

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
February 21, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Michelle D. Miner, Director of Community Development; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney

Minutes:

Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the special meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

Motion for Closed Session

Councilman Winkler moved to conduct closed sessions during the regularly scheduled work session immediately following this special meeting, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(7) – Consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice; and Section 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. Councilman Newman seconded the motion. In discussion before the vote, Mr. Miller explained that a motion was made at the February 14 meeting to conduct closed session, and that the motion was remade to assure compliance with law. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Councilman Back moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:03 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it carried.

Work Session

The work session was called to order at 6:03 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Willing Helpers Hall

Description: The Mayor has invited representatives from Willing Helpers Hall on Washington Avenue to discuss issues related to their facility.

Turner Coggins, Mrs. Green, Lelia Hicks, Hazel Wood and Doreen Dent were present to discuss Willing Helpers Hall on Washington Avenue. Acting as spokesman, Mr. Coggins provided a brief history of the social work provided by the Willing Helpers Society, which has

been in existence since 1903 and currently has about 19 members. Mr. Coggins noted they plan to conduct a new member campaign and are trying to partner with La Plata High School to provide a mentoring program.

Councilman Winkler described his suggestion that the Willing Helpers Society partner with Louise Webb to possibly relocate the African American Museum to the Willing Helpers Hall, and try to obtain grant money to make repairs to the building to bring it up to Code and ADA regulations.

Mrs. Hicks described a storm water drainage problem on the Willing Helpers Hall property which she said was caused by the builder of the neighboring new homes closing off the drain. Mr. Miller advised that the Town will look into this to see what can be done.

The noise issue was discussed. Mr. Coggins advised they will be sure to be respectful of neighbors' concerns when events are held at the Hall, and noted that they plan to try to have more intellectually-engaging activities.

Faison Annexation Agreement

Description: The Council will discuss the draft annexation agreement with the petitioners.

Roger Wright, Steve Wenderoth and Steve Scott were present to discuss the Faison annexation agreement with the Town Council. It was noted that Roger Fink, County Attorney, is working on the letter regarding concurrence of the County Commissioners.

Closed Session

Faison Annexation Petition

Description: The Town Attorney will discuss the Faison Annexation petition.

Faison Annexation Agreement - **Not discussed.**

Description: The Council may discuss further the Faison Annexation Agreement.

Town Manager Recruitment

Description: The Council will discuss the Town Manager recruitment process and how the position will be filled between the time when the current Town Manager leaves his post and when a new Town Manager reports for duty.

The work session was suspended at 7:17 PM while the Council met in closed session, and reconvened at 8:42 PM.

Upon realizing that the Town Council planned to adjourn the work session, Roger Wright and Steve Wenderoth requested that the session continue to discuss the Faison annexation petition. At the direction of the Town Council, Mr. Miller advised them that the Town Council considers the annexation petition flawed and that they may submit a new, clean petition. Mr. Wenderoth disagreed with that assessment and asked how it was deficient. Following a brief discussion, Mr. Sussman advised he would discuss the issues with their counsel.

Due to the lateness of the hour, the following work session items were not discussed. They will be put on the next work session agenda:

Noise Regulations

Description: Councilman Winkler wishes to discuss adoption of noise regulations.

Apartment MFF

Description: The Town Manager will seek permission to assess Major Facility Fees on apartments, using actual water consumption.

Sick Leave Bank

Description: The Town Manager will seek permission to adopt a policy similar to Charles County that allows employees to contribute some of their sick leave into a bank that can be used by other employees who are deficient of sick leave.

TND School Seat Generation Rates

Description: The developers of Steeplechase have asked that the Town use school seat generation rates similar to Montgomery County TNDs.

Chairs – Community Room

Description: The Council will decide what grade of chairs will be placed in the Community Room at the Police Station.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Back moved to adjourn at 8:50 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk