrade of the WWTP, and containing their recommendation that the Council select Stearns & Wheler.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the contract for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade and expansion study to Stearns & Wheler, LLC, Environmental Engineers and Scientists, for an estimated fee of \$74,210. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the special meeting at 7:12 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

### **Work Session**

#### Matters of Council Discussion

Town gateway signs

*Description: Rosewick is questioning what the Town plans to do with their contribution towards Town gateway signs.*

Council consensus: The Council directed Mr. Norris to have Town Planning and Zoning staff get a design proposal, which is to be brought back to the Council for a decision. Location of the sign is to be determined at a later time.

Water tower signage

*Discussion of proposed (by Rosewick) water tower signage to include the words "Rosewick Crossing" in 3 ft. high lettering over "La Plata, Maryland" in 2 ft. high lettering. The water tower is to be constructed by Rosewick and conveyed to the Town as part of the requirements of the annexation agreement.*

Mr. Norris gave each Council member a copy of a memorandum to the Town Council from Carol Rollins (Town staff), dated May 8, 2007, summarizing the proposal by Rosewick (and including the following attachments: Town Code § 191-64T.; Design Review Application from Faison-Rosewick, LLC, dated May 4, 2007; Sign Permit Application from Faison-Rosewick, LLC, dated May 4, 2007, and conceptual rendering dated May 3, 2007).

Council consensus: The Council agreed they do not wish to have the "Rosewick Crossing" lettering on the tower.

Budget amendments

*Description: Review budget amendments to be presented at the May 22 regular meeting.*

Mr. Norris gave each Council member a copy of the FY 2006-2007 Budget Amendments, which he explained and advised would come before them for action at their May 22, 2007 meeting.

Fence in Phoenix Run

*Description: Discuss demolition or replacement of fence bordering Phoenix Run.*

Mr. Norris passed around photographs of the fence and area in question, noting he recommended that the fence be removed and that it would take a short time to clean up the trash on the property it borders. Councilwoman Mudd advised that at the recent clean-up day in the Phoenix Run community, residents said they don't want the fence to remain but that they do want the trash to be cleaned up.

Council consensus: The Council agreed that prior to having Public Works remove the fence, the location of the fence/ownership of the property must be determined.

Councilwoman Mudd led a brief discussion regarding the section of chain link fence installed across the pathway from the Phoenix Run community to Anne Arundel Avenue, noting that trash and litter accumulate there. Councilwoman Mudd also asked who owns the property where the fence was installed. Following discussion, it was agreed that Mr. Norris would determine who owns the pathway.

Cameras

*Description: Discuss meeting room cameras and contribution from Comcast per franchise agreement.*

Mr. Norris gave each Council member a copy of a memorandum to Mr. Norris from Patti Bembe, dated April 25, 2007, summarizing the points contained in the Cable Agreement regarding audio-visual equipment for the meeting room, and concerns which need to be considered.

Council consensus: The Council agreed to obtain the cameras and prepare to take over the operation of videotaping meetings, and to explore the possibility of hiring a part-time camera operator.

#### Matters of Information

Mr. Norris provided an update on discussion with Fifth Management regarding the fence at the basketball court, noting the plan includes installing new webbing, closing one entrance to the basketball court and making the basketball court more for younger users.

Councilwoman Mudd suggested that speed bumps be placed on Graves Avenue to deter speeding by vehicles leaving the liquor store area.

Councilwoman Mudd advised she has been approached by people who wish to get keys to the gate at Tilghman Lake so they may fish there again. Mr. Norris advised that the Lake had been closed due to the Town's concerns regarding tampering with property, illegal drinking, and liability purposes. The Town Council agreed to direct this to the Parks and Recreation Commission for discussion and recommendation to the Council.

Mr. Norris provided the Council with copies of the GP Homes/Heritage Green Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement, which will be on the May 15 work session agenda.

Mayor Ambrogio reminded the Council of the next Southern Maryland Municipal Association meeting to be held on May 16 at Chesapeake Beach.

Mayor Ambrogio reported that he, Carol Rollins and Jorge Thompson met with a person who is looking to install an IHOP restaurant at the former Gustavo's Restaurant site. Mayor Ambrogio reported that the person owns the Forestville IHOP and also that he wants to paint the existing brick a blue color. The Town Council agreed they do not want the brick painted a blue color.

#### Future Work Session Topics

May 15: GP Homes/Heritage Green Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk