

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
May 12, 2009, 8:04 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 8:04 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Presentation on Special Taxing Districts

Description: Keenan Rice, of MuniCap, will introduce Council to concept of special taxing district.

AND

MDE Stimulus Loan

Description: Discussion of terms of water quality stimulus loan and methods for repayment.

Keenan Rice, President, and Emily Sproull, Senior Associate, of MuniCap, Inc., presented information and provided a text hand-out (“Special Tax District Financing, May 12, 2009, Town of La Plata, Maryland, Heritage Green Project”) regarding creating a special tax district for the Heritage Green projects. The projects will be funded by \$6 million in MDE stimulus loan funds and consist of the Willow Lane pump station and the Willow Lane sanitary sewer upgrade. The loan would be to the Town. The special tax district will consist of the Heritage Green property and will be the means to repay the loan. The Town must approve the special tax district by September 30, 2009, as security for the loan.

Mr. Mears provided information regarding MDE stimulus loan funds and the projects for which the Town has applied for stimulus loan funds (including a text hand-out, “La Plata Major Infrastructure Projects Ready To Construct”.) Mr. Mears advised there is a sense of urgency in that the Town must advise MDE by Friday, May 15, 2009, as to whether or not the Town will be accepting the \$6 million in MDE stimulus loan funds. Mr. Mears also advised that support of the property owner is required, which is evidenced by a letter of support from Charis C. Lapas, Manager, GP Homes, L.C./Heritage Green, L.C., dated May 11, 2009.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to pursue the \$6 million in MDE stimulus loan funds.

Topics for discussion with the County Commissioners at biannual meeting on May 19

Description: The Town Council will determine what topics they want included or excluded on the agenda of the next biannual meeting of the Town Council, Town of Indian Head, and County

Commissioners, which is scheduled to be held on May 19 and will begin at 4:00 p.m., at the La Plata Town Hall. Topics already on the agenda are: (1) School Seat Allocation funding (Councilman Newman wishes to discuss funds placement in County's General Fund); (2) Tilghman Lake; (3) Transportation Study; (4) Charles County Sheriff's Office has modified their shift schedule from 3 to 4 shift plan – how will this impact patrols in La Plata? (5) Communication improvements between La Plata Police Department and Charles County Sheriff's Office; (6) 2010 biannual meeting schedule of the Towns of La Plata and Indian Head and County Commissioners: Spring and fall dates [date/location: spring and fall – typically April or May, October].

During discussion, the following information was provided on these topics:

- Tilghman Lake Park/– pedestrian connection to Laurel Springs Park: Mr. Mears advised that the Town and County have been working well on this topic at the staff level.
- Charles County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) has modified their shift schedule from 3 to 4 shift plan – how will this impact patrols in La Plata? – Chief Gittings explained that the four 10-hour shifts will have no impact on La Plata, and that they are intended to enable CCSO to cover the increased volume of calls at known peak times.
- Communication improvements between La Plata Police Department (LPPD) and CCSO – Chief Gittings advised that the LPPD, CCSO, and Maryland State Police representatives meet weekly. At the request of Mayor Hale, Chief Gittings advised he would discuss at the next meeting the topic of the impact of vehicular and pedestrian traffic on Washington Avenue going to the new Courthouse building.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to include the following topics for discussion with the County Commissioners at the biannual on May 19: (1) Tilghman Lake Park – pedestrian connection to Laurel Springs Park; (2) Transportation Study; and (3) 2010 biannual meeting schedule of the Towns of La Plata and Indian Head and County Commissioners: Spring and fall dates [date/location: spring and fall – typically April or May, October]. It was noted that the meeting was expected to conclude by 4:45 PM, followed by a light dinner.

Matters of Information

Future Work Session Topics

- Budget (May 19)

Other business (None.)

There being no other business, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk