

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
February 19, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas [*arrived at 8:44 PM*], Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Draft Resolution 08-2 Adoption of LEED Policy

Description: The Council will discuss this draft Resolution to adopt a policy requiring that all new construction and major renovations of Town-owned or -funded buildings meet Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. If the Council agrees, this Resolution will be placed on the February 26 agenda for introduction and consideration of adoption.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to place Resolution 08-2 on the February 26 agenda for introduction and consideration of adoption.

Draft Ordinance 08-4 Comprehensive Rezoning – Notice of Hearings

Description: The Council will discuss this draft Ordinance regarding requiring written notice of hearings be sent to owners of record of property which is contiguous to or opposite property rezoned as part of a comprehensive zoning or rezoning of the Town or portion of the Town. If the Council agrees, this Ordinance will be placed on the February 26 agenda for introduction. Hearings before the Planning Commission and Town Council would be held in April.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to place Ordinance 08-4 on the February 26 agenda for introduction.

Town Hall landscaping

Description: Mr. Mears will provide an update.

Mr. Mears displayed a landscape plan and provided information regarding the installation of the irrigation and cistern system, noting that target completion date is by the first week in April. During discussion, it was suggested that MML be asked to consider supporting legislation to amend the State Building Code to allow residents to capture and use gray water for irrigation on their residential dwelling properties.

Recommendation of Beautification Commission to purchase holiday decorations, banners and brackets

Description: The Beautification Commission has provided written recommendation (dated February 12, 2008) to the Council regarding the purchase of holiday decorations, banners and hanging brackets for various locations on Town streets. If the Council agrees, this will be placed on the February 26 agenda for approval.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to (1) authorize the Town Manager to investigate costs to purchase a lift device; (2) check into use of Parks and Recreation funds to pay for the park area on the Town Hall lawn; and (3) place the Beautification Commission's recommendation to purchase holiday decorations, banners and brackets on the February 26 agenda for approval.

Costs associated with relocating Town Clock

Description: The Town Council will discuss the proposal from Husick Construction Co. regarding the scope of work and cost of moving the Town Clock from its current location to within the circle island in front of Town Hall. (At the October 16, 2007 work session, the Town Council agreed to consider relocating the clock to the circle, with the alignment to be facing La Grange Avenue and Town Hall, and that Mr. Mears should explore the costs associated with relocating the clock.)

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council directed Mr. Mears to explore other price quotes.

Heritage Green Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement (DRRA)

Description: Mr. Mears will provide an update on the Heritage Green DRRA.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to move forward with the DRRA and to place it on the agenda of the March 25 agenda.

Public Works needs assessment

Description: Mr. Mears will provide an update.

Mr. Mears provided copies of the final version of the Public Works needs assessment and a brief description of its contents.

Matters of Information

- Transportation Study – Draft report submitted has not met objectives that were set.
- Oriole Lane traffic study – Traffic Group has not provided a copy; SHA to be asked to provide a copy.
- Parks maintenance – Complaint from Clarks Run resident that Town parks are not being regularly maintained.
- Use of Town Hall meeting room – Complaints/questions regarding why can't civic groups use Town Hall. Building maintenance and security are issues for use of Town Hall. If a full-time facilities person is hired, as discussed during facilitated budget

priority setting sessions, it may be possible to allow use of Town Hall. Wills Park Community Center and community center room in LPPD building are currently available for use by civic groups.

- Snap Poll – As of 2/19/08, 66 votes: 52% strongly agree; 38% somewhat agree.

Future Work Session Topics

- Vision Plan

Other business (none)

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:49 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk