

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
March 1, 2005, 4:00 PM

Present: Councilman Roy G. Hale, mayor pro tem, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilman Gene Ambrogio; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Carol L. Rollins, Administrative Assistant; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Eckman, Councilman Hale acted as mayor pro tem. Councilman Hale called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Board of Elections Appointment

The Council needs to appoint a member of the Board of Elections.

Council Consensus: The Council agreed to appoint Richard Reckeweg at the next regular meeting.

Design Review Board (4:00)

Description: The Design Review Board would like to expand the discussion presented at the February 22nd Council meeting.

Members of the Design Review Board discussed the comments about the Design Review Board voiced at the February 22, 2005 regular meeting of the Town Council. At the conclusion of the discussion, Councilman Hale acknowledged that (1) the members of the Town's boards and commissions are volunteers appointed by the Council; (2) better lines of communication are needed between the boards and commissions and the Council; and (3) people have a right to come before the Town Council with their concerns about the boards and commissions, but that is not an indicator that the Council doesn't support the boards and commissions.

Pending litigation: CVS appeal (Closed)

Councilman Winkler made a motion to conduct a closed session, pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland Section 10-508(a)(8) – Consult with staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yeas: Councilmen Winkler, Back, Ambrogio and Hale. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The work session was suspended at 4:37 PM while the Council met in closed session, and reconvened at 5:00 PM.

Session with the Town Treasurer (4:30)

Description: The Treasurer would like to review January's finance statement as well as discuss the FY 06 budget.

Mr. Norris reviewed with the Council the "Treasurer's Report Financial Summaries" dated February 24, 2005. Mr. Norris asked if the Council wished to consider a salary increase for the Town Council, noting it would only apply to the next term of each elected office.

Council Consensus:

(1) Add discussion item "salary increase for Town Council (next term)" to the next work session agenda.

(2) During the budget process, discuss the parkland "fee in lieu of" for developed land versus subdivided land. Mr. Miller and Mr. Norris are to discuss this and prepare a recommendation for the Town Council.

(3) Review the provision in Chapter 101 Fees regarding not requiring certain properties in the "Old Town Utility District" to pay major facilities fees.

Civista Wall Sign (5:00)

Description: Carolyn Core of Civista would like to discuss in greater detail the wall sign that they want on the Charles Street side of the new facility.

Council Consensus: The Council was not in favor of allowing an exception for the size of sign as proposed by Civista, and suggested that Civista consider other options, such as making the words "Medical Center" more prominent (equal to the size of "Civista"), using only the word "Hospital", or putting the large blue "H" in the sign. *[Note: Councilman Ambrogio recused himself from the discussion, noting he is an employee of Civista.]*

Rt. 488 Annexation

Description: Councilman Winkler and the Town Manager met with the group on Rt. 488 who want to annex. They will share what the group wants the Town to do for them.

Council Consensus: (none required)

Tourism Brochure

Description: Councilman Winkler has been approached about creating a tourism brochure. He will share the suggestion and request regarding this brochure.

Councilman Winkler described the brochure, advised they are working with a \$1500 grant from the County. They would like to have 6000 copies produced, which will cost \$3000, and they would be able to put them in places such as the Charles County Chamber of Commerce and the Town Hall, and perhaps use them for new resident mailings. The Town and County will be named as providers of the brochure.

Council Consensus: The Council agreed to take formal action on the funding request at the next regular meeting.

Campaigning Policy

Description: The Council will be asked to establish a policy about campaign signage and literature on Town property that then will be uniformly enforced.

Council Consensus: The Council agreed that no campaign signs or literature will be allowed on Town of La Plata property or in Town buildings.

Martin's Crossing Annexation Agreement

Mr. Miller advised that the Town's determination that basements be included in finished living space is being challenged.

Property Acquisition Update (Closed)

Councilman Winkler made a motion to conduct a closed session immediately following this meeting, pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland Section 10-508(a)(3) - Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Councilman Ambrogio seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Yeas: Councilmen Winkler, Back, Ambrogio and Hale. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 5:50 PM. Councilman Ambrogio seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk