

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting
March 8, 2005, 7:00 PM

Present: Councilman Roy G. Hale, mayor pro tem, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilman Gene Ambrogio; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town staff: Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, L

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 4:37 PM, Tuesday, March 1, 2005, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Councilmen Hale, Winkler, Back and, Ambrogio; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Carol L. Rollins, Administrative Assistant; Members of the Design Review Board: Cheryl McGuire, Ron Litten, David Jenkins, Tim Hart, Bob Turgeon, Tim Berres.

On a motion made by Councilman Winkler, seconded by Councilman Ambrogio, 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)(8) – Consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pending litigation. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 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 5:50 PM, Tuesday, March 1, 2005, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Councilmen Hale, Winkler, Back and, Ambrogio; 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 Winkler, seconded by Councilman Ambrogio, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session 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 consider acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Action taken: (1) Acquisition of property for future parking lot expansion: Agreed to continue discussion with the property owner; (2) Acquisition of property for Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion: Agreed to schedule special meeting for closed session at 6:00 PM, March 8, 2005, to continue discussion. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 PM.

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Eckman, Councilman Hale acted as mayor pro tem. Councilman Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of February minutes

Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2005 work session, February 1, 2005 closed session, February 8, 2005 regular meeting, February 8, 2005 closed session, February 15, 2005 work session, February 15, 2005 closed session, and February 22, 2005 regular meeting. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications and Appearances (none)

Legislation (none)

Unfinished Business

Council reports

Councilman Winkler had no further reports from the La Plata Business Association and the Historic District Commission. In light of the comments made about the Design Review Board at the February 22 Council meeting, Councilman Winkler advised he attended the next Design Review Board meeting and found them to be functioning well and doing an excellent job.

Councilman Ambrogio had no further reports from the Beautification Commission, which meets next on March 21, and the Kent Avenue Neighborhood Partnership, which meets next on March 9.

Councilman Back had no further report from the Parks and Recreation Commission, which meets next on March 9. He encouraged Town residents to advise the Town of any parks and recreation needs and ideas.

Councilman Hale provided an update on the Mayor, noting he was doing well and is home resting. Councilman Hale reported on topics discussed at the March 1 Planning Commission meeting.

Appointment of Board of Supervisors of Elections member

Councilman Hale recommended appointment of Richard Reckeweg as a member of the Town's Board of Supervisors of Elections and asked for a motion to approve the appointment. Councilman Winkler made a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Reckeweg to the Board of Supervisors of Elections. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Tourism brochure

Councilman Winkler explained that the brochure would note it had been co-authored by Charles County Planning and Zoning and by the Town of La Plata, and asked for approval of expenditure of \$1500. Councilman Back made a motion to approve expenditure of \$1500 for the brochure. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Councilman Winkler advised he had spoke with the La Plata Business Association and noted that the brochure will be designed to fit within the La Plata Business Association's information package. It was agreed that the Town Council will review the brochure before it is printed and distributed. Motion on the vote: passed by unanimous vote.

New Business (none)

Public Forum

Burkey Boggs asked that the Parks and Recreation do a site visit at the Redwood Lake, noting that the banks are overgrown. Councilman Hale asked for a site visit at Silver Linden Park. Mr. Miller advised that concept for Redwood Lake five or six years ago was that it should be somewhat of an enhanced natural area, with certain volunteer groups maintaining it. Since the maintenance has not been done, the Town needs to reevaluate that concept. He noted that the Town's Public Works Department will take direction from that reevaluation. Councilman Back advised Mr. Boggs he would speak to the chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission and advise Mr. Boggs of a date for a site visit.

In response to Mr. Boggs' request for a status report on the repair of the railroad crossing at Charles Street, Mr. Miller advised that in the long term CSX plans for it to be completely rebuilt in 2006. He further noted that within six to eight weeks, SHA will repair the rubber matting.

Paula Winkler, Beautification Commission chairman, advised that this commission is very much involved in streetscaping and landscaping and offered their help regarding the issue of Redwood Lake.

Chris Lind, La Plata Business Association president, invited all to attend the candidates' forum they are hosting on April 7.

There being no further business, Councilman Ambrogio made a motion to adjourn at 7:22 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk