

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
November 27, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 7:36 PM, Tuesday, October 23, 2007, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(8) – Consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss pending or potential litigation regarding a personnel matter. No action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Rodney Saunders to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of October minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the October 16 work session-quarterly meeting with County Commissioners, October 23 regular meeting, and October 23 closed session. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated October 31, 2007.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Presentation of Town Seal to Cheryl A. McGuire

Mayor Ambrogio presented a Town Seal to Cheryl A. McGuire, expressing the Town's appreciation of the years she served as a member and Chair of the Design Review Board. Ms. McGuire thanked the Town Council and asked them to continue supporting the Design Review Board.

Presentation by Town's auditor, Rodney J. Saunders, CPA/McGladrey & Pullen, LLP

Mr. Saunders provided an overview of the Town's Financial Report dated June 30, 2007, prepared by McGladrey & Pullen, LLP, and responded to questions posed by the Town Council.

Public Forum

Mike Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, spoke about the Town's request that residents conserve water, and asked the Town Council to consider advising the developers of the two largest upcoming developments that fewer homes will be allowed by the Town, as a measure to reduce the demand for water from the aquifers.

Legislation

Resolution 07-10 Amendment of the Grasso Annexation Agreement (For Consideration of Adoption) – For the purpose of approving and authorizing the amendment of a certain Annexation Agreement between the Town of La Plata, Pamela D. Grasso and Gerard T. McDonough, Substitute Trustees, and others; and all matters relating to the amendment of the Annexation Agreement.

Mayor Ambrogio read the purpose clause and briefly explained the purpose of the resolution. Mayor Ambrogio noted that this had been discussed at several work sessions, and asked the Town Council if they were prepared to act on the resolution.

Councilman Goldsmith moved to adopt Resolution 07-10. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Award bid for Walnut Hill Sewer Extension Project

Mr. Mears provided a brief background on this project, advised that the Town received six bids for the Walnut Hill sewer extension project, and that staff recommends awarding the bid to the low bidder, Earnshaw Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$141,900.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the bid for the Walnut Hill sewer extension project to Earnshaw Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$141,900. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Budget transfers for FY 07 Budget; budget amendment for FY 08 Budget

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from General Services-Municipal Buildings (capital outlay) to Public Safety-Police Department (capital outlay), and the transfer of \$23,000 from General Services-Municipal Buildings (capital outlay) to Debt service, and to make these transfers effective June 30, 2007. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve an amendment to the FY 08 Budget to increase by \$900,000 Expected Revenue in the Water Fund Revenue account (650-000-39261-000), transfer from Major Facility Fee Reserves; and to increase by \$900,000 appropriations in the Well 8 Capital Improvements account (650-690-53000-111). Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Minor changes to the Town's Investment Policy

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve the amendments to the List of Approved Banks and to the Delegation of Duties form. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Additional paving overlay projects

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the addition of Red Bud Court, Crab Apple Court, Alder Court and Persimmon Court to the street overlay project bid awarded to All-Pro Asphalt on October 23, 2007, for an additional cost of \$44,740. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Appointment of Design Review Board chairman

Mayor Ambrogio recommended Robert Turgeon to serve a 2-year term as Chairman of the Design Review Board, effective December 6. Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the appointment. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Commission Reports

Councilwoman Mudd reported on topics discussed at the November 15 meeting of the Kent Avenue Partnership. Councilwoman Mudd also reported that the Beautification Commission began putting up the holiday decorations today at the Town Hall.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the November 7 meeting of the Design Review Board.

Councilman Goldsmith reported that the November and December meetings of the Planning Commission had been cancelled due to there being no business to discuss.

Announcement of Testing of Early Warning Devices/Sirens

Mayor Ambrogio announced that the Town will be testing our early warning devices/sirens on Saturday, December 8, 2007, at approximately 10:00 a.m., and that the testing will last about a half hour. The tests will consist of both siren alerts and audible notifications. This test will be conducted in conjunction with the Charles County 911 Communications Center, which controls and operates the system for the Town. The devices are installed at the following locations: on Charles Street in front of the Charles County Courthouse, on Curley Hall Road at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant (near Quailwood Subdivision), in Clarks Run Subdivision, in King's Grant Subdivision, and on Shining Willow Way next to the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Ambrogio further advised that Emergency Management Officials remind you that in the event of a real emergency to stay tuned to local radio stations for more information, to have emergency supplies on hand – including a radio which can be operated during a power outage, and to know where the safe haven is in your home. It is everyone's responsibility to plan for an emergency.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:40 PM. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk