

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
May 26, 2009

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; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, and D/Sgt. William Brooks, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town of La Plata General Election Results

The Town Clerk read into the record the results of the General Election held May 5, 2009.

Approval of April minutes

Councilwoman Mudd moved to approve the minutes of the April 14 special meeting, April 14 work session, April 14 closed session, April 21 special meeting, April 21 work session, April 21 closed session, April 28 regular meeting, and April 28 closed session. Councilman Norris seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Hale acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's Report dated April 30, 2009.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

Presentation of Town Seals to James Goldsmith and Vic E. Newman

On behalf of the Town Council, Mayor Hale thanked Vic E. Newman and James E. Goldsmith for their service to the Town. Mayor Hale read and presented Certificates of Appreciation from the Maryland Municipal League to Councilman Newman for his service on the 2009 Legislative Committee and to Councilman Goldsmith for his service on the 2009 Convention Planning Committee. Mayor Hale read and presented framed Town of La Plata Seals and gave engraved clock/pen desk sets to Mr. Newman and Mr. Goldsmith in appreciation of their years of dedicated service to the Town. Mr. Goldsmith served from May 2007 to May 2009 as Ward I Councilman, from September 2003 to August 2006 as a member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and from June 2004 to May 2007 as a member of the Design Review Board. Mr. Newman served from May 2005 to May 2009 as Ward IV Councilman. Mayor Hale

also read the Town Seal expressing the Town's appreciation of the years of service provided by Scot D. Lucas, who served as Ward II Councilman from May 2007 to May 2009. Since Mr. Lucas was unable to attend the meeting, Mayor Hale advised he would assure that Mr. Lucas receives the Town Seal and engraved clock/pen desk set.

Mr. Goldsmith and Mr. Newman both expressed their appreciation and indicated their willingness to remain active with the Town.

Public Forum (No speakers.)

La Plata Police Department (LPPD) monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of April, 2009.

Chief Gittings also reported that (1) progress is being made towards receiving the two grants that the LPPD has applied for through the Justice Department; (2) a 40-hour class, "Spanish for Law Enforcement," is scheduled to be held in August' (3) over 50 citations and warnings were issued during the seatbelts and crosswalk enforcement endeavors; and (4) on June 13, noon to 4:00 PM, an out of school activity day is planned to be held at the Caroline Drive Park, to which all are invited to participate in the games and activities.

Chief Gittings and D/Sgt. Brooks presented a Neighborhood Watch sign to Mr. Randy Hill, resident and representative of the Washington Square community, which recently met the criteria for this designation. Mr. Hill thanked Chief Gittings and D/Sgt. Brooks for arranging for the presentation, and especially thanked D/Sgt. Brooks for all of his hard work in helping the community.

Councilwoman Mudd invited all members of the Town Council and the public to attend Crime Watch Council meetings held in the La Plata Police Department on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 PM. Councilwoman Mudd also reminded all that planning is underway for National Night Out events to be held on August 4.

Legislation

Ordinance 09-7 Town of La Plata FY2009-2010 Financial Plan/Budget (For Adoption) – For the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata FY2009-2010 Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of the purpose of Ordinance 09-7, noting that the Town Council spent many hours of review on the budget in work sessions and that a public hearing had been held in April. Mayor Hale thanked former Councilmen Goldsmith and Newman for their many hours of work on the budget.

Councilman Norris moved to adopt Ordinance 09-7. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 09-8 Town of La Plata FY2009-2010 Fee Schedule (For Adoption) – For the purpose of adopting the Fee Schedule, dealing with fees set by the Town of La Plata; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of the purpose of Ordinance 09-8.

Councilman Back moved to adopt Ordinance 09-8. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Ordinance 09-9 ICMA Retirement Corporation Retirement Plan (For Introduction) – For the purpose of establishing a money purchase retirement plan (the “Plan”) to be administered by ICMA Retirement Corporation (“ICMA-RC”); authorizing the Assistant Town Manager of the Town of La Plata to be coordinator for the Plan; authorizing the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of La Plata to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of La Plata all necessary agreements with the ICMA-RC incidental to administration of the Plan; and all matters relating to said Plan.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of the purpose of Ordinance 09-9.

Unfinished Business

Councilman Winkler remarked that he recently visited the site of the former Public Works building and spoke to a representative of the American Red Cross, who was very appreciative of the Town allowing them to store their vehicles in the building. Mayor Hale briefly explained that the Town was allowing the local Red Cross chapter to use this available space.

New Business

Commission Reports

Councilman Winkler reported on topics discussed at the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Councilman Back reported that the Planning Commission has not held a meeting since he was elected, but would be meeting on Tuesday, June 2.

Councilwoman Mudd reported that the Beautification Commission will be having minor repairs/adjustments made to the newly-installed benches on the Town Hall lawn, and that they plan to do more landscaping at the Town Hall. Councilwoman Mudd also reported that the Kent Corridor Partnership is planning the June 13 out of school event, and invited all to attend the events planned by the Kent Corridor Partnership and to attend their meetings, which are held in the La Plata Police Department on the third Thursday of each month, at 7:00 PM.

Councilman Norris reported that the Design Review Board has not held a meeting since he was elected, but would be meeting on Wednesday, June 3.

Mayor Hale reported that there was good attendance at the Memorial Day Ceremony held on May 25. Mayor Hale invited all to the first concert of the season, to be held on Friday, May 29, at 7:00 PM, with music by *25th Hour Band*.

At Mayor Hale's request, Mr. Mears provided information on the First Friday events that are new this year, and which will occur in June, August, September and October. First Friday events will begin at 5:30 PM, with a band playing from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM, and will include food vendors and children's games. Cathy Smith, a resident of Clarks Run, asked about local businesses' participation in First Friday events and expressed concern that there had been a lack of communication with the businesses. Mr. Mears responded that he would research and address this concern.

There being no further business, Councilman Norris moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk