

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
February 23, 2010

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Catherine Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development; Robert F. Stahl, Director of Operations; Jeffery Garner, Director of Public Works

Guests: Jason Moore, Chief La Plata Volunteer Fire Department

Minutes:

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 9:08 PM, Tuesday, February 16, 2010, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Hale, Councilmen Winkler, and Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk; Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilman Norris, seconded by Councilman Back, 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 municipal facilities. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 10:23 PM.

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM

Mayor Hale recognized Boy Scout Troop 1780 for their achievements, and asked the Boy Scouts to lead the Council and all attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated January 30, 2010.

Approval of January minutes

Councilman Norris moved to approve the minutes of the January 12 special meeting, January 12 work session, January 12 closed sessions #1, and #2, January 16 Budget Priority Setting Session. January 19 work session and January 26 regular meeting. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

Mayor Hale followed by the Council members commended Public Works and the La Plata Police Department for the outstanding efforts in handling the Town's snow emergencies.

Public Forum

Michael J. Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, La Plata, reiterated the Council's commendations of the Town Staff during the recent snow emergencies. Mr. Runfola questioned the Code Enforcement letter he received, that was mailed to residents and businesses who failed to remove snow from the sidewalks abutting their property, stating that Town snow removal efforts hindered the ability of property owners to clear the sidewalks. It was further stated that Town salt applications deteriorated sidewalks. Mr. Runfola also expressed concern with the uncovered recycling containers the Town provides, due to the recycling blowing out and becoming litter.

La Plata Police Department (LPPD) monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of January 2010.

Chief Gittings also reported on the department goal to hire an additional police officer by April.

La Plata Volunteer Fire Department monthly report –Chief Moore

Chief Moore reported on the department's activities during the month of January 2010.

Councilman Back recognized the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department for their outstanding efforts during the County's snow emergencies.

Legislation

Resolution 10-2 Agreement with Charles County Public Library (For introduction and consideration of adoption) – For the purpose of authorizing the Town Manager to execute and deliver, on behalf of the Town of La Plata, an agreement with and to Board of Trustees of the Charles County Public Library ("CCPL"), a public library system, for collaboration on the development and operation of a Wi-Fi system.

Mr. Mears briefly described the terms of the agreement with the Board of Trustees of the Charles County Public Library.

Councilman Back moved to adopted Resolution 10-2 Agreement with Charles County Public Library. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 09-20 Planned Business Park and Enterprise District (For Consideration of Adoption) – For the purpose of repealing existing I-P Industrial Park District zoning classification criteria and regulations and adopting a new Planned Business Park and Enterprise District zoning classification; specifying substantive and procedural criteria and regulations for the Planned Business

Park and Enterprise District; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears described the purpose of the Planned Business Park and Enterprise District.

Councilwoman Mudd moved to adopt Amendments No. 1 through No. 3 to Ordinance 09-20, as described below. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

AMENDMENTS TO ORDINANCE 09-20
(At the request of the Council of the Town of La Plata and La Plata Planning Commission)

Amendment No. 1

On page 3, line 109, of the proposed Ordinance, immediately following “options” insert “, promote connectivity with adjacent projects, communities or adjoining where appropriate”.

Amendment No. 2

On page 4, immediately below line 121, of the proposed Ordinance, insert the following new paragraph:

“(i) Incorporation of green site and building design to the extent practicable.”

Amendment No. 3

On page 4, line 125, of the proposed Ordinance, strike “(i)” and substitute “(j)”.

Councilman Winkler moved to adopt Ordinance 09-20 Planned Business Park and Enterprise District, as amended. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 10-1 Sign Regulations (For Introduction) – For the purpose of defining certain terms; providing standards for the effective use of signs as a means of communication in the Town; maintaining and enhancing the Town’s ability to attract sources of economic development and growth; improving pedestrian and vehicular safety; ensuring conveyance of accurate information to the public; preserving and enhancing property values; minimizing the distraction of signs to vehicular traffic; providing for the proper installation and appropriate maintenance of signs; minimizing the possible adverse effects of signs on nearby public and private property; implementing relevant positions of the Comprehensive Plan, as updated from time to time; enabling the fair and consistent enforcement of these sign regulations; and maintaining and enhancing the aesthetic environment of the Town in a manner that will protect property values and create a more attractive economic and business climate.

Mr. Mears briefly discussed the purpose and intent of the Sign Regulations Ordinance, describing the work of the Design Review Board and Staff, and reciting various changes to the current sign code and the process of gathering input from the La Plata Business Association.

Ordinance 10-2 Planned redevelopment and infill district (PRID) overlay zone (For Introduction) – For the purpose of creating a Planned Redevelopment and Infill District (PRID)

overlay zoning classification, which is intended to supplement, but not eliminate, the existing zoning classification of properties in designated areas of the Town of La Plata; to adopt a certain map designating those properties that are included within the PRID overlay zone; to impose special regulations and development approval processes in the PRID overlay zone areas to accomplish specific goals, subject to certain exemptions; and generally related to the PRID overlay zoning classification.

Mr. Mears described the purpose and intent of the PRID overlay zoning classification. The zoning classification is one of several draft ordinances that were part of the adopted Comprehensive Plan.

Unfinished Business (None.)

New Business

- Commission Reports

Councilman Winkler reported that the Parks and Recreation Commission did not meet in the Month of February, and asked Mr. Jenkins to Discuss the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Mr. Jenkins advised the Council that interviews will be conducted and a recommendation to the Council will be forthcoming.

Councilman Back described the Planning Commission and staff efforts to draft the Planned Business Park and Enterprise District, and Planned Redevelopment and Overlay District zoning classification Ordinances.

Councilwoman Mudd reported on the discussions of the Beautification Commission. The intent of the Commission is to make a recommendation to the Council for Landscape Services, Town Boundary Signage, and an Electronic Event Sign.

Mayor Hale reported that the La Plata Business Association did not meet, and discussed his attendance at the Maryland Mayors Association Conference.

There being no further business, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley
Town Clerk