

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
July 5, 2005, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Pre-annexation Conference: Faison

Description: The Faison development group will bring back the petition to annex. They will make a presentation and the Council will have the opportunity to ask questions.

Thomas F. Mudd, Roger Wright, David Cooksey, Ed Carroll, and representatives from Lowe's and Giant presented information and answered questions posed by the Council regarding the annexation petition. Mr. Wright indicated there are some significant changes to the proposed development, which now includes 120 age-restricted dwelling units, along with the Lowe's, Giant, and other commercial/retail and future commercial/retail. He described the commercial/retail uses as being similar to those found in Marketplace in Waldorf: Red Robin, Chico's, and Three Brothers. Mr. Cooksey and Mr. Carroll discussed the proposed water and sewer improvements and cost estimates, and provided handouts for both: "Proposed Water Distribution System – Rosewick Crossing Annexation; Benefits to the Town of La Plata" and "Proposed Sewer Distribution System – Rosewick Crossing Annexation; Benefits to the Town of La Plata".

Civista Signage

Description: Carolyn Core of Civista will be showing the latest sign design for the wall sign that is to face Charles Street. They want the Town Council to grant an exception to the maximum size of a sign.

Ms. Core advised they had reduced the sign to 120 sq. ft. and reduced the size of the logo. During the discussion, staff noted that the Design Review Board has not yet seen the sign, that the Council is only addressing this attached sign, and that Civista must submit a Master Sign Plan due to the amount of signage. Mayor Ambrogio also noted that he and Councilwoman Mudd are employees of Civista and won't be participating in the vote on this item.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to act on this request at the next regular meeting.

MML Conference To Do/To Buy

Description: We will discuss the MML Conference, what we may want to do new, what we may want to buy.

Items mentioned included: McMahon smart building ideas, tread-spread rubber mulch for Town parks, customer service surveys, street sweeper vacuum – demo and comparison of contract services and purchase, recommendations for improvements to hazardous crosswalks, incident report tracking.

Benches and Trash Cans

Description: The Beautification Commission has selected a preferred trash can and a preferred bench to be placed throughout town. We will need to amend the budget to pay for these, as well as suspend normal bidding procedures.

Mr. Miller advised that the Beautification Commission has selected a vendor, Victor Stanley, Inc., and that the amount is approximately \$14,000. The Council will need to suspend normal bidding procedures. This will be on the next regular meeting agenda.

July 19th Work Session

Description: Work sessions are the Town Manager's opportunity to go over items with the Town Council. Since the Town Manager will be on vacation the week of July 18th, there will be no work session on July 19th.

Mr. Miller confirmed there would be no work session on July 19 and described future work session topics: Presentation of Police Study by IGS, Cable Franchise, Commission Appointments, Council ex-officio on Design Review Board, Repeal HDC, Chapter 13 Revisions, Establishment of independent Ethics Commission, Election Revisions, Annexation Conference with the Rt. 488 Group. Councilwoman Mudd asked that consideration of having one evening meeting and an additional work session be added to the list of topics.

Matters of Information

In response to Councilman Winkler's request, Mr. Miller provided an explanation of the Rt. 488 group annexation for the benefit of the new Council members.

In response to Mayor Ambrogio, Mr. Miller explained the Carousel Museum issue regarding the need to indicate in the Comprehensive Plan the Town's support of Heritage Tourism and Areas. He advised that the Town provided a letter of support which noted it would be included in the next update of the Comprehensive Plan.

In response to Mayor Ambrogio, Charis Lapis provided a status report on progress with their development plans for Heritage Green.

Mayor Ambrogio provided each member of the Council with a draft mission statement.

Motion for Closed Session to be held immediately after work session

Councilman Back made a motion to conduct a closed session immediately following this meeting, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(3), to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, Mudd and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Back made a motion to adjourn at 5:44 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk