

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
August 28, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, 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

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

▶ A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 7:52 PM, Tuesday, July 24, 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 Newman, 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)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss acquisition of property for Public Works Building. Action taken: The Council directed the Town Manager to contract with a consultant to conduct a public works facilities needs assessment. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

▶ A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:18 PM, Tuesday, August 14, 2007, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

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 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and Section 10-508(a)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss appointments to Boards and Commissions and to discuss use of eminent domain for sewer line easement. Action taken: Appointments - The Council agreed to appoint the nominees recommended by the Mayor. Use of eminent domain – The Council directed the Town Manager to proceed with the eminent domain process. The meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Minutes:

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

Approval of July minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the July 10 quarterly meeting with County Commissioners, July 10 work session, July 24 regular meeting, and July 24 closed session. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report [Deferred until next month.]

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Proclamation from Governor O'Malley: La Plata – Capital for a Day

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of a proclamation from Governor O'Malley, declaring La Plata Capital for a Day on July 26, 2007.

Councilman Goldsmith acknowledged receipt of a Certificate of Appreciation from the La Plata Volunteer Fire Department, presented at their annual installation and awards banquet on August 18, at which he represented the Town and presented the Town's financial contribution to the fire department.

Councilman Lucas reported he attended the Charles County Rescue Squad's annual installation and awards banquet on August 18, at which he represented the Town and presented the Town's financial contribution to the rescue squad.

Public Forum (none)

Legislation (none)

Unfinished Business (none)

New Business

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Ambrogio announced that Councilwoman Mudd would be the Council representative on the Beautification Commission and that Councilman Lucas would be the Council representative on the Design Review Board, beginning with the September meetings.

Commission Reports

Councilman Newman reported he is continuing to pursue getting an educational center at Tilghman Lake and hopes to get grant funds.

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's August 8 meeting. Regarding the concept plan for the Shops at Oriole (planned shopping center) presented by the developer at the Planning Commission meeting, which includes a request for a new traffic signal on Rt. 301, Councilman Newman asked the Town Manager to check to see if the SHA is still aware that the Town Council does not want more traffic signals on Rt. 301, as they have been advised in the past. Councilman Newman also noted there have been discussions by the Town Council in the past regarding placing restrictions on the maximum allowable square footage of big box stores along Rt. 301 between Rt. 225/Hawthorne Drive and Rt. 6, and suggested that the Town Attorney be asked to create an ordinance to address this. It was suggested this be a topic of discussion at a work session. Councilman Newman encouraged the Council to act on the issue now, noting that it has been discussed in the past and not yet acted on. Councilwoman Mudd noted that consideration also be given to the additional traffic that will go through La Plata if the western bypass ends at Turkey Hill Road north of the Town. Mr. Mears noted that staff is working on an access management plan and ordinance. Mayor Ambrogio commented that the traffic signal at Rt. 225 and Rt. 301 cycles green for only 1 minute and 16 seconds, and a cycle of 2 to 3 minutes would help. Mayor Ambrogio advised that he spoke to Greg Welker of SHA, who said he would send someone to check on it.

Councilman Lucas thanked Officer Hitaffer, La Plata Police Department, for the professional way he handled an incident at his home.

Councilman Lucas acknowledged the pending departure of Patti Bembe, Assistant Town Manager, noting his appreciation of her dedication and professionalism.

Motion for Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(7) – Consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:21 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk