

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
June 6, 2006, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Motion to conduct Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. Councilman Back seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the special meeting at 4:02 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Work Session

Matters of Council Discussion

Water appropriation permit for new well and well site location

Description: Mark Williams, of Earth Data, will be discussing the water appropriation permit for a new well and well site location.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed that the new well should be located next to the existing storage tank at Wills Park.

Wrought iron fence around the grass line at rear of Police Department building

Description: Chief Gittings will make a recommendation regarding this fencing.

Chief Gittings provided a photograph of the 5' metal fence on the neighboring property and noted he would prefer one that is 6' high. Noting that he had not been involved in the initial conversation led by Councilwoman Mudd regarding a fence behind the police station, Chief

Gittings advised that he needed to conduct more research for information regarding different types of fencing and fencing materials, which he will provide to the Town Council next month.

Police Department updates

Chief Gittings advised that the grant process is complete and that the Town will be reimbursed approximately \$407,000.

Chief Gittings provided an update on the hiring of new police officers.

Sprinkler system at the star garden

Description: Mary Beth Chandler, of the La Plata Community Garden Club, and Charlie Harrigan, representative of Automatic Rain Systems, will make a presentation regarding possibly installing a sprinkler system at the star garden.

During this presentation, Ms. Chandler advised that Automatic Rain Systems has offered to sell the system for 50% of its normal cost. She also advised that Paul Facchina donated the hardscape for the star garden 24 hours before the group came to the Town Council's May 9 meeting for approval of \$11,700 for the hardscape phase of the garden, which GP Homes donated at that meeting.

Town Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to allow the sprinkler system to be installed at the star garden.

Town Notes newsletter banner

Description: At the 9/20/05 work session, Councilman Newman asked if the banner of Town Notes could be changed to have a picture of the Town Hall rather than the Train Station. Consensus of the Council is needed regarding this change to the newsletter.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to change the banner of *Town Notes* to a photo collage, with the Town Hall as the centerpiece.

Draft Resolution 06-6 – Schedule of Holidays

Description: A list of the holidays traditionally approved by the Council, as provided for in the current Personnel Rules and Regulations. If Council concurs, we should introduce and adopt the resolution at the June 13 regular meeting.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed to introduce and adopt the resolution at the June 13 regular meeting.

Book referencing economic development in La Plata and Charles County

Description: Nicholas Slabbert, professional writer, has been awarded a grant from Maryland Department of Economic Development (MDEB) for research and writing about Maryland, with special reference to La Plata and Charles County. He has asked the Town if they would support his work with a grant to supplement the one awarded by MDEB. John

Reardon, Director of Charles County Economic Development Department, has advised the Town that he can provide \$6,000 in grant money if the Town can match it with \$6,000.

Town Council consensus: The Council agreed they do not wish to provide the grant requested by Mr. Slabbert.

Matters of Information

Temporary partial closure of St. Mary's Avenue: Ms. Bembe reported on the email she sent today regarding the partial closure of St. Mary's Avenue during the week of June 12, for the installation of water and sewer lines for the Green Turtle.

Clearing of trees behind Mr. Goldsmith's property: Jim Goldsmith described the bulldozing of trees beyond the point of disturbance, which was done today by the Target developer. He noted he would be meeting with Mr. Eagan, who is in charge of the overall project, and asked for the Town Council's authority to tell Mr. Eagan to repair the damage now or a stop work order will be issued by the Town. He noted that they should be required to replant with at least 5" diameter trees. The general consensus of the Council was agreement that the damage, if beyond the point of disturbance, must be repaired, and action taken in whatever manner deemed necessary by Town staff.

Future Work Session Topics

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. After a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk