

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
April 25, 2006, 6:00 PM

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

Minutes:

Following a short break held after the conclusion of the quarterly joint work session with the County Commissioners, Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 6:22.

Matters of Council Discussion

Presentation by Tom O'Farrell, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Commission

Description: Chairman O'Farrell will present a request for hardscape funding at the memorial garden near the Charles County Fire Museum.

Mr. O'Farrell and Mary Beth Chandler and Mary Grant, representatives of the La Plata Community Garden Club, reviewed the request for \$11,700 of fee-in-lieu of funds for hardscape in Phase One of the Memorial Garden, contained in "Memorial Garden at the Fireman's Museum Building." (Copies provided.) Mr. O'Farrell advised that the Parks and Recreation Commission supports this project and requests Town Council approval. He noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission will return for additional funding for Phase Two in the fall of 2006, after the La Plata Community Garden Club's fundraising campaign.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed they would act on this request at the May 9 regular meeting.

Rosewick Annexation Agreement

Description: The Town Attorney will discuss the latest draft of the annexation agreement.

Mr. Sussman, Town Attorney, lead a discussion regarding the current draft annexation agreement, which incorporated the changes the Town Council agreed upon at the April 18 meeting. He noted that the applicant has advised that the agreement is acceptable to them. Mr. Sussman advised that if the Council is satisfied that the document is of sufficient form, he will prepare it as a final document which will be ready for public review before the hearings.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that Mr. Sussman should prepare a final document and have it delivered to Ms. Miner within the next couple of days.

A discussion ensued regarding including a vote on this annexation on the agenda of the May 23 special meeting scheduled to adopt two ordinances related to the budget. The Council agreed to leave this topic on the agenda of the June 13 regular meeting.

Budget

Description: Joe Norris will review future budget amendments.

Mr. Norris explained he would be bringing budget transfers and an amendment to the May 9 meeting:

Transfer \$60,000 from General Fund and give it to the Capital Projects Fund to repay the General Fund the \$60,000 it owes the General Fund.

Transfer \$50,000 from Sanitation Fund Net Assets to the Vehicle Replacement Fund (two years at \$25,000 each year).

Amend the General Fund Budget to authorize the expenditure of \$6,000 for the installation of the siren near the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department.

Matters of Information

Worcester Street drainage issue

Ms. Miner reported that Town Public Works reviewed the drainage issue on Worcester Street and advise they believe it can be repaired with swale and paving. A quote of \$3,900 has been received from All Pro Asphalt.

Council consensus: The Town Council directed Ms. Miner to discuss the proposed repair work with Ms. Worden prior to proceeding. The Town Council will vote to approve the money at the May 9 regular meeting.

Wills Park upgrades

Ms. Miner reported that she told Steve Schroeder to spend the remaining money on the items he stated previously; however, there is not enough money to upgrade the bathrooms. A discussion ensued regarding the need to replace the floor and upgrade the bathrooms.

Council consensus: The Town Council directed Ms. Miner to obtain a quote that would include replacing all floors and upgrading the bathrooms.

Drainage issue on Mudd and neighboring properties

Councilwoman Mudd explained that the drainage issue from Town Hall to the neighboring properties will become worse as Somerset develops Edelen Station.

Councilwoman Mudd further explained that when she sold the 6' strip of land to the Town for the sidewalk along Queen Anne Street, the grading promised as part of the sale was done poorly. She has a quote of \$4,800 to remedy the problem and asked if the Town would pay half. Ms. Miner explained she spoke to former Mayor Eckman regarding this, who advised that the Town had a verbal agreement to do this work, and that the job has not been done satisfactorily.

It was suggested that a walking tour to view the problem be part of the next work session agenda.

Mr. Norris noted that the Town Hall's storm water management device does not work properly and that Facchina is talking about doing more work on it to remedy the problem.

Paula Winkler, Chair, Beautification Commission, is working with Dennison to replace the landscaping at Town Hall.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM. Councilman Back seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk