

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Budget Priority Setting Session – 9:00 AM
January 16, 2010

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; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development; Jorge Thompson, Director of Inspections; Robert F. Stahl, Director of Operations; Jeff Garner, Director of Public Works

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Introduction

Mayor Hale followed by Mr. Mears provided an outline of the purpose of the Budget Priority Setting Session and explained the Agenda items, with a reminder to be thoughtful and mindful of all decisions and how to prepare for the future.

Overview of Town's current and future financial status, views on the economy at the local, county and state level

[Included in the meeting packets were documents titled "Economic Financial Conditions" and "Executive Summary of the Global Economy".]

Mr. Oliphant provided the Council and Staff with an overview of the Town's current and future financial status, including the following items of discussion:

- Property market still weakened
- Loan market not expanding
- High rate of un and/or under employment has a major impact on residential and business growth
- State financially unstable
- Revenue is flat
- Highway user and Police state funding greatly reduced
- 53% of operating revenue from property taxes
- 75 to 80% of revenue is tax driven

Mr. Oliphant provided further information on options to increase revenue.

- Increase taxes

- Attract more businesses
- Economic Development
- Encourage training centers to operate within the Town
- Attract Tourism
- Partner with a credit card company to start an Infinity card program, which offers incentives when used at Town businesses

Update on Council's 2010 Service Priorities

[Attached to these minutes is a chart of all Service Priorities for FY2010, with a status update for each priority, provided by the representative of each department.]

Following discussion; there was a short lunch break at 11:31 AM, the meeting re-convened at 12:03PM.

Agenda Setting for February 6, 2010 session

Mr. Mears briefly explained the intent to use the Major Initiatives Worksheet as a discussion tool during the February 6, 2010 session, along with discussions of staff goals for each department.

New Business (None.)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 PM.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley
Town Clerk