

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
August 15, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Jorge Thompson, Town Inspector; Thomas Daniels, Code Enforcement

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 6:19 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Residential sprinklers ordinance

Description: Jorge Thompson, Town Inspector, and Steve Shahan, Chief, La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, will make a presentation and provide a model ordinance for the Council's review.

Jorge Thompson and Chief Shahan presented information in support of the request to enact legislation to require residential sprinklers in all new single family residential construction in the Town of La Plata. Duane Svites, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, and Rick Bowie, Residential and Commercial Fire, were also present to answer any questions the Town Council had. Mr. Svites stated that the Office of the Fire Marshal would review plans and perform hydrostatic tests on sprinkler systems for the first two or three years to get the Town started, and acknowledged it was common practice of the Office of the Fire Marshal to issue Fire Marshal cards to the Town's inspectors.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed they consider it a high priority to have legislation drafted to require residential sprinklers in all new residential single family construction, and to include Mr. Thompson in the review of the draft legislation.

Definition of "private club"

Description: The Council will discuss the draft ordinance prepared by the Town Attorney to define "private club" and to exempt private clubs from certain prohibitions against smoking or carrying lighted tobacco products.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to amend the "Private Clubs" definition by deleting all descriptors except "CIVIC", "FRATERNAL" and "PATRIOTIC", and to include this ordinance on the September 12 agenda for introduction.

Parking spaces on La Grange Avenue; sidewalk on Queen Victoria Street

Description: As requested by the Town Council at the August 8 meeting, price information has been obtained from Civil Construction regarding installing curb cuts and parking along La Grange Avenue. The Town Council will discuss having Civil Construction also look at the sidewalk on Queen Victoria Street.

Ms. Miner provided an estimate from Civil Construction in the amount of \$92,116, for installing curb cuts and 16 parking spaces along La Grange Avenue, and noted that the estimate does not include storm drains/storm water management.

Council consensus: Regarding parking along La Grange Avenue, the Town Council agreed to ask Facchina to provide an estimate based on the same layout shown on the Civil Construction drawing, an estimate for parallel parking, and an estimate for the storm drain/storm water management. Regarding the sidewalk on Queen Victoria Street, which has settled in spots, the Town Council agreed to direct Town Staff to obtain prices so the sidewalk can be fixed.

Train station lease

Description: Councilwoman Mudd wishes to discuss the train station lease.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to keep Version 2 of the lease, which was voted on and unanimously approved by the Town Council at the July 18 meeting.

Walnut Hill Road engineering study

Description: Ms. Miner will review prices received by the engineer to extend sewer to the Walnut Hill Road neighborhood, and provide Front Foot benefit amounts per property.

During discussion, the Town Council received the cost information and three options for paying for the project from Ms. Miner and discussed having the Town absorb the entire cost of providing sewer to the qualified Walnut Hill Road properties, including exempting the residents from payment of the Major Facilities Fees. It was noted that the unimproved Lot 4 has severe topo problems and that gravity sewer is not possible, and that on Lot 5, which is improved by a single family dwelling, gravity sewer is not possible and must be pumped. Mr. Norris stated that the cost of the project will be paid from General Fund money, including payment of the Major Facilities Fee amounts to the Major Facilities Fee Fund. Mr. Norris also stated that legislation would be needed to exempt the residents from payment of the Major Facilities Fee.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to have Ms. Miner obtain prices and to have the Town absorb the entire cost, except that Lot 4 is not eligible and the owner of Lot 5 must pay costs associated with pumping the sewer from that lot. The Town Council also agreed to have the Town Attorney draft legislation to allow exempting the property owners from payment of the Major Facilities Fee. No consensus was reached as to whether the Town or property owner will pay to bring the sewer line from the sewer main to the house.

Matters of Information

Future Work Session Topics

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk