

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
September 6, 2005, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

St. Mary's Streetscape/Undergrounding

Description: The Council must decide if the Town will proceed with undergrounding of utilities on St. Mary's Avenue. The Council must also decide under what circumstances (who is going to pay for the work) that this work will be done.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that Mr. Miller is to meet with Gore Bolton and Steve Griffin to determine how undergrounding of utilities is to be funded and to advise that the Town will not pay for it.

Washington Avenue Sidewalk Project

At Mayor Ambrogio's request, Mr. Miller provided an update on the debt service on this project, noting it could be designed in phases but bid all at one time.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed they wish to include Hawthorne Drive.

Funding Lawlor House/Authorization to Proceed

Description: The method of funding the purchase of the Lawlor house at Charles and Oak will be discussed.

Mr. Miller explained that an off-site transportation costs fee was included in the Kings Grant annexation agreement and was meant to be used for the northern bypass, which is now the responsibility of the owner of the Davis annexation property. That money can be used to purchase the Lawlor property in order to widen N. Oak Avenue. The Town could then ask State Highway Administration to provide and pay for a traffic signal.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to use that fund for the purchase of the Lawlor property at Charles Street and N. Oak Avenue.

GP Homes Willow Lane Pump Station Funding Proposal

Description: GP Homes has offered to participate in a major sewer upgrade that will primarily benefit their development (Heritage Green) but will also assist the Town in correcting some existing problems. A concept of sharing costs and responsibilities will be reviewed.

Mr. Miller advised that GP Homes will engineer, build and pay for the upgrade but want credit for their work by not having to pay the \$6,825.00 major facility fee per building permit. Mr. Miller advised that other options include (1) GP Homes does the entire project; (2) The Town upgrades Willow Lane pumping station; (3) GP Homes and the Town share the costs under an equitable plan.

Preliminary Discussion regarding the Faison Annexation Petition

Description: The Council will conduct a preliminary review of the Faison annexation and identify any major issues to be discussed with the petitioners.

Mr. Miller advised that Ms. Bembe has a complete annexation application and that the Faison representatives wish to speak to the Council at their September 20 work session. Mr. Miller advised that he and Ms. Bembe would be meeting with the Faison representatives on September 12, and asked the Council if they wished any information prior to that work session.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that Mr. Miller should advise Faison to take the northern parcel out of the proposed annexation.

Stagecoach Surface Impoundment

Description: The concept of a surface water impoundment within Stagecoach Crossing will be reviewed.

Mr. Miller explained that the need for a water impoundment site on the Stagecoach Crossing had been the major reason the Town annexed the property. He noted that the developer is saying there won't be a water impoundment site as the Town put high density zoning on the property. Mr. Miller advised this would need to be researched and noted that a water impoundment site may lessen development.

Katrina Assistance

Description: Ideas to assist Katrina victims will be reviewed. Also, the Town collected \$360 at our last concert; we will decide who to donate that to.

Mr. Miller advised that the Town has three surplus police vehicles which can be sent to a municipality in need. The Council discussed (1) the concept of adopting a town that is similar in size to La Plata and is able to recover with help; (2) short and long term assistance; (3) work with state municipal leagues to pair up like organizations such as churches and businesses to identify and supply needs. Mr. Miller was asked to research these possibilities.

The Town collected \$360.00 in donations at the last concert. The American Red Cross had a representative there, who also collected a large amount of donations.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to send the three surplus police vehicles to a town in Mississippi, and agreed to send the \$360.00 to the Salvation Army to help Katrina victims.

Council Reports at Council Meetings

Description: The inclusion of Council reports at the Council Meetings will be discussed.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to include “Commission Reports” on the agenda of regular business meetings.

Matters of Information

No work session on September 27th. (ICMA Conference)

Mr. Miller advised that the Town needs to purchase and install a central radio system in the Town Hall. He spoke to Teltronix and Southern Maryland Communications. The cost would be about \$14,500 and we would need to suspend bidding procedures to make the purchase. The Council discussed increasing the amount requiring a bid from \$10,000 to \$20,000 and agreed that an ordinance should be prepared to increase the amount to \$20,000.

Mr. Miller provided copies of a memorandum from Michelle Miner suggesting “movies on the lawn” events.

In response to Councilwoman Mudd, Mr. Miller advised that the contract has been signed to complete the project at the basketball and tennis courts in the Phoenix Run community, and advised he will look into installing a rubberized play surface.

Future Work Session Topics

1. Faison Presentation (tentatively 9/20)
2. IGS Police Study (10/25)
3. Cable Franchise (10/4)
4. ACLU letter/requiring ID to vote (10/25, closed session)

There being no other discussion, Councilman Winkler made a motion to adjourn at 5:35 PM. Councilman Back seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk