

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
July 25, 2006, 6:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Michelle D. Miner, Interim Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Minutes:

Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Motion to conduct Closed Session

Councilman Newman moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* 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. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Winkler, Back, and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the special meeting at 6:02 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Work Session

Matters of Council Discussion

MTA Park and Ride project

Description: Jim Knighton of MTA will be present to discuss the Park and Ride project and the Memorandum of Understanding between MTA and the Town.

Maryland Transit Administration (MTA) representatives, James L. Knighton, Director, Office of External Affairs, and Matthew Fenton and Kishor Gheewala, Office of Engineering; Jason Groth, Charles County Planning and Growth Management; and the Town Council discussed the Park and Ride project on Washington Avenue. Mr. Knighton provided a project update, noting that a contract has been awarded and they expect to break ground next week. Mr. Knighton stated there is no possibility at this stage to change the location for this Park and Ride. The Town Council expressed concern regarding maintenance and other items contained in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), including level of snow plowing required, electricity and telephone costs, and maintenance and repair of MTA-owned equipment and facilities. The Council noted that these items were not presented during the Town's initial discussions with MTA.

Following discussion, Mr. Groth strongly recommended that the Town Council write a letter to the County Commissioners and request that they maintain this Park and Ride facility.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to write a letter to the County Commissioners advising them that the Town Council does not agree to the terms of the MOU, that these items were not presented during the Town's initial discussions with MTA, and asking the County to maintain this Park and Ride facility.

Apartment MFF

Description: The Town Treasurer wishes to discuss charging Major Facility Fees based on typical apartment consumption. This was previously presented by Doug Miller, and the consensus of the Council was that more information was needed. That additional information will be provided.

Mr. Norris provided brief background information regarding charging Major Facility Fees based on typical apartment consumption and recommended that the Council leave the fee as it currently exists.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to leave the fee as it currently exists.

Grant Application – Southern Maryland Carousel Group, Inc.

Description: The Town Council will discuss the Carousel Group's grant application in the amount of \$6,000. Any action on the grant application would be taken at the August 8 regular meeting.

During discussion, concern was expressed about spending Town taxpayers' money on this project. It was noted that the Carousel Museum, which is outside of the Town's corporate boundary, has the land for the Museum but in a year has only raised \$17,000 of the \$1 million needed.

Ms. Miner noted that action on the grant application would be on the August 8 agenda.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that they are not in favor of approving this grant application and that the Southern Maryland Carousel Group, Inc. should reapply in 6 months.

Civista sign

Description: This issue is before the Council because the signage consultant for Civista has been contacting Cathy Flerlage to find out when he can start fabrication of the wall sign. Background information: At the July 5, 2005 work session, Carolyn Core of Civista presented their latest sign design for the wall sign (120 sq. ft.) that is to face Charles Street, and asked the Town Council to grant an exception to the maximum size allowed for the sign (75 sq. ft.). At the July 12, 2005 meeting, a motion was made to approve Resolution 05-8, to approve the 120 sq. ft. size of the sign. During discussion, Council members expressed concern regarding exempting the sign from the Town's sign regulations and considered a letter from Cheryl McGuire,

Chairman of the Design Review Board, expressing concern regarding allowing the sign to exceed the maximum square footage allowed. Following this discussion a motion was made and adopted to table Resolution 05-8.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed that the sign not be larger than the allowable 75 sq. ft.

Matters of Information

Future Work Session Topics

- Definition of “private club”.
- Election law reform. The Council tentatively scheduled this work session with the Town Attorney for Wednesday, August 2, at 5:00 PM.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. The Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk