

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
February 7, 2006, 3:30 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, 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

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM and made the following announcements:

(1) Two letters have been received from Department of Housing and Community Development regarding the bond (copies given to the Town Council).

(2) The MaCO bill has been introduced. Mr. Miller gave a brief synopsis of this bill which will limit municipalities' ability to annex.

(3) The St. Mary's Avenue Streetscape project will be going out to bid. It was noted that only Paul Facchina and Gore Bolton plan to underground their utilities.

Matters of Council Discussion

Budget priority setting (facilitated session)

Jo Anne Ellison conducted the facilitated session regarding budget priority setting. The Town Council discussed budget priorities for the topics, "Water and Wastewater" and "Public Works."

It was agreed that the water and wastewater information should be included in the Town's Water Quality Annual Report mailing and in the Town newsletter to make the public aware of all steps of the process. It was suggested that a new column, "Around the Town", be developed for the newsletter to provide information including updates on projects department by department, when new businesses are going to open, and the like.

The facilitated session concluded at 5:36 PM. The next facilitated session is scheduled for February 28, 2006, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Appropriation of funding - Town Manager search

Councilman Newman led a brief discussion regarding the proposal (\$13,000) from Slavin Management to conduct a search for Town Manager. The Town Council agreed to put appropriation of funding for this on the February 14, 2006 agenda.

MaCO Bill

Councilwoman Mudd led a brief discussion regarding Mayor Ambrogio's public statement of support for the MaCO bill, and suggested he may need to step down as president of the Southern Maryland Municipal Association (SMMA) as this bill is a cause of major concern for members of the Maryland Municipal League. Mayor Ambrogio advised he may do so, noting he would advise the Council of his decision prior to the next SMMA meeting.

Faison update

Mr. Miller advised that the annexation agreement will not be ready by the February 14 meeting, and that work on it is proceeding as quickly as possible.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Newman moved to adjourn at 6:03 PM. Councilman Back seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk