

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
January 29, 2009, 5:30 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Robert W. Oliphant, Town Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations, Jeffrey S. Garner, Acting Director of Public Works; Jo Anne Ellison

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Budget priority setting – facilitated session (5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Jo Anne Ellison conducted the facilitated session regarding budget priority setting. The Town Council discussed budget priorities for the topics of Public Works – Refuse, Road Maintenance, Parks Maintenance, Support, Water and Wastewater, Town Management and Council Relations, and Ideas That Cut Across All Services/General Administration.

Matters of Information

Mr. Mears reported on the following:

- \$114,000 in DNR funds (parks) for La Plata has been included in Governor O'Malley's budget. The Town applied for \$2 million.
- Enhanced nutrient removal costs are \$12 million; the State is providing \$3.4 million and allowing \$14 million in loan funds.
- The Town will be looking into federal economic stimulus funds for at least three (sewer projects) of the Town's four projects.

Mayor Hale reported that on January 30 he would be attending Congressman Hoyer's lunch for Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's and Prince George's counties mayors and noted he hoped to have an opportunity to talk about and ask for stimulus funds for the Town's projects.

Future Work Session Topics

- Residency and occupancy restrictions in senior living communities – Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas will bring results of meetings with boards of directors of Hawthorne Greene and of Washington Square.
- Red Cross request to use space in old Public Works Building off Kent Avenue – February (Councilman Lucas)

- Different CH zone between Routes 6 and 225 (Councilman Goldsmith)
- Online banking (Mr. Oliphant)

Other business

Councilman Lucas led a brief discussion regarding a potential ADA issue involving slope of a sidewalk on Kennedy Place in Washington Square. Councilman Goldsmith remarked that he believes the sidewalk may be owned by the homeowners' association, which would make it a homeowners' association issue rather than a Town issue.

Mr. Mears provided an update on the lease with LifeStyles for space at the former Public Works building.

Mr. Oliphant provided a timeline for adoption of the budget: the Town Council will discuss budget priorities in March, a budget hearing will be held in April, with possible budget adoption in May.

There being no other business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk