

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM  
September 23, 2008

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

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

*Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), these statements are included in these minutes:*

*A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 6:16 PM, Tuesday, September 9, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.*

*Present: Mayor Hale, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer*

*On a motion made by Councilman Goldsmith, seconded by Councilman Lucas, 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)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss appointments to Boards and Commissions and to discuss Town Treasurer recruitment. Action taken: Appointments to Boards and Commissions – The Town Council agreed to an appointment of an Alternate Member on the Design Review Board and to include this on the agenda of the September 23 regular meeting. Town Treasurer candidate – The Town Council reviewed a form of contract, directed the Town Manager on a course of action to take regarding a specific point in the contract and agreed to schedule a special meeting for a closed session on September 16, to finalize the contract. The meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM.*

*A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:55 PM, Tuesday, September 16, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.*

*Present: Mayor Hale, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer*

*On a motion made by Councilman Lucas, seconded by Councilwoman Mudd, 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)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion,*

*discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a candidate for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: Upon motion duly made, seconded and adopted by unanimous vote, the Council adopted Resolution 08-13, Employment Agreement between the Town of La Plata and Robert W. Oliphant. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.*

#### Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### Approval of August minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the August 12 special meeting, August 12 work session, August 12 closed session, August 19 special meeting, August 19 work session, August 19 closed session, and August 26 regular meeting. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

#### Treasurer's Report

Mayor Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated August 31, 2008.

#### Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

##### Proclamation – September is Life Insurance Awareness Month

Mayor Hale read a Proclamation declaring September as Life Insurance Awareness Month.

##### Proclamation – Trick or Treat Evening

Mayor Hale read the Proclamation declaring Friday, October 31, 2008, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, as Trick or Treat Evening in the Town of La Plata.

##### La Plata Police Department monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of August, 2008. Chief Gittings also reported that the Kent Avenue Corridor Communities have scheduled a community clean-up day on October 4.

##### Public Forum

Mike Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, gave public recognition to and appreciation of former Mayor Gene Ambrogio for his dedicated service to the Town.

Mary Waid, 508 St. Mary's Avenue, spoke in opposition to the paint color chosen for water towers in Town and asked how she could prevent the water tower at Wills Park being painted in the color chosen. Following discussion, Mayor Hale advised that the Design Review Board chose the color as reflective of our Town Seal, and that the Town Council upholds their decision. Mayor Hale recommended that Ms. Waid attend a Design Review Board meeting and express her comments at their meeting.

### Legislation

Ordinance 08-11 New Irrigation System Installation (*For Deferral to November 25, 2008 meeting*) – For the purpose of adopting regulations pertaining to installation and operation of new irrigation systems; prohibiting the use of potable water for such systems; requiring permits and inspections for such installations; specifying a fee for such permits; defining certain terms; providing for the enforcement of these regulations and penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman Goldsmith moved to defer consideration of Ordinance 08-11 until the November 25 meeting, to allow time for the new Green Building Committee to review the ordinance. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 08-12 Purchasing – Competitive Bidding (For Adoption) – For the purpose of amending the list of entities from whom the Town may make certain purchases that are exempt from certain competitive bidding and advertising requirements; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of Ordinance 08-12.

Councilman Newman moved to adopt Ordinance 08-12. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 08-13 Parking Violation Fines (For Adoption) – For the purpose of providing for an increase in the amount of fines for parking violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of Ordinance 08-13.

Councilwoman Mudd moved to adopt Ordinance 08-13. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 08-14 Participation in Maryland Municipal League (MML) Geocache Trail (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption) – For the purpose of approving the participation of the Town of La Plata in the MML Geocache Trail program; and all matters relating to said participation.

Mayor Hale introduced Resolution 08-14. Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of the purpose of Resolution 08-14.

Councilman Newman moved to adopt Resolution 08-14. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Appointments to Design Review Board

Councilman Goldsmith moved to appoint Charles Rogers as the Alternate Member of the Design Review Board. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Mayor Hale noted that the appointment is to fill an unexpired 3-year term which began December 18, 2007.

Commission Reports

Councilwoman Mudd reported on topics discussed at the last Beautification Commission meeting and Kent Avenue Partnership meeting.

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's September 2 meeting.

Joe Harrison, Market Master, reported that this has been a good year for the Farmers' Market.

There being no further business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn at 7:24 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk