

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
April 18, 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; Chief Cassin B. Gittings and Lt. Wayne Wathen, La Plata Police Department; Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney

Minutes:

Special Meeting

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

Motion to conduct Closed Session

Councilman Newman moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* 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. Councilman Back seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:01 PM. Councilman Newman seconded and it passed by unanimous vote.

Work Session

Matters of Council Discussion

Constant Yield Tax Rate

Mr. Norris explained that the State advised him that our ad did not meet the public notice requirement as to the number of days prior to the hearing that notice is given, and asked the Council to approve having a special meeting immediately before the regularly scheduled work session on May 2 in order to conduct another public hearing.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to have a special meeting on May 2 in order to conduct the public hearing.

Rosewick Annexation Agreement

Description: The Town Attorney will discuss issues of concern regarding the annexation agreement.

Mr. Sussman, Town Attorney, lead a discussion regarding the response from the petitioner to the draft annexation agreement, which incorporated the changes the Town Council agreed upon at the April 4 meeting. Three issues were discussed:

1) Landscaping and berm.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that the berm is required along the Rt. 301 frontage from Rosewick Road to the area where the grade dips below Rt. 301.

2) Uses on the “Remaining Parcels.”

Town Council consensus: The Town Council will review uses allowed in the County’s BP Business Park zone and the Town’s CH Commercial Highway zone to decide which uses will be allowable.

3) Well.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that engineering information is required before a dollar amount can be determined. The Council authorized Ms. Miner to have MES confer with McCrone, applicant’s engineer.

It was further agreed that Mr. Sussman will be the point of contact to receive information from the applicant and will send the information to the Council.

Mr. Sussman advised that written confirmation from the County Commissioners is still needed indicating their concurrence. The letter from the County Attorney will not suffice.

Calls for Service by La Plata Police Department

Description: Lt. Wayne Wathen will present a report on calls for service by the La Plata Police Department and the Charles County Sheriff’s Office.

Chief Gittings and Lt. Wathen were present to explain the results of research into what the Charles County Sheriff’s Office counts as calls for service in La Plata. The number of calls has been adjusted to increase the Town’s and decrease the County’s totals. Chief Gittings advised that the Town’s totals will fall within the range reported in the IGS study, which indicated that the Town covers 40% to 60% of calls for service in La Plata. Chief Gittings will be present at the April 25 meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners.

Closed Session - Town Manager Recruitment

The work session was suspended at 7:41 PM while the Council met in closed session, and reconvened at 8:04 PM.

Budget

Description: Joe Norris will continue presentation of the budget.

Mr. Norris provided copies of the FY 07 Water and Sewer Budget Highlights/Sanitation Budget Highlights and the FY 2007 Sanitation Fund Budget. Mr. Norris advised that the sewer rate is increased by 10%, the water rate by 8%, and the trash rate by 8%, due to the County's proposed landfill fee increase of 15% or 16% and the MES contract increase of 20%.

The Council agreed to include the following budget items:

- \$125,000 for trash truck.
- \$90,000 to replace 3" water line on Kent Avenue with a 6" water line.

The Council agreed to enforce the fee in lieu of park land formula of 15% of the average value of an undeveloped acre of residential land in the Town, which the State Assessor advises is \$50,000. Based on the formula, the fee is \$7500.

The FY 2006-2007 Budget ordinance and the Fee Schedule ordinance are scheduled for introduction and public hearing on May 9. The Council agreed to have a special meeting on May 23 in order to adopt the ordinances.

Matters of Information

Mayor Ambrogio asked the Town Council to consider a ban on underground lawn sprinkler systems.

Mr. Norris reported that he received a quote of \$2500 from a company to perform street sweeping of certain streets prior to Celebrate La Plata Day. The Town Council authorized the expenditure. Ms. Miner suggested that Mr. Norris take the money from the Community Promotions fund.

Future Work Session Topics

- April 25, Joint Work Session with the County Commissioners

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk