

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM  
June 19, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager

Town Staff: Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

*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 9:22 PM, Tuesday, June 12, 2007, in the La Plata Town Hall.*

*Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk*

*On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Newman, 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)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss acquisition of property for Public Works Building. Action taken: Following an update by the Acting Town Manager regarding results of the inspection of the property and the appraisal report, the Council agreed on an amount to offer and conditions of the offer. The meeting adjourned at 10:04 PM.*

▶ *A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 6:46 PM, Tuesday, June 19, 2007, in the La Plata Town Hall.*

*Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager*

*On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, 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. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss appointments to Boards and Commissions. Action taken: The Council agreed to appoint the nominees recommended by the Mayor. The meeting adjourned at 6:53 PM.*

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, introduced the new Town Manager, Daniel J. Mears, and asked Mr. Mears to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of May minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the May 8 special meeting and work session, May 14 special meeting-Organization of the Council, May 14 special meeting, May 14 work session, May 14 closed session, May 22 special meeting, May 22 closed session, and May 22 regular meeting. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Mudd and Newman voted aye; Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas abstained. The motion passed by majority vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated May 31, 2007.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Presentation of Town Seals

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged the service of Jane E. O'Farrell on the Beautification Commission (September 1991 to May 2007) and Michelle Gordon on the Parks and Recreation Commission (August 2004 to June 2007), who were not present, and then read and presented Town Seals to the following Town residents, expressing the Town's appreciation of the years they served on Town Boards and Commissions: Timothy B. Hart, Design Review Board member and Vice Chairman – May 2004 to May 2007; Rosalie A. Torvik, Beautification Commission – August 1997 to May 2007; and B. R. Winkler, Jr., Board of Appeals member and Chairman – August 1973 to May 2007.

Public Forum

Don McGuire (104 Oriole Lane), Director, Charles County Department of Emergency Services, expressed his appreciation to Tim Hart for his service on the Design Review Board, and reported on the test conducted June 7 on the early warning devices/sirens. He noted there were problems with the PA system and the siren in King's Grant is not working. Mr. McGuire also noted that the siren near the firehouse was hit by lightning and destroyed during a recent storm. Mr. McGuire recommended the Town procure a maintenance contract and insurance for the devices.

Sheila R. Smith, a resident of Port Tobacco, spoke about Councilman Newman's comments about the Civista donation, as reported in the *Maryland Independent*, noting her belief that a "no comment" would be a better response.

### Legislation

Resolution 07-8 Amendment to authorization to execute documents in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant (For introduction and adoption) – For the purpose of amending the name of the person authorized to execute documents on behalf of the Town of La Plata ("the Town") in connection with the "EPA Appropriations Act Fiscal 2003, Town of La Plata, Maryland" Grant; and all matters relating to said amendment.

Mayor Ambrogio provided a brief explanation of Resolution 07-8.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 07-8. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

### Unfinished Business (none)

### New Business

#### Appointments

Mayor Ambrogio recommended Robert Turgeon to serve a 2-year term as Vice Chairman of the Design Review Board and Phyllis Laidley to serve a 4-year term on the Parks and Recreation Commission.

Councilman Lucas moved to approve the appointments. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ambrogio announced that Councilman Lucas would be the Council representative to the La Plata Business Association.

#### Civista donation

During discussion, Councilman Goldsmith advised he would support a donation of \$5,000, based on \$1.00 per registered voter. Councilman Lucas advised he did not agree with using taxpayers' money for this and would not support any financial donation. Councilman Lucas advised he would support providing in-kind, such as a meet and greet, and would support or sponsor an organized event, such as a golf tournament. Councilwoman Mudd advised that the donated money would not be used for operating expenses and that Civista is a not for profit hospital, and noted that the donation of \$10,000 would be for every citizen of La Plata. Councilwoman Mudd further noted that the Town will get good, 24-hour, 7 days a week medical care. Councilwoman Mudd noted that Civista employs 800 people and that visitors to the hospital are spending money in the Town. Councilwoman Mudd noted that the Town donates to the fire and EMS departments in the Town. Councilwoman Mudd advised she would support a donation in the amount of \$10,000 over a 3-year period. Councilman Newman advised he did not agree with using taxpayers' money for this type of donation. Councilman Newman advised he would be willing to help with sponsorship of an organized event or other non-monetary

donation. Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged there may be a need to look at the Town's donation policy, and noted that the Town has a grant form which should be used for future requests. Mayor Ambrogio also noted that the Town donates to the fire and EMS departments. Mayor Ambrogio advised that Civista is the only hospital in the Town and Charles County, they are leaders in the community, and further advised he would support the donation.

Councilman Goldsmith moved to donate \$5,000 over a 3-year period to the Civista Capital Campaign. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Councilman Goldsmith's basis of donating \$1.00 per registered voter was discussed. Councilman Newman stated his objection to using taxpayers' money for this donation. Roll call vote on the motion: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith and Mudd voted aye; Councilmen Lucas and Newman voted nay. The motion carried by majority vote.

### Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's June 6 meeting.

Mayor Ambrogio reported he had been appointed to the Charles County Blue Ribbon Commission on Diversity and Inter-group Relations and they will meet on June 20.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:41 PM. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

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Michelle D. Miner  
Assistant Town Manager