

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
January 15, 2008, 5:30 PM

Present: Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Jo Anne Ellison

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Ambrogio, Councilman Goldsmith acted as mayor pro tem and called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Budget priority setting – facilitated session (5:30 PM – 8:30 PM)

Jo Anne Ellison conducted the facilitated session regarding budget priority setting. The Town Council discussed budget priorities for the topics of Community Development – Code Enforcement, Community Development – Protective Inspection, Community Development – Planning and Zoning, Community Development – Development Assistance, and Ideas That Cut Across All Services/General Administration.

Mr. Mears provided an update on actions taken on the budget priorities set for FY 2008.

Low energy swing-door operators

Description: Mr. Norris will provide information regarding costs associated with the purchase and installation of swing-door operators in the Town Hall. As doors present barriers to individuals with physical challenges, installation of these devices is a proactive measure and will provide further compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Mr. Norris provided handouts pertaining to low energy swing-door operators and advised that the cost would be \$19,000 for the 9 doors on which the devices would be installed.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Council agreed that Mr. Mears and Mr. Norris would explore and evaluate other options and bring their recommendation back to the Council.

Draft legislation

Description: Mr. Mears will discuss the draft emergency ordinance prepared by the Town Attorney regarding application fees and other reimbursements for cable television franchise applications.

Draft Emergency Ordinance 08-3 Cable Television Regulation – Application Fees and Other Reimbursements – For the purpose of providing for an application fee to be paid upon the

filing of certain applications related to cable television franchises sought from or granted by the Town of La Plata; providing for applicants to reimburse the Town for certain costs and expenses relating to the consideration of such applications; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears explained that he and Mr. Sussman met with a representative from Verizon, who is interested in putting video capability in the Town. If the Town wishes to collect a fee, the Town must have it in place prior to application.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Council agreed to introduce, adopt and make effective Emergency Ordinance 08-3 at the January 22 meeting.

Matters of Information

- “Thank You” Reception, Tuesday, January 29, 6:00 PM.
- Joint meeting with County Commissioners, Tuesday, February 5, 4:00 PM.

Future Work Session Topics

- Budget priority setting – facilitated session:
Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM (snow date: Thursday, February 14)

Other business

A general discussion was held regarding procedures and conduct of meetings.

Following a brief discussion, the Council agreed that legislation should be drafted regarding Commercial Highway permitted and excluded uses.

There being no other business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk