

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
January 8, 2008, 5:30 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Jo Anne Ellison

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Budget priority setting – facilitated session (5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.)

Jo Anne Ellison conducted the facilitated session regarding budget priority setting. The Town Council discussed budget priorities for the topics of Police, Finance and Administrative Support, and Community Development – Community Promotion.

Mr. Mears provided an update on actions taken on the budget priorities set for FY 2008. It was agreed that Mr. Mears and Ms. Miner will speak to key staff members regarding their budget areas, and bring any suggestions they may have to the next facilitated session.

Draft legislation

Description: At the December 18, 2007 regular meeting, Councilman Newman asked that draft legislation be prepared to amend the method of appointing members of Town boards and commissions, that the language reflect that which is currently in the Code regarding appointments to the Historic District Commission, and that this be brought for discussion at the first work session in January and be placed on the agenda of the January business meeting.

Draft Ordinance 08-1 Appointments to Town Boards and Commissions – For the purpose of amending the Code of the Town of La Plata to alter the procedure followed to appoint members and chairmen of certain Town Boards and Commissions; to alter the terms of Council members on certain Town Boards and Commissions; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Draft Ordinance 08-2 Appointments to Board of Appeals – For the purpose of amending the Code of the Town of La Plata to alter the procedure followed to appoint members of the Board of Appeals; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Draft Resolution 08-1 Charter Amendment – Appointments to Board of Supervisors of Elections – For the purpose of amending the Charter of the Town of La Plata to alter the procedure followed to appoint members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections; and all matters generally relating to the appointment of members of the Board of Supervisors of Elections.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Council agreed to introduce the legislation at the January 22 meeting.

Matters of Information

- “Thank You” Reception, Tuesday, January 29, 6:00 p.m.
- Joint meeting with County Commissioners, Tuesday, February 5, 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Mears advised he spoke with Ryan Hicks, Town Manager of the Town of Indian Head, regarding topics to discuss at the joint meeting. A topic for discussion will include “Water.”

Mr. Mears provided a brief update on the RBA traffic study.

Councilman Newman noted that he did not want to wait for the results of the RBA study before a letter is sent to SHA regarding traffic signals on Route 301. The Council agreed to put this item on the January 22 agenda.

Future Work Session Topics

- Budget priority setting – facilitated sessions:
Tuesday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (snow date: Thursday, January 17)
Tuesday, February 12, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. (snow date: Thursday, February 14)

Other business

Mayor Ambrogio led a brief discussion regarding Paul Bales’ request regarding what the Town’s stand is on the State’s Clean Indoor Air Act. Following discussion, the Council agreed to wait for Mr. Mears to get clarification regarding the State’s outdoor smoking provision.

Councilwoman Mudd noted she wants the Town to erect a large “Municipal Parking” sign at the parking spaces located along the railroad track area on N. Maple Avenue.

Councilman Lucas advised he wants the Council to discuss changing zoning and permitted uses on the Route 301 corridor.

There being no other business, Councilman Newman moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:34 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk