

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
January 24, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Michelle D. Miner, Director of Community Development; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Commissioner Work Session Recap

• Expansion of La Plata Police Department and breakdown of calls for service in La Plata
Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that this went well overall, with the exception of Commissioner Smith's fee for service proposal. The Council agreed that the Town should begin scoring calls for service and use the same parameters and tracking system.

• Land use issue regarding Faison's annexation request
Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that it is now up to Faison to make another presentation to the County Commissioners and ask for their concurrence regarding the zoning change.

• Long term water planning
Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that the Town and County will cooperate on this as a regional issue.

• Sidewalks on Washington Avenue
Council consensus: Regarding the County's statement that an engineering study be conducted, with roads as a priority over sidewalks, the Council agreed to wait and let the Vision Team study transportation and other issues.

• Current status of Commissioner Fuller's smoking ban (Still in draft form.)

• Future of the library in La Plata – (Rumor.)

Alignment of Oriole Lane

Description: A developer wishes to build a shopping center next to the Pepsi complex on Rt. 301. To successfully do what he wants to do, he must realign Oriole Lane. Council approval will be needed for such.

Tom McKee presented information regarding his proposal to develop La Plata Town Center, a shopping center next to the Pepsi property on Route 301, and the need for a traffic signal at Oriole Lane and Route 301, which he stated would make the intersection safer. Mr. McKee noted he could ask the state for a warrant for the signal. In response to Councilman Newman's question regarding whether or not the state will honor the Town Council's letter rescinding support for more traffic signals on Route 301, Mr. Miller advised he would contact Greg Welker for an answer.

The Council recommended that Mr. McKee see Ed McMahon's "option 3" information and that he attend a Design Review Board meeting to get an understanding of the review process and the design guidelines.

Commission Reception Program

Description: The program for the commission reception will be reviewed.

Mr. Miller briefly described the program, noting that Commission and Board chairs will introduce the members of their groups, and that the Town has a gift for each of the members.

Comcast Franchise Status

Description: The Assistant Town Manager will discuss the progress of the Comcast Franchise Agreement and the proposed compromise in language.

Ms. Bembe advised that Comcast would like to determine if the terms of a competing franchise agreement are more favorable versus the Town determining such. Such a determination could force the renegotiation of the franchise agreement. Ms. Bembe noted that the Town Attorney advised that the language be removed in its entirety and if a disagreement occurs the matter could be resolved in court.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to remove the language.

Matters of Information

- MML Conference Hotel Reservations – Rooms have been booked for the Town Council at the Princess Royale, the conference headquarters.

Future Work Session Topics

- Budget Sessions – Facilitated sessions will continue.
- Councilman Winkler asked that review of the County's noise ordinance be a future work session topic, noting that he believes the Town needs to "tighten up" the maximum permitted decibel levels in our noise ordinance, and that the Town should also compare them to the State's maximum permitted decibel levels.
- Councilman Newman asked that a review of the "dangerous animals" issue be a future work session topic.

In response to an inquiry made by Councilman Back, Mr. Miller advised that the Town Attorney does not believe it to be a serious issue as to who signs the documents pertaining to the

Infrastructure Bonds, 2006 Series A (as described in Emergency Ordinance 06-1), and is looking into the possibility of having all of the Town Council sign those documents.

Councilwoman Mudd reported that she met with Gore Bolton, and said he asked that the Town Council attend the meeting regarding undergrounding utilities on St. Mary's Avenue.

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

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk