

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
September 19, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Jeff Garner, Assistant Public Works Director

Minutes:

Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the special meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Review bids for new trash truck

Joe Norris and Jeff Garner were present to discuss with the Town Council the bids received for a new trash truck [*list attached to original minutes*]. Staff recommended awarding the bid submitted by Mid Atlantic Waste System as "Bid 2", for a 2007 Mack CTP713, body capacity 27 yards, in the amount of \$165,986. Mr. Norris advised that the Town Council budgeted \$125,000 in the current budget for this item, noting that the amount was based on 2002 pricing, and that the Vehicle Reserve Fund will cover the difference in amounts. Mr. Norris also advised he would bring a budget amendment request to a future Town Council meeting.

Award bid for new trash truck

Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the bid for a 2007 Mack CTP713 trash truck to Mid Atlantic Waste Systems in the amount of \$165,986. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Review bids for new dump truck

Joe Norris and Jeff Garner were present to discuss with the Town Council the bids received for a new dump truck: Hunt Ford, Inc. in the amount of \$69,660 and Central Truck Center in the amount of \$73,261.14. Staff recommended awarding the bid for a 2006 Ford F-750 dump truck submitted by Hunt Ford, Inc., in the amount of \$69,660. Mr. Norris advised that the Town Council budgeted \$80,000 in the current budget for this item.

Award bid for new dump truck

Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the bid for a 2006 Ford F-750 dump truck submitted by Hunt Ford, Inc., in the amount of \$69,660. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:21 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Work Session

Matters of Council Discussion

Grant Application – La Plata Blue Knights Youth Football

Description: The Town Council will continue discussion of the Blue Knight's grant application in the amount of \$2,500. Any action on the grant application would be taken at the October 10 regular meeting. [Item not discussed – information requested of LPBK not provided.]

Phoenix Run delegation

Description: Mike Chopp and Regina Clark, spokespersons, wish to discuss litter in the Phoenix Run neighborhood.

Mike Chopp, Regina Clark, Ebonie Davis, and Tracy Livers discussed recurring problems in the Phoenix Run community with litter throughout and youth and adults congregating in the park and other areas. Concern was expressed that the neighborhood will return to its previous bad state and requested increased police involvement to help prevent that from happening. They propose to conduct a community clean-up day on Saturday, November 4, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, with prizes awarded to children based on the amount of trash they pick up. They asked the Town to supply \$45.00 for prize money, put an announcement in the Town newsletter regarding the event, and make flyers advertising the event. *[It was noted that it would not be possible to include an announcement in the newsletter as it was already in publication.]* They also advised that broken glass is mixed in with the mulch on the playground, which is a safety issue for the children using the playground equipment. During the discussion, it was agreed that regular clean-up days need to be scheduled rather than waiting until the litter becomes a major issue, such as on an every 2 months basis.

Ms. Clark asked for a status report on the setting up of the Homeowners Association, noting they had all signed papers and given them to Mike Wyant, of the Charles County Sheriff's Office, but have not received a response regarding progress. It was also noted that legal work was to be done pro bono. The question was raised as to whether the Town would provide grant money to accomplish the legal work if there is no pro bono work provided.

In response to Ms. Livers' request that a curfew be placed in Phoenix Run, Mayor Ambrogio advised he would speak to Chief Gittings regarding what steps may be possible.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Town Council was to support the clean-up event on November 4, to provide trash bags, make flyers, and help financially to provide for a pizza and ice cream party for participants rather than cash prizes. Councilwoman Mudd will contact Mike Wyant and Ms. Miner will speak with Chief Gittings regarding increased police involvement in the Phoenix Run neighborhood, making it a constant priority. It was also agreed the Town should clean and maintain the public property in the neighborhood. The Town Council

agreed they would consider the request for grant money if no pro bono work is provided to accomplish the legal work to set up the Homeowners' Association.

Presentation by Jim DiMisa, President of the La Plata Business Association

Description: Mr. DiMisa would like to address the Council regarding possibly amending the sign ordinance in regards to banners.

Mr. DiMisa advised he was representing the member businesses of the La Plata Business Association (LPBA), and stated he had held discussions some months ago with Mr. Miller regarding the amendments suggested by the LPBA. The LPBA is asking that the Town Council consider amending the sign ordinance to provide there be no application fee for a banner, enhance the application process, and simplify the regulations in particular as to the length of time a banner may remain in place. LPBA members would prefer there be a fine as penalty for leaving a banner in place longer than allowed rather than an application fee. They would also like to have the application process enhanced to avoid the need to leave their business to come to Town Hall for an application for a banner. The enhancement they propose is for the Town to provide a pdf file of the application form on the Town's web page, which would be reviewed by the Town Inspector, who would then provide a response within a certain set time frame. Approval of the application would start the time clock on the length of time it may remain in place. Mr. DiMisa initially suggested allowing banners to remain in place 6 months, but further noted that allowing them to remain through a "season" of 3 months would be fine.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to discuss this at the October 3 work session, and to include Carol Rollins participation in the discussion.

Presentation by Rottman Creative Group

Description: Rottman Creative Group will present proposed "No Smoking" signs.

Ms. Miner presented various sign options and advised that two signs and a copy of Ordinance 06-10 would be mailed to local business addresses, with those having corporate addresses being delivered to the business by Thomas Daniels, Town Code Enforcement.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed on design #4, with changes to the color of the background in the top portion (from white to yellow) and in the text in the top portion (from blue and yellow to all black), and to delete the adoption and effective dates, leaving only the reference to the ordinance number. It was further agreed that Ms. Miner will confirm with Rottman Creative Group that the no smoking symbol included on the sign is the International no smoking symbol.

Matters of Information

Ms. Miner provided updates on several projects:

- The renovations at Wills Park are complete.
- Redwood Lake repairs are complete, with the exception of installation of the grates. The lake will be filled when the grates are installed.

- SHA will be repairing the railroad tracks crossing on Charles Street this weekend.
- The Southern Maryland Municipal Association meeting is September 20, 6:30 PM, in the Town Hall.
- Public Works inventoried streets to be paved. Priority paving includes Phoenix Run streets. RFP is to include all of Phoenix Run streets, Hickory Circle, Hickory Lane, and Oak Avenue.

Following discussion of including Oak Avenue in the paving RFP, the Town Council agreed to put repaving Oak Avenue on hold until the Wicomico, Worcester, Hemlock area streets are to be repaved, by which time it is expected that the major construction work on the hospital and Martin's Crossing subdivision will be complete.

- Work is to begin to repair the sidewalk on Queen Victoria Street.
- Paving and addition of 1' of paving on St. Mary's Avenue work began this week.

Ms. Miner advised the Council that the Beautification Commission wants their consensus on the Beautification Commission's proposal to remove the bushes on La Grange Avenue and plant grass, which the Town Public Works crew will be able to maintain. Regarding whether trees would remain or be removed, Paula Winkler, Chairwoman of the Beautification Commission, advised that very few were viable and that grant money is available to replace the trees.

Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that the bushes planted by the state may be removed and grass seed planted, and that the Town Council will need to approve expenditure of the grant money to replace trees that are removed.

Mayor Ambrogio advised he received a letter from a senior citizen who wants the Town to place a cap on taxes. It was agreed that this should be placed on the agenda of the October 17 joint work session with the County Commissioners. Other items to be included on that agenda are the Park and Ride and Washington Avenue sidewalks project.

Future Work Session Topics

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk