

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session  
January 3, 2006, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM.

### Matters of Council Discussion

#### Finance Committee/Finance Meetings

*Description: The previous Council had a finance subcommittee that met on a periodic basis with the Town Treasurer and the Town Manager to discuss the Town's finances in detail. Interest in having such a committee has been discussed by several members. If two or less members wish to meet on a periodic basis, then a subcommittee can be formed. If three or more of the members wish to participate in this process, then periodic finance meetings can be scheduled and duly posted.*

Mr. Miller provided copies of the FY07 Budget Schedule.

Council consensus: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler and Newman will serve on the finance committee. The periodic finance committee meetings will be scheduled and posted.

#### Police Salaries

*Description: The discussion regarding enhancing police salaries will be continued from the earlier Work Session.*

Mr. Miller provided copies of Chief Gittings' memorandum, dated November 4, 2005, which described three salary options for the La Plata Police Department for the Town Council's consideration.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to give a 5% across the board increase now, hire one replacement officer and one new officer in the current fiscal year. At a future date, the Council will adopt a grade/step pay scale.

#### LI Zoning Text Amendment

*Description: Upon further review of the Town Code, public maintenance garages are only allowed in the Public Lands Zoning District. Allowing such uses within the Light Industrial Zoning District will be discussed.*

Mr. Miller noted that the Town Council should consider, as a land use, the impact of heavy truck traffic at all hours of the night and day. The Town Council agreed they still wish to relocate the Town's Public Works Department to the Mote property on Washington Avenue.

### Undergrounding: St. Mary's Avenue

*Description: The preliminary estimates to place utilities underground on St. Mary's Avenue have been received. The distribution of these costs will be discussed.*

Mr. Miller advised that the Town wants to get the streetscape project started again by March, with a Notice to Proceed issued by April.

Council consensus: The Town Council directed Mr. Miller to ask Gore Bolton how they plan to fund and construct the undergrounding and report that information back to the Town Council.

### Ward Outreach Meetings

*Description: The Mayor will discuss his concept of having outreach meetings in the individual wards and then possibly schedule such.*

Council consensus: The Town Council discussed having outreach meetings in the wards and agreed they preferred to have "Town Hall meetings" at the Town Hall to answer questions from all citizens rather than by individual wards.

### Acting President of the Council

*The appointment of an Acting President of the Council will be discussed.*

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that each Town Council member will sit as Acting President of the Council on a rotating basis.

### County Commissioner Session Agenda

*The Council will discuss agenda items for the upcoming session with the County Commissioners. Also, the Council should decide if the Work Session will follow at 6:00.*

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed they will have the 6:00 PM work session after the session with the County Commissioners.

### 2006 Events Schedule

*Description: The Council will discuss what events that the Town will host in 2006. Also matters involving the use of the concession trailer, the peddling of merchandise and the content of the concerts will be discussed.*

Mr. Miller provided copies of the CY 2006 calendar. In response to Mayor Ambrogio, Mr. Miller agreed that an events committee is needed.

### Council Concerns, Issues and Questions

#### Location of "Kitty's Clock"

Councilman Newman led a discussion regarding installing the clock in the area of La Grange Avenue and Charles Street next to the D. H. Steffens Building, noting the concern that there are already several poles in front of the police department building. Mr. Miller noted that the Town would need to get a commitment from the Steffens family to allow the clock to be located there and

that the Town Council would need to make a decision to locate the clock on that property. Mayor Ambrogio expressed concern about the property not being owned by the Town and the outcome if the Steffens property was sold. He further noted that the Beautification Commission recommended the police department building location.

#### Restaurant Smoking Ban

Councilwoman Mudd advised she has changed her mind about this proposal, and noted she had spoken with four business owners who want the smoking ban.

#### Matters of Information

- SMMA Meeting; January 18<sup>th</sup>; North Beach.
- Session with the County Commissioners, January 24, at 4:00.
- Commission Reception, January 31, at 5:30.

#### Future Work Session Topics

- Budget Priority Setting Sessions (facilitated): January 17, February 7, February 21

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn at 5:54 PM. Councilman Back seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk