

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
August 21, 2007, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cathy Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning

Minutes:

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

Matters of Council Discussion

Anne Arundel fence repair

Description: Does the Town Council wish to repair the fence?

Mayor Ambrogio advised that he, Councilwoman Mudd and Mr. Mears met with the Anne Arundel Avenue citizens who live near the area in question. Mr. Mears provided a brief background of the situation, noting that the Anne Arundel Avenue citizens want the fence restored to reduce pedestrian traffic through that area. He also noted that Michelle Miner is working on a draft flyer to encourage use of sidewalks, to be distributed as a public education tool.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to have the fence repaired and reinforced, to install plantings (“sticky bushes”) that discourage foot traffic, to provide public education regarding the use of sidewalks to travel from the Kent Avenue area to Charles Street, and to inform the La Plata Police Department of the plan to repair/install the fence, and when this will be accomplished, and ask them to add extra patrol checks of the area.

LEED Certification

Description: The Town Hall has received LEED certification. The Town Manager wishes to discuss how the Council would like this information to be promoted.

Following discussion, it was agreed to explore using tax credits as an incentive to encourage developers and builders to build to LEED standards. It was also agreed to host a reception prior to the September 25 regular meeting for those who helped the Town achieve LEED certification. It was further agreed that the draft press release would be included in the Town newsletter and on the web page.

Town Hall landscaping

Description: Discussion of Town Hall landscaping and drainage issues.

Following discussion, during which Ms. Bembe and Ms. Flerlage provided information regarding the landscape plan, grass/synthetic turf and cost options, the Town Council agreed to implement the landscape plan, with berm planting as shown on the plan; use sod on the lawn and irrigate with potable water to get it started. The lawn is to be installed this fall, with some other elements to be installed in the spring. They further agreed to research use of non-potable water in an irrigation system which includes a cistern. Mr. Mears will research the availability of grants.

Paving projects

Description: Discussion regarding what Town streets will be paved within the next couple of months.

Mr. Mears advised that staff is preparing the list, and noted that Kent Avenue paving is ready to begin and that Garrett Avenue will be paved when hospital construction is complete.

Council Communication

Following discussion of the media coordination/media contact information provided by Mr. Mears, the Town Council agreed to implement same and directed Mr. Mears to draft a media contact protocol to share with the media.

Matters of Information

Mr. Mears reported that the Resolution to obtain a sewer easement by eminent domain would not need to be on the August 28 agenda as the issue had been resolved.

Councilman Goldsmith reported he sent an email to MTA regarding the issue of the portable lights at the park and ride lot remaining on all day, but has not yet received a response.

A brief discussion was held regarding Councilman Newman's suggestion that Council members assigned to the boards and commissions should ask for a halt on issues where the Council hasn't approved or discussed and reached consensus. Mayor Ambrogio suggested that the Town Council meet with each of the groups, as has been done in the past. The Town Council agreed that the Town Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Board conduct a joint work session.

Future Work Session Topics

Other business

Councilman Goldsmith spoke briefly about replacing the dead trees on Heritage Green Parkway. Councilwoman Mudd suggested that additional landscaping be added along La Grange Avenue while the Town Hall landscaping is being done.

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk