

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
November 10, 2009, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Danielle Mandley, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Catherine Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Mayor Hale opened discussion regarding a non-agenda item; notice of two violations that occurred in La Plata's drinking water system, and the public notices required by Maryland Department of the Environment.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to expand the notice on the Town's web site to give the public more detailed information, and to draft a letter to Maryland Environmental Service, expressing the Council's concerns.

La Plata Police Department - FY09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial Grant

Description: Discussions regarding the La Plata Police Department receiving a US Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial grant in the amount of \$19,304.

Mr. Oliphant briefly described La Plata Police Department having received a U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Assistance, FY09 Recovery Act Edward Byrne Memorial grant in the amount of \$19,304, and further explained that the funds will be used to enable the Officers to connect remotely to the Cody Records Management System. Mr. Mears explained that the grant amount is close to equaling the reduction in this year's annual Police Aid.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to include the appropriation for the Edward Byrne Memorial grant in the amount of \$19,304 on the agenda for November 24, 2009.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Councilman Norris informed the Council that the interview of Jeanine James, applicant for the Design Review Board, has been completed and made a recommendation for appointment.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to include the appointment of Jeanine James to the Design Review Board on the agenda for November 24, 2009.

Proposed Changes to the Sign Regulations

Description: Discussion and review of the proposed changes to the Sign Regulations, and the recommendation from the Design Review Board.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed review the proposed changes and revisit the topic at a later work session.

Senior Living Communities

Description: Discussions regarding proposed amendments to Town Code §191-46.2 Senior Living Communities.

Mr. Mears briefly described the section of the Town Code that former Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas had brought forth with proposed changes to §191-46.2 Senior Living Communities.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that the proposed changes would have to be reviewed by the Town Attorney, and a copy of the most current draft of the proposed changes distributed so that discussion can continue at a future work session.

Heritage Green DRRA

Mr. Mears referenced to a letter from GP Homes requesting an extension for when it must begin paying school seat allocations, and explained that the extension would have no fiscal impact on the Town, but the Town is part of the three party agreement.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to consider granting an extension and include the item on the agenda for the joint session with the Charles County Commissioners, scheduled for November 17, 2009.

Matters of Information

Mr. Mears provided updates and information on several items as follows:

- The Willow Lane Sewer project, pre-construction meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2009.
- The Town is eligible to apply for a grant from the Maryland Energy Administration, to upgrade the heating in the Public Works shop.
- Staff met with the Library to discuss the Municipal Wi-Fi project and to start the process of reviewing potential locations for repeaters and backhaul units.
- The Charles County Library will present the "Hometown String Band" Concert, at Town Hall Friday, November 13, 2009.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the next meeting of the Vision Team will be a Holiday event, December 8, 2009 and invitations will be mailed by the end of the week.

Future Work Session Topics

Mr. Oliphant advised the Council that the end of year audit is complete, and the Auditors will be invited to attend the November 24 business meeting.

Other business

Mayor Hale made a request of the Beautification Commission to review potential locations for an electronic message board, to post Town events. Councilwoman Mudd agreed to place the item on the agenda of the next meeting.

There being no other business, Councilman Norris moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Danielle Mandley
Town Clerk