

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
October 20, 2009, 7:00 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; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Announcements

Mayor Hale made an announcement about the 2010 Census and the Salute to Veterans event.

Matters of Council Discussion

La Plata Community Garden Club

Description: Discussions regarding a recommendation from the Beautification Commission to approve the La Plata Community Garden Clubs proposal to install a new entrance sign and landscaping at the Wills Park facility.

Councilwoman Mudd briefly described a recommendation from the Beautification Commission to approve the La Plata Community Garden Club's proposal to install a monument sign at the entrance to Wills Memorial Park.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to permit the La Plata Community Garden Club to start with the design process.

MDWarn Agreement

Description: Discussions pertaining to the purpose of entering into an agreement with Maryland Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network ("MDWARN") and to participate in Maryland's Intrastate Program for Mutual Aid and Assistance.

Mr. Mears briefly described the MDWarn Agreement and advised the Council that a draft copy is under review by Frederick Sussman, Town Attorney and that staff is reviewing our insurance documents to confirm coverage while either utilizing services or responding to a request for service.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed move forward with the required research and gather information regarding other types of Mutual Aid Agreements for additional services.

Library Municipal Wi-Fi

Mr. Mears summarized a proposal from the Charles County Library to provide Wi-Fi services throughout the Town of La Plata. To address questions posed by the Council, Mr. Mears further explained that as proposed the Wi-Fi signal would not be strong enough for household use, but would be intended for outdoor spaces, with the potential for expansion to enable the Town to use the service to read water meters, and the ability to deliver portal messages when a registered user comes into range.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to have staff draft a Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement with the Charles County Public Library, relating to the proposed Wi-Fi Services.

Council Budget Priorities Facilitated Session Schedule

Description: Discussions regarding the January and February meeting schedules to conduct Budget Priorities Facilitated Sessions.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to conduct the Facilitated Sessions with Town Staff, and to consider scheduling January 16, and January 30, from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM schedule to conduct the sessions.

4th Annual Potomac Watershed Trash Summit

Mr. Mears briefly described an Invitation to Sign Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty, and to attend the Potomac Watershed Trash Summit 2009, October 28, 2009.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to introduce a Resolution to execute the Potomac River Watershed Trash Treaty, and to decline the invitation to attend the summit.

Appointments to boards and commissions

Mayor Hale addressed the Council to bring to their attention some expired or expiring and/or vacant terms on various boards and commissions.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that the applicant interviews would be conducted by the Chairman and Council ex. Officio from each Board or Commission, and a recommendation for appointment made to Council.

Matters of Information

Mr. Mears reminded the Council that the Citizens Academy is scheduled for October 21, 2009, and that space is available for staff to participate.

Councilwoman Mudd briefly described the upcoming Wellness Program, scheduled for February.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to invite all Board and Commission members and provide lunch.

Future Work Session Topics

Councilman Norris requested discussion regarding commercial recycling be placed on a future work session agenda.

There being no further business to discuss, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:58 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley
Town Clerk