

Council of the Town of La Plata
La Plata Town Hall
Tuesday, March 27, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development

Guests: See Roster

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 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, 2012, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Danielle Mandley, Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney.

On a motion made by Councilman Winkler, seconded by Councilman Norris. Roll call vote on the motion: Mayor Hale, Councilman Winkler, Councilman Back and Councilman Norris voted aye, Councilwoman Mudd voted nay, and by majority vote, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(7) Consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a pending petition for referendum. Action: None taken. The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 7:33 p.m., Tuesday, March 13, 2012, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Danielle Mandley.

On a motion made by Councilman Back, seconded by Councilman Winkler. Roll call vote on the motion: Mayor Hale, Councilman Winkler, Councilman Back, Councilman Norris and Councilwoman Mudd voted aye and by unanimous vote, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(8) Consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a Petition for Judicial Review. Action: None taken, discussion for informational purposes only. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurers Report

Mayor Hale acknowledge receipt of the February Treasurers Report.

Approval of February Minutes

Councilman Back moved to approve the minutes of the February 14 special meeting, February 14 work session, February 21 work session, February 28 business meeting and February 28 closed session. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

1. Public Forum

Bill Borza, 131 West Quail Lane, Town Resident, spoke in opposition to all annexations, and made a request to include more information on pending projects in the Town Newsletter.

Michael J. Runfola, 113 Morris Drive, Town Resident, spoke regarding the proposed amendment to the Heritage Green Annexation Agreement (Davis Annexation), stating that the Town has not properly identified what the Town residents want, questions what amenities are being exchanged, requested an appraisal of the value of a golf course compared to a park system, and stated that GP Homes should give the Town any additional monies for the difference between a golf course and a park system.

2. Beautification Grant Award – Catherine Lavery, Redwood Lake Repair and Update Project

Beautification Commission Chairwoman Norris and Councilwoman Mudd presented a certificate of appreciation and grant award check in the amount of three hundred two dollars and forty-eight cents (\$302.48), to Toni Knisely, on behalf of Ms. Lavery.

3. La Plata Police Department (LPPD) monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of February 2012

4. La Plata Volunteer Fire Department monthly report – Chief Matt Gilroy *[Not in attendance.]*

► **Legislation**

Ordinance No. 11-15 Electronic Signs (for consideration of adoption) – For the purpose of revising the Town’s existing sign regulations; altering certain purposes of the regulations, and; altering provisions relating to the sign design, construction and maintenance standards of electronic signs.

Mr. Mears briefly discussed the changes under consideration in Ordinance No. 11-15, and the Planning Commission and Council public hearings and the comments heard during the open record.

Councilman Back moved to adopt Ordinance No. 11-15 Electronic Signs. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency Ordinance No. 12-02 Amendment to Town of La Plata FY2011-2012 Financial Plan/Budget (for introduction and consideration of adoption) – For the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata FY2011-2012 Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Oliphant briefly described the proposed budget amendments contained in Emergency Ordinance No. 12-02, which are due to timing differences across different fiscal cycles.

Councilman Norris Moved to suspend the provisions of Town Charter § C6-4 Ordinances, to adopt this as an emergency ordinance. Councilwoman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Norris moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 12-02. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency Ordinance No. 12-03 Amendment to Town of La Plata FY2011-2012 Financial Plan/Budget (for introduction and consideration of adoption) – For the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata FY2011-2012 Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears discussed the proposal for Town gateway signage and the funds that were contributed for the signage as part of the Rosewick Limited Partnership Annexation Agreement. As well as the appropriation of funds and authorization of the expenditure of those funds.

Councilman Winkler Moved to suspend the provisions of Town Charter § C6-4 Ordinances, to adopt this as an emergency ordinance. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilman Winkler moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance No. 12-03. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

► **Unfinished Business** *[None]*

► **New Business**

Mr. Mears briefly discussed the recent hearing on the Johel Petition for Annexation referendum election and that a Judge ruled to postpone the election. The election will be rescheduled pending the Courts decision on the matter.

1. Commission Reports

Councilman Norris reported on the Design Review Boards review and approval, with conditions of a Master Sign Plan (MSP) for the Morgan Building on Route 301 and, the courtesy review of the La Plata Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Councilwoman Mudd reported on the Beautification Commission's preparations for the upcoming Celebrate La Plata.

Councilman Back reported on the Planning Commission review of Edelen Station, which was deferred to the April meeting and, the approval of Charles Street Overlook project.

Councilman Winkler reported on the Parks and Recreation Commissions discussions regarding GP Homes, the desire for the Commission to have an annual budget and to identify projects, and the desire to bring attention to our parks.

Mayor Hale reported that there was not a La Plata Business Association meeting in March and that in next few weeks will begin the recognition of the Tornado Anniversary and recognition for all those that helped during the recovery following the Tornado.

There being no other business to discuss, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the business meeting at 7:37 p.m. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous consent.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk