

Council of the Town of La Plata
La Plata Town Hall
Tuesday, January 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, 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

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of December minutes

Councilman Back moved to approve the minutes of the December 14 work session, and the December 21 regular meeting. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

1. Public Forum

Emily Ferren, Director of the Charles County Public Library, spoke to express concern with sediment in the water lines, following construction in the area. Mr. Mears addressed the concern and explained that while the issue was investigated and the water tested, the Town has not been able to determine why the library is the only location effected.

Marilyn Single, 105 Lelia Court, spoke to promote consideration of a park in the Downtown area, and to encourage the construction of a community center and pool in the Heritage Green development.

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

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of December 2010

Chief Gittings also reported the outstanding efforts of his department for the investigation and arrests in two major fraud cases. Chief Gittings also announced the swearing in of Officer Tamme McConnell.

3. La Plata Volunteer Fire Department monthly report [No report]

4. Citizen and Employee Survey Results – Daniel Mears

Mr. Mears provided a power point presentation on the results of the citizen and employee survey's.

Legislation

Ordinance No. 11-1 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan (for introduction) – For the purpose of adopting a new comprehensive parks and recreation master plan (CPRMP) for the Town of La Plata; and all matters relating to said plan.

Mr. Mears briefly described the work sessions and joint meetings of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Planning Commission and Town Council to discuss the draft Plan.

Ordinance No. 11-2 FY 2010-2011 Fee Schedule (for introduction) – For the purpose of adding a certain fee in lieu of on-site stormwater management, and a convenience fee for credit and debit card transactions in the FY2010-2011 Fee Schedule; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears described the additional fees to be included in the current Fee Schedule, which include a fee in lieu of on-site stormwater management, and a convenience fee for credit and debit card transactions.

Public Hearings:

Hearing 1: Ordinance No. 11-1 Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan (CPRMP)

Mayor Hale made an announcement to silence cell phones and pagers, and called the hearing to order. Mayor Hale explained that the purpose of the hearing was to hear public comment on the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and reviewed the Public Hearing Procedures. The Clerk entered into the record the Certification of Publication that the notice of the hearing was properly advertised in the January 14, 2011, edition of the Maryland Independent newspaper.

Mr. Clive Graham provided a power point presentation outlining the DRAFT CPRMP.

Mayor Hale called for questions of the Council regarding the CPRMP. There were no questions from the Council.

Mayor Hale asked if anyone in the audience has written documents for the record, regarding the DRAFT Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan. There were no documents presented at the hearing. The clerk entered for the record the December 2010 DRAFT Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Mayor Hale asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak regarding the CPRMP.

Doug Sayers, spoke in favor of the CPRMP, stating that he is not a Town resident, however his family utilizes the Town's resources. Mr. Sayers further stated that it is recommended to phase in the aspects of the medium plan outlined in the draft CPRMP by starting with a trail and track system, secure funding by naming parks after Legislators, and charge fees according to the resident's zip code.

There being no other speakers. Mayor Hale *concluded* the hearing at 7:39 PM, and announced that the record will remain open for comments for 13 days, until February 7, 2011, at 4:00 PM.

► Unfinished Business

Mr. Mears described the request from the Clark's Run HOA for the purchase and installation of an aeration fountain for Redwood Lake.

Councilwoman Mudd moved to approve the purchase of an aeration fountain for Redwood Lake in an amount not to exceed \$2,000. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

► New Business

Commission Reports

Councilman Norris reported that the Design Review Board did not meet in the month of January, and discussions regarding the proposed changes to the CB/CBT and C-H Design Guidelines will continue in February.

Councilwoman Mudd reported on the Beautification Commission intent to present a request to the Town Council for the purchase of new Christmas decorations and Banners.

Councilman Back reported on the Planning Commission's discussions regarding proposed changes to the Central Business Transition District, and for the Council to expect a recommendation for introduction to be forthcoming in February.

Mayor Hale announced that the 2011 Event Schedule is set and will be available once printing is complete.

There being no other business to discuss, Councilman Back made a motion to adjourn the Business Meeting at 8:00 PM. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk