

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
February 10, 2009, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Robert W. Oliphant, Town Treasurer; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Mike Zabko, Executive Director, Southern Maryland Chapter American Cross

Description: Mr. Zabko wishes to discuss with the Town Council a request to use surplus Town building space in the old Public Works Building.

Mr. Zabko explained his request to use the old Public Works Building to store 11 Red Cross vehicles and disaster preparedness supplies, and to provide an indoor area for maintenance on the vehicles, either by lease or donation of the space. Mr. Zabko noted that they would prefer a long term use of the space but would be willing to use it for whatever term the Town could provide.

During discussion, Councilman Goldsmith reiterated that he and Councilwoman Mudd still wish to see the old Public Works Building be used as a community center. A question was raised regarding whether the Armory on Hawthorne Drive was going to be declared surplus by the State of Maryland and if this could be a potential location for the Red Cross. Mr. Mears and Mr. Stahl provided information that indicated this process was not yet begun but that the State has indicated they may be interested in speaking with the Town regarding future joint uses.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that more information was needed, including the costs of work needed on the building and the site to ready it for occupancy. This is to be discussed again at the next work session.

Beautification Commission recommendation – Town Hall park benches

Description: Discussion of the Beautification Commission's recommendation regarding the purchase and installation of 10 park benches at Town Hall. If the Town Council agrees with the recommendation, action to approve could be taken at the February 24 regular meeting.

Helen Lucas, Chairman of the Beautification Commission, was present to discuss their recommendation regarding purchase and installation of 10 park benches at the Town Hall. The Commission's written recommendation to the Town Council included a Town Hall landscape plan showing the proposed locations of the benches, photographs and description of the benches,

and cost proposal from Arbor Recreation, Inc. in the amount of \$8,050 for ten benches and their installation.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to put this on the February 24 agenda for approval.

Recommendation from Chief Gittings – declare four police vehicles surplus

Description: Discussion of four police vehicles that Chief Gittings recommends be declared surplus and sold. If the Town Council agrees with the recommendation, action to declare the vehicles surplus and to authorize Town Staff to sell them could be taken at the February 24 regular meeting.

Mr. Mears noted this was a procedural item that will be included on the February 24 agenda if the Town Council agrees to declare the items surplus, and that further evaluation will be made of options regarding how disposal will handled.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to put this on the February 24 agenda for approval.

Matters of Information

- Southern Maryland Legislative reception in Annapolis on Thursday, February 26, at 7:00 PM.

Future Work Session Topics

- Discuss vacancies on Town boards and commissions and those interested in serving. [Mayor Hale]
- MISSION system (2/17)
- Sidewalks and stormwater management systems maintenance [Councilman Goldsmith]
- Residency and occupancy restrictions in senior living communities – Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas will bring results of February 11 meeting with homeowners' associations/boards of directors of Hawthorne Greene and of Washington Square.

There being no other business, Councilman Newman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it carried. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk