

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session  
August 14, 2007, 7:05 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

### Matters of Council Discussion

#### Fall Legislative Conference Attendance (October 18-20 2007 at Greenbelt)

*Description: Discussion will include who will be attending the MML Fall Conference so arrangements can be made for registration.*

Following a brief discussion, Councilmen Lucas and Goldsmith advised they will attend the Fall Conference.

#### “Taste of La Plata”

*Description: Discussion of the event and a draft letter proposed to be sent to all restaurant/eatery owners in the Town.*

Following discussion, it was agreed that the restaurant/eatery participants be allowed to provide the number of dishes which will fit in their allocated space rather than two dishes each; that Michelle Miner’s name be included as a committee member; and that contact phone numbers for the committee members be included on the letter to be sent to all restaurant/eatery owners in the Town.

### La Plata Issues

*Description: The Town Manager will discuss his initial impressions of the community and projects that need to be worked on, and receive Council feedback.*

During his presentation, Mr. Mears noted that the biggest challenge for the Town stems from the growth projected for the community and its impacts on Town infrastructure, the challenges of additional traffic and population; the additional focus needed on street infrastructure needs and repairs/upgrades to existing streets; and the additional staff workload which will create a need for additions to staff/some restructuring. Mr. Mears noted that growth will fund the upgrade to the wastewater treatment plant (WTP) and the infrastructure needed to get to the WTP.

During his remarks, other areas discussed included (1) more parks and recreation opportunities are needed within the Town, there are opportunities for improvements at Wills

Memorial Park and at Tilghman Lake, and the Town needs to insure that Town facilities are well maintained into the future; (2) trash, water and sewer services are strong from a customer perspective; some issues may occur in the future in the area of needed water infrastructure upgrades; (3) special events drive the identify of this community, are well received, and bring the community together; (4) comprehensive plan update to begin this year, with staff to be asked to look internally as to service needs and how they will be provided into the future, including the number of additional staff needed and when they should be added; (4) the Town's Vision Plan and process and the design guidelines are strengths for the community and need to be sustained and revisited, including reactivation of the Vision Team to discuss elements of the Vision Plan; (5) need to assure within the budget/revenue distribution that user fees and property taxes are at adequate levels.

Council Communication (Not discussed.)

#### Matters of Information

Mr. Mears acknowledged receipt of a letter from the County Commissioners regarding the La Plata Capital for the Day event.

#### Future Work Session Topics

- LEED Certification (August 21)
- Town Hall landscaping (August 21)
- Anne Arundel fence (August 21)

#### Other business

In response to Mayor Ambrogio, Mr. Mears advised he would assure that the Public Works Department knows that the Park and Ride lot is open and that trash needs to be picked up, and that the lot is added to our street sweeping contract to be done on a regular basis.

In response to Councilman Goldsmith, Mr. Mears noted it would provide for better efficiency if Council members emailed requests for actions by Town staff to the Town Manager, with a copy to the staff member who will be working on the request.

Councilman Goldsmith asked that the Town have a policy or ordinance to provide that graffiti be removed within two weeks. Councilman Goldsmith also asked the Council to consider an energy tax credit policy for those who go above and beyond, noting the Town could check to see if the County has one and use it as a guide. Councilman Goldsmith also stated the Town needs to start using the parks funds and that the Town needs to move forward with the skateboard park.

In response to Councilman Lucas, Mr. Mears provided an update on the sirens, noting that the King's Grant siren is functioning (the board was replaced) and that the fire house siren is on order, with no information as to when the vendor will deliver it.

In response to Councilman Lucas, Mr. Mears advised he would check with Mr. Norris regarding when the wooden fence in Phoenix Run will be removed by Public Works.

Mr. Mears reported that the 107 S. Maple Avenue house is being prepared for rental and that Mr. Norris is working on a lease.

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried. Following a brief break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

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Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk