

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
May 16, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer;

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

GP Homes – Willow Lane pump station and sewer easements

Description: At the Town Attorney's suggestion, GP Homes will make a repeat presentation of the plan for construction of the new Willow Lane pump station and lines to the wastewater treatment plant.

Ed Carroll and David Cooksey, of Loiederman Soltesz Associates, presented information regarding GP Homes' plans to construct a new pumping station and replace a 12" line with a 24" line. In response to a question from Mr. Carroll, Ms. Miner confirmed that the Town has received the report from Maryland Environmental Service, pertaining to review comments on the Heritage Green Pump Station. Lois Page, of GP Homes, explained the cost sharing proposal, which would provide the GP Homes pay the entire cost of the project up front, with reimbursement by way of the Town waiving major facilities fees at the time of building permit issuance. Ms. Miner advised that the Town Attorney is prepared to draw up an agreement regarding this and is awaiting the concurrence of the Town Council.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that the Town Attorney may prepare the agreement.

The Southern Maryland Carousel Group, Inc. fundraising request

Description: The Council will discuss the request for \$6,000 to adopt an animal for the Carousel.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed a letter should be sent advising the Carousel Group that the Town is willing to give them opportunities to fund raise at Town concerts, and inviting them to come back to the Town Council with an update on their fund raising efforts.

Charles Street pedestrian Safety Task Force Summary

Description: The Council will review the suggestions of the task force.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to review the recommendations for another week before making a decision.

Use of the train station by the Charles County Historical Society

Description: Councilman Winkler wishes to discuss this with the Council.

Mayor Ambrogio provided all with a copy of a letter he received today from Kaye O'Kelley, dated May 7, 2006, and acknowledged correspondence from Councilman Winkler to the Council, dated May 4, 2006.

Councilman Winkler presented a slide show and information regarding the history of the Town obtaining the Train Station and cabooses, donated items, and the condition of the building and grounds. Councilman Winkler suggested that the Town allow the Historical Society to remain in the Train Station until the end of October, and then to get a La Plata Historical Society started. He noted that the Town needs a museum to house La Plata items including pictures, tapes of "La Plata Remembered", and histories of the 1926 and 2002 tornados, and that a fire proof safe is needed for document storage.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to discuss this at a future work session and to ask Ms. O'Kelley to provide a status report.

Traffic Circulation Study

Description: Ms. Miner will provide the proposed scope of services (prepared by Charles County Government's transportation planner) for the traffic circulation study, and seek Council direction regarding funding the Town's share of this joint venture with Charles County Government.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to wait for bids to be received before a decision is made as to what amount the Town pays.

Quince Court paving – cost sharing with Quince Court residents

Description: This was presented by Councilman Newman at the March 28 work session, and he wishes to discuss this again with the Council.

Ms. Miner advised that information needed to discuss this item was not available and that it would be put on the May 23 work session agenda.

Town Manager résumés

Description: How are we going to handle the large amount of résumés we will begin receiving for the Town Manager position?

Ms. Miner reported that the ad is on the ICMA web page. She suggested that she make a copy of the applications and place them in a binder, which will be in the Town Council office for their review and direction to her as to who they wish to interview.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that Ms. Miner prepare the binder as suggested, and include as a check-list for each application a list of the most important points required by the Council, with only those applications meeting the requirements being included in the binder.

Matters of Information

MDE Consent Order

Ms. Miner advised that the Consent Order regarding Willow Lane pump station was received today and that she met with a representative of Maryland Environmental Service who advised her to send a letter to MDE to explain the delays. Ms. Miner suggested that the Town Attorney prepare a letter for the Council to sign.

Town Council consensus: The Council directed Ms. Miner to send a copy of the Consent Order to the Town Attorney. Mayor Ambrogio will call the Town Attorney to discuss it with him.

Water leak in atrium

Mr. Norris explained that Facchina has suggested two possible solutions to the water leak in the atrium, which they believe is coming in through the windows: (1) completely remove the windows and reinstall them; or (2) install a 1/4" tempered glass pane on the outside, which will work like a storm window. He noted that the second option is the easiest and most cost effective, but expressed concern that it may have to go through the Design Review Board as it involves the exterior of the building. Ms. McGuire, Design Review Board chairman, was present and stated that it was not a matter for the Board. Mr. Norris asked for the Town Council's approval to have the panes of tempered glass installed, which will be at no cost to the Town.

Town Council consensus: The Council approved installing the panes of tempered glass.

Ms. Miner noted that the Council will need to act at the June 13 meeting to cancel the June 27 work session, which is MML Convention week. It was also noted that the July 4 work session will need to be cancelled as Town Hall will be closed for the Independence Day holiday.

Ms. Miner announced that Ms. Bembe returned to work yesterday, May 15.

Ms. Miner reported that a memorandum has been sent to staff and the police department advising them of two major projects soon to begin, the 750,000 gallon water tank at Tilghman Lake and the construction of St. Mary's Avenue. She also provided an update on the status of Facchina completing punch list items for the police department building.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. Mayor Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk