

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session  
December 6, 2005, 4:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

### Matters of Council Discussion

#### De-annexation Request

*Description: Jerry Volman will make a presentation requesting that a portion of the Royal Charter Annexation be de-annexed.*

Thomas F. Mudd, attorney representing Mr. Volman and Bryans Road Corporation, explained the request to de-annex 13 acres of the Royal Charter property on the south side of a major ravine in order to connect to a larger parcel in the County and build single family dwellings on 1-acre lots.

Council consensus: The Town Council does not support this request.

#### Faison Annexation Agreement

*Description: The petitioners for the Faison Annexation will discuss any remaining issues with the annexation agreement.*

Roger Wright explained that Faison still wishes to provide financial support to help Willing Helpers Hall (building fix-up, water and sewer) and financial support for the purchase of a street sweeper for the Town, but advised they preferred to have the Town provide a dollar amount, which they will pay directly to the Town to be spent on these items.

The Town Council expressed concerns regarding the senior housing use still included in the petition, the lack of information regarding the building standards and types of use on the smaller properties, and lack of information regarding what will develop on the northern parcel. It was noted that the County Commissioners moved at their meeting this morning to elect to not concur with the significant change in land use.

In response to the Council's concern regarding the northern parcel, Mr. Wright indicated they will remove the property from the petition. The Town will check on whether this would be considered a significant change which would require the process to start over.

#### Rt. 488 Annexation Enclave Issue

*Description: The Council will continue its discussion regarding the Rt. 488 annexation request.*

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed they wish to pursue annexation of Mr. Johnson's property and Mr. Chesley's property, give consideration to the other area at a later date, and zone the properties R-21 due to its proximity to the R-21 zoning district in King's Grant.

Blue Ribbon Charter Committee

*Description: During the Council's initial orientation, one presenter suggested that an independent Charter Review Committee be appointed to review the Town's Charter. He further suggested that this be done every ten years. The Council will discuss when and if this will be done and who will be asked to be on the Committee.*

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to begin thinking about who will be on the committee.

Independent Ethics Commission

*Description: The Mayor and Council sit as the ethics board for most ethics issues, and the Board of Election Supervisors sit as the ethics board when an ethics opinion is sought for a council member. The concept of having a separate ethics commission will be discussed.*

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to begin thinking about who will be on the committee.

Elections Revisions

*Description: The Council will discuss what election revisions that they may want to see made in advance of the 2007 election.*

Mr. Miller explained that Town Staff has discussed changes known to be needed.

Property exchange contract – Mr. Miller advised that the exchange may proceed after the Town Council approves the property exchange contract.

Cancellation of December 27 work session – Mr. Miller advised that this would be on the December 13 agenda for a motion to cancel.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 4:58 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

---

Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk