

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
March 11, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, 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:

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

Matters of Council Discussion

Presentation by Ann Seely, Director of Development, Center for Children, regarding "First Night"

Description: Discuss partnering with the Town to have Town Hall, Community Center, and the Train Station open on New Year's Eve 2008 for entertainment venues.

Ann Seely and Cathy Myers presented information regarding the "First Night 2009" event they are planning to hold on December 31, 2008. They described the event as an alcohol-free, safe night for families. They will be asking that certain places throughout the town be venues (including Christ Church, County Commissioners, Board of Education and Port Tobacco Players), and will be asking different agencies and civic groups to help, including helping to monitor venues. They noted this would not be a fundraiser, that any money would go into next year's event, and that they plan on getting corporate sponsors.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to support the Center for Children's "First Night 2009" event.

Public Art

Description: Discuss proposal that the Town obtain outdoor art for Town Hall.

Mayor Ambrogio led a brief discussion regarding keeping the Town Clock in its current location and obtaining a piece of art/sculpture to place in the circle in front of the Town Hall. During discussion, members of the Council voiced concern regarding having to purchase a piece of art which could be very costly, and the potential that the art would detract from the Town Hall.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the majority of the Town Council agreed they still want the Town Clock to be moved to the circle.

La Plata Manor Apartments

Description: Resolution and support of Project Financing in the form of a loan of bonds from the Administration in the approximate amount of \$8,100,000 and a loan of Maryland Housing Rehabilitation Program funds in the approximate amount of \$500,000.

Mr. Mears provided information relating to the request for a Resolution of support for the project and the project's funding, and request for monetary support. Discussion included the

possibility of abating fees for the project and the need for more information regarding the scope of the project to determine if a permit is required.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council directed Mr. Mears to obtain more information regarding the scope of work and costs. The Town Council is open to supporting the project and will adopt a Resolution of support, which could be placed on the March 25 or April 22 agenda.

Reschedule June 24 regular meeting

Description: The MML convention will be held June 22-25. Do you wish to cancel or reschedule the June 24 regular meeting? Reschedule options include June 10 and June 17, which are your 2nd and 3rd Tuesday work session dates. (For staffing purposes, June 10 is the suggested reschedule date.)

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to reschedule the June 24 meeting to June 17.

Matters of Information

Mr. Mears presented a "Thank You" poster from the 4-year olds class at Blessed Lambs preschool, thanking the Town for a recent tour of Town Hall.

Future Work Session Topics

- Parking fines and collection procedures.

Other business

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried. Following a short break, the Council reconvened the closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk