

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
October 21, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: 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; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Hale, Councilman Lucas acted as mayor pro tem and called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Draft Johel annexation agreement

Description: Discuss current draft of the Johel annexation agreement.

Roger Wright, Stephen Wenderoth and Steve Scott were present to discuss their responses to the list of annexation agreement items.

During discussion, Councilman Goldsmith stated he wants to see written confirmation from the Charles County Commissioners that they are agreeing to the changes in the conceptual site plan.

Following discussion, the Town Council members were in agreement regarding the following annexation agreement items:

- In item 3.a.iii., retain the words “substantially similar”.
- In item 3.b.ix., agree regarding providing display areas for public art vs. providing public art; prefer more public amenities such as benches and tables.
- Faison is to maintain the video surveillance system as functionally operational at all times.

After the revised draft is prepared by Mr. Sussman, Mr. Mears will provide copies to the Town Council.

Topics for discussion with the County Commissioners at biannual meeting on November 18

Description: The Town Council will determine what topics they want included on the agenda of the next biannual meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners, which was rescheduled from October 21 to November 18 and will begin at 4:00 p.m., at the Charles County Government Building. Topics already on the agenda are: (1) Fire and EMS needs/growth in the Town; (2) La Plata Police Department/Charles County Sheriff's Office update; (3) Status update – Traffic Study; (4) Next meeting: Spring, 2009 joint meeting of the Towns of La Plata and Indian Head and County Commissioners [date/location].

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed they were interested in discussing (1) Fire and EMS needs/growth in the Town, and (2) La Plata Police Department/Charles County Sheriff's Office update, and directed Town staff to:

- Ask the County what the plans are for the library.

- Ask the County for information regarding retrofitting traffic signals to provide for all signaling “red” for emergency vehicles.
- Invite Mr. Wineland, of the Charles County Board of Education, to attend a work session in December to discuss the future needs of the school system in our area and if they have taken into account the future growth in Heritage Green.
- Advise the Board of Education that remedial action needs to be taken on the rusty fence along Oak Avenue (at Milton Somers Middle School) – it is unsafe and unsightly.

Draft Resolution 08-15 Charter Amendment – Elections

Description: Discussion regarding Draft Resolution 08-15, which contains a charter amendment that is intended to clarify that nominees for election to the Town Council from each Councilmanic ward shall be elected by qualified voters of the entire Town beginning with the Primary election held in 2009.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to introduce Resolution 08-15 at the October 28 regular meeting.

Matters of Information

- Mr. Sussman prepared and Town staff reviewed ordinances to adopt various components of IBC 2006, which will be on the October 28 regular meeting agenda for introduction.
- Park fee in lieu update: Having a Parks Capital Expansion Plan in place is a key component for this issue. Town staff is working to bring a final document to the Town Council.
- Green Building Committee discussed the new irrigation systems ordinance at their meeting today and will need to spend more time on review and discussion.
- Councilman Goldsmith stated he wants continued discussion regarding geothermal systems.
- MML Conference in Cambridge, Oct. 23-25.
- Councilman Newman requested an update on the Grasso annexation agreement items, pump station upgrade and monetary contribution. Mr. Mears advised he had no additional information yet but would obtain it and provide it to the Town Council.
- Contract to lease buildings to LifeStyles, Inc.: to be discussed in closed session after the October 28 regular meeting.
- Charles Lumber property annexation petition is expected to come forward again, but it is not known when it will be presented to the Town.

Future Work Session Topics

- Discussion of work session schedule (in January)

There being no other business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 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