

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
March 17, 2009, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Robert W. Oliphant, Town Treasurer

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

La Plata Community Foundation

Description: Discussion of Articles of Incorporation, By-laws, and draft ordinance related to the formation of the Foundation – to make grants to organizations and community groups.

Mr. Mears led a discussion regarding the creation of the La Plata Community Foundation and provided clarification to various terms in the ordinance.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to various corrections and changes in the draft ordinance, including:

- Line 68: correct “THREE” to “FIVE”
- Line 87: strike “ITS PRINCIPAL” and replace with “AN”
- Lines 168, 172, 178, and 183: change the language in items § 26-5(11)(c), (d), (e), and (f) to replace “SHALL PROVIDE” with “MAY BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE”

The Town Council further agreed to put this on the March 24 agenda for introduction.

Investment policy

Description: Mr. Oliphant will discuss recommended changes to the Town’s investment policy.

Mr. Oliphant discussed the changes he is recommending be made to the Town’s investment policy, as contained in his memorandum to the Town Council, dated March 17, 2009, and which could be adopted by Resolution.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed they need more information, which Mr. Oliphant is to obtain and send to them by email. In particular, they asked that it be determined how the County lost investment monies and if any of those entities are included on the list of those he recommends “the Town is allowed to invest with.” The Town Council further agreed to put the Resolution on the March 24 agenda.

Matters of Information

- The joint meeting of the Towns of La Plata and Indian Head and the Charles County Commissioners is tentatively scheduled for May 12, at 4:00 PM, at the La Plata Town Hall. The Town Council was asked to begin considering topics to be included on the agenda. Councilman Newman asked that school seat allocation funding be included.

Future Work Session Topics

- Commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods (April 14)
- Residency and occupancy restrictions in senior living communities (Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas/April 14)
- Sidewalks and stormwater management maintenance (Councilman Goldsmith)
- Parks Plan – fee in lieu issue (Councilman Newman would like it adopted by the end of April; it was noted if it was introduced March 24, it could be adopted April 28.)

Other business

Change to procedure regarding interviews of applicants to Town boards and commissions

The Town Council agreed to Councilwoman Mudd's suggestion that applicants to Town boards and commissions not be required to be interviewed by the Town Council, and that only the board or commission chair and the Council liaison meet with the applicants.

The Town Council agreed to appoint Rose Goldsmith to the Beautification Commission, and to include this on the March 24 agenda.

It was agreed that Mayor Hale and Chairman Curry will meet with the two applicants for the vacancy on the Board of Appeals.

Walnut Hill sewer connections

Mr. Mears provided the Town Council with a draft ordinance to amend the FY 08-09 Budget to appropriate funds for installation of Walnut Hill sewer lines.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to a change in the draft ordinance:

- Line 45: strike "6%" and replace with "variable"

The Town Council further agreed that Mayor Hale, Councilman Lucas, and Mr. Mears are to meet with the Walnut Hill residents to determine if they are in agreement regarding the reimbursement requirement. If the majority of the residents agree, the ordinance will be brought forward for introduction and then adoption.

Transportation Study update

Mr. Mears provided a brief update regarding the status of the Transportation Study, noting that the County and the Town are working on an exit strategy and that the County has agreed to complete the Town's portion of the Study.

There being no other business, Councilwoman Mudd moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk