

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
October 28, 2008

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, and Det./Sgt. William P. Brooks, Jr., La Plata Police Department

Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:21 PM, Tuesday, October 21, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilman Goldsmith, 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)(14) – Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss negotiation of Verizon cable franchise agreement/contract. Action taken: The Town Council reviewed the franchise agreement/contract and directed the Town Manager on a course of action to take regarding a specific point in the agreement/contract. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Banner City/Town Award

Mayor Hale welcomed Sidney Katz, President of the Maryland Municipal League, and Scott Hancock, Executive Director of the Maryland Municipal League. Mr. Katz and Mr. Hancock presented the Town with a plaque and banner in recognition of the Banner City/Town Award. Mr. Katz explained the award and remarked that only 16 of the 157 municipalities in Maryland qualified for the award.

Approval of September minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the September 9 special meeting, September 9 work session, September 9 closed session, September 16 special meeting, September 16 work session, September 16 closed session, September 23 regular meeting, September 23 meeting with representatives of LifeStyles, Inc., and September 24 meeting with representatives of Faison. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated September 30, 2008. In response to Councilman Newman, Mr. Norris advised that the recreation fund balance is approximately \$237,000.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

Presentation of Town Seal to Joe Norris

Mayor Hale presented a Town Seal to Joe Norris, expressing the Town's appreciation of his dedicated and exceptional service to the Town as Treasurer, July 2002 – November 2008.

Proclamation – Municipal Government Works Month – November 2008

Mayor Hale read a Proclamation declaring November 2008 as Municipal Government Works Month.

La Plata Police Department monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of September, 2008, and provided information regarding the pedestrian crosswalk enforcement program in response to Councilwoman Mudd and Councilman Newman. Chief Gittings announced the following upcoming events:

- Veterans Salute Celebration and Parade will be held November 9; the Budweiser Clydesdales will be in the parade.
- ID Theft seminar on November 20, 7:00 PM, to be held in the La Plata Police Station.
- Early warning devices/sirens test will be conducted on Saturday, December 6, at 10:00 AM.

Chief Gittings also reported on the life-saving actions of Officer Cunningham and Corporal Powers, who responded to a report of a fire at La Plata Manor Apartments on October 11, and removed an occupant from the apartment in which the fire was located. The Town Council asked Chief Gittings to bring Officer Cunningham and Corporal Powers to the November 25 regular meeting to be recognized by the Town Council.

Public Forum (No speakers.)

Legislation

Ordinance 08-14 International Building Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Building Code 2006, with certain modifications and additions, as the building code for the Town of La Plata, with certain exceptions; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-15 International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings 2006, with certain modifications, as the code for the design and construction of certain one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-16 International Electrical Code-Administrative Provisions 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Electrical Code-Administrative Provisions 2006, with certain modifications, as the code for the regulation, and control of the design, construction, quality of materials, erection, installation, alteration, repair, location, relocation, replacement, addition to, use or maintenance of electrical systems in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-17 International Mechanical Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Mechanical Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the mechanical code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-18 International Energy Conservation Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Energy Conservation Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the energy conservation code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-19 International Fuel Gas Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Fuel Gas Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the code for the regulation and control of the design and installation of fuel gas systems and gas-fired appliances in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-20 International Existing Building Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Existing Building Code 2006, with certain modifications,

as the code for the repair, alteration, change of occupancy, addition, and relocation of existing buildings in the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-21 International Fire Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Fire Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the fire code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-22 International Plumbing Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Plumbing Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the plumbing code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Ordinance 08-23 International Property Maintenance Code 2006 (For Introduction) – For the purpose of adopting the International Property Maintenance Code 2006, with certain modifications, as the property maintenance code for the Town of La Plata; providing for the administration and enforcement of that code; specifying penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally related thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of Ordinances 08-14 through 08-23. Mayor Hale announced that a hearing on Ordinance 08-21 International Fire Code 2006 is scheduled to be held on November 25, 2008.

Ordinance 08-24 Approval of Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc. (For Introduction) – For the purpose of approving a cable television franchise agreement with Verizon Maryland, Inc.; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of Ordinance 08-24, announced that a hearing on this ordinance is scheduled to be held on November 25, 2008, and advised that Joseph J. Daniels, Assistant Vice President – External Affairs & Public Policy, Verizon Maryland, Inc., was present to answer any questions the Town Council may have. In response to Councilman Newman, Mr. Daniels explained the equipment items that customers will have to purchase.

Resolution 08-15 Charter Amendment – Elections (For Introduction) – For the purpose of amending the Charter of the Town of La Plata to clarify that nominees for election to the Town Council from each Councilmanic ward shall be elected by qualified voters of the entire Town beginning with the Primary election held in 2009; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of Resolution 08-15.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Councilman Newman asked the Town Council to present a Town Seal to a special student at La Plata High School who has won national awards. The Town Council agreed to present a Town Seal at the November 25 regular meeting.

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's October 7 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Board's October 1 meeting and noted that the La Plata Business Association has not met since his last report.

Councilwoman Mudd reported on topics discussed at recent Beautification Commission meetings. Councilwoman Mudd reported that the Crime Watch Council meets at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday each month, at the La Plata Police Station, and that she would like to invite them to make a presentation at a work session in January. Councilwoman Mudd also asked that the Town include an article about the Crime Watch Council in the next issue of *Town Notes* to get more recognition and members. Councilwoman Mudd reported that the Kent Avenue Partnership is still working on planning for a community center.

Mayor Hale reported that the Fall Festival and Taste of La Plata event held on Sunday, October 26, was well attended, and expressed his appreciation to the vendors, attendees and Town staff for their participation in the event.

Motion to Conduct Closed Session

Councilman Lucas moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(14) – Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process. Councilman Newman seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Hale, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn at 7:44 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk