

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
December 18, 2007

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), this statement is included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 6:02 PM, Tuesday, December 11, 2007, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(a)(1)(i) – Discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss appointments to boards and commissions. Action was taken: The Council agreed to appoint the nominees recommended by the Mayor. The meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Bob Johnston to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of November minutes

Councilman Lucas moved to approve the minutes of the November 13 work session, November 20 work session, and November 27 regular meeting. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio acknowledged receipt of the Treasurer's report dated November 30, 2007. In response to Councilman Goldsmith's request, Mr. Norris provided clarification regarding a Public Safety expenditure item.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Johnston

Mayor Ambrogio presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Bob Johnston, expressing the Town's appreciation for his donation of the 2007 Blue Spruce Holiday Tree.

Public Forum (None)

Legislation

Resolution 07-11 Change to Designation of Resident Agent (For Adoption) – For the purpose of changing the designation of a Resident Agent to accept service of process for the Town of La Plata; and all matters relating to said designation.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 07-11. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 07-12 Letter of Credit – Heritage Green Off-Site Sewer Line Project (For Adoption) – For the purpose of authorizing Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer of the Town of La Plata, to execute and deliver on behalf of the Town of La Plata documents related to the Letter of Credit in the matter of the Heritage Green Off-Site Sewer Line Project; and all matters relating to said Letter of Credit.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 07-12. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 07-13 Amendment to Schedule of Holidays – FY2007-2008 (For Adoption) – For the purpose of amending the schedule of holidays to be observed by the employees of the Town of La Plata for FY2007-2008; and all matters relating to said amendment to the schedule of holidays.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 07-13. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Award Bid for Well #11

Mr. Mears provided a brief background on this project, advised that the Town received two bids for the Well #11 project, and that staff recommends awarding the bid to the low bidder, A. C. Schultes of Maryland, Inc., and explained the various alternates.

Following a brief discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to award the bid for the Well #11 project to A. C. Schultes of Maryland, Inc., in the amount of \$829,100, which includes provision of a 10" diameter well pipe and a pre-fabricated well house building. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to authorize the expenditure of \$30,000 from Major Facility Fees to upgrade Well #11 to a 10" diameter well pipe. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Mayor Ambrogio recommended Helen Lucas to serve a 4-year term on the Beautification Commission. Councilwoman Mudd moved to approve the appointment. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it carried. Councilman Lucas recused himself from the vote.

Mayor Ambrogio recommended Stephen Urso to serve a 3-year term as Alternate Member on the Design Review Board. Councilman Newman moved to approve the appointment. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith noted there had been no December meeting of the Planning Commission, and reported on a meeting of the Crime Watch Council which he attended. Topics discussed included the public perception of increased crime rates in the Phoenix Run community vs. the reality that statistics indicate there is no increase. Councilman Goldsmith has asked Nancy McConaty to write an article about this for the Maryland Independent.

Councilman Lucas reported on a December meeting of the La Plata Business Association's board of directors, and on a December meeting of the Design Review Board.

Councilwoman Mudd reported she also attended the Crime Watch Council meeting. Councilwoman Mudd also reported on activities of the Beautification Commission: decorating Town Hall and judging the outside holiday decorations on December 17.

Councilman Newman noted there had been no meeting of the Parks and Recreation Commission. Councilman Newman thanked Town staff for preparing the comparison of Town and County sign regulations in response to the La Plata Business Association's request to amend banner sign regulations.

Other business

Mayor Ambrogio led a brief discussion regarding the County's request to change the date of the February quarterly joint meeting from February 19 to February 5, at 4:00 p.m. Following brief discussion, the Town Council agreed to the change. The Town Clerk was directed to advise the County.

Mayor Ambrogio advised that the Maryland Municipal League's "If I Were Mayor" contest would again be conducted in the local schools, beginning in mid-February.

Councilman Newman asked that draft legislation be prepared to amend the method of appointing members of Town boards and commissions and that the language reflect that which is currently in the Code regarding appointments to the Historic District Commission. He asked that this be brought for discussion at the first work session in January and be placed on the agenda of the January business meeting. Mr. Mears advised that a draft ordinance will be prepared for the January work session.

On behalf of the Town Council, Councilman Lucas wished all a happy and safe holiday season.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:29 PM. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk