

Council of the Town of La Plata
Charles County Government Building, La Plata, Maryland
Joint work session with County Commissioners of Charles County
July 10, 2007, 4:00 PM

Present: Town of La Plata

Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilmen James Goldsmith and Scot D. Lucas; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Charles County

Commissioner President Wayne Cooper, Commissioners Edith J. Patterson, Reuben B. Collins, II, Samuel N. Graves, Jr. and Gary V. Hodge; Paul W. Comfort, County Administrator; Denise Ferguson, Clerk

Minutes:

The quarterly joint work session of the Town Council and County Commissioners convened at 4:04 PM, to discuss topics of mutual concern.

Town Police/County Sheriff Update

Chief Gittings thanked Sheriff Coffey for providing training for the two bicycle patrol officers that the La Plata Police Department (LPPD) has deployed in Town, and for providing increased dangerous drugs/narcotics enforcement assistance to the LPPD.

Chief Gittings announced that the LPPD is accepting applications for three new police officers.

Chief Gittings advised he asked Sheriff Coffey to look at the three shelters being constructed at the MTA Park and Ride lot on Washington Avenue, which are being constructed of an opaque material rather than transparent material, which would provide better visibility by law enforcement to detect criminal activity. Chief Gittings advised that the Town will be requesting a change to the siding material. Mr. Mears noted this was being brought to the County's attention for their review and concurrence that the change needs to be made.

Chief Gittings and Sheriff Coffey agreed that all previous concerns between the departments have been resolved.

Sewer Overflows - Status of corrective action

Mr. Mears advised that good progress is being made but that the Town is waiting for a wetlands permit from MDE in order to begin the major project of upgrading the line between

manhole 5 and the wastewater treatment plant. He noted the project is ready to go when that permit is received and that the upgrade would redirect a great deal of flow and provide relief at the Centennial Street manhole. Mr. Mears advised that plans for the 24" line from manhole 13 have been sent to MDE.

Transportation Study Update

Jason Groth, Program Manager-Adequate Public Facilities Program, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, advised he met today with the consultant and that the County could expect to see their transportation model in October, and the Town could expect to see a draft of the transportation plan in August. Mr. Groth advised that the County will assist the Town in the technical review of the draft.

Impact/Plan for Growth Management for Heritage Green and Stagecoach Crossing Developments

Future/alternative water supply: Chuck Beall, Acting Director, Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management, advised that there was no updated information regarding bringing a water line from WSSC further into the County, but noted that the presence of the line in St. Charles will bring it closer to the Town at Heritage Green, which could facilitate a connection.

Schools: [Working through the DRRA process.]

Traffic: [Will be included in the Town's transportation plan and the County's transportation model.]

Heritage Green rail crossing

Mayor Ambrogio advised that the Town needs the County's assistance in obtaining this rail crossing, noting that CSX requires that three crossings be closed in order to get one new crossing. Mr. Mears explained that the Town will be making a new effort to reach out to CSX to obtain this crossing, and that if the County has any advice to offer it would be appreciated.

Following a brief discussion, the County Commissioners agreed they would provide a letter of support and would contact the delegation to solicit their support.

Washington Avenue Park and Ride landscaping

Mr. Mears advised that the Town is reviewing the landscaping plans and will be requesting that MTA make some changes to the proposed vegetation to be used in the landscaping. Mr. Groth recommended that the Town contact MTA as soon as possible to let them know of the Town's concerns.

New Courthouse parking lot landscaping

In response to a question by Councilman Goldsmith as to the landscaping planned for the parking lot, Commissioner Cooper advised that he should contact Mike Mudd to review the drawings.

Future meeting dates/frequency of joint meetings

The Town Council and Commissioners agreed to continue with the quarterly meeting schedule. It was suggested that consideration be given to a joint meeting of the three municipalities (Indian Head, La Plata and Port Tobacco) and the County Commissioners.

Commissioner Cooper remarked that Governor O'Malley would be in La Plata on July 26, but that it had not yet been determined if he would be at the La Plata Town Hall or at the Charles County Government Building.

There being no further discussion, the meeting concluded at 4:42 PM.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk

The next meeting of the Town Council and County Commissioners will be held at 4:00 PM, October 16, 2007, at the La Plata Town Hall.