

Council of the Town of La Plata  
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland  
Work Session  
November 28, 2006, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Cathy Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

### Matters of Council Discussion

#### Presentation by Bill Eckman

*Description: Mr. Eckman will provide a status report on water and sewer special projects.*

Mr. Eckman provided a status report, answered questions from the Town Council, and advised the Town Council he would be submitting a written proposal regarding the actions needed. Pete Fortin, of URS, was also present and answered questions from the Town Council.

#### Presentation by Tom O'Farrell, Chairman, Parks and Recreation Commission

*Description: Chairman O'Farrell will present a request for \$7,500 additional funding for the Star Memorial Garden.*

Mr. O'Farrell and two members of the La Plata Community Garden Club, Sherry Zimmer and Mary Beth Chandler, presented a request for \$6,590 additional funding for the Star Memorial Garden.

Council consensus: The Council agreed to approve the request at the December 12, 2006 regular meeting.

#### Presentation by Don Zimmer

*Description: Grace Lutheran Group Homes - proposed community outreach project for young women in two homes (owned by Safeway) on E. Hawthorne Dr.*

Don Zimmer and Alice Adams discussed the proposal to use the dwellings located at 100 and 102 E. Hawthorne Drive as Compassion Care Program women's residential rehabilitation centers. The discussion with the Town Council included whether this use would meet the Town Code definition of "family."

Council consensus: The Council agreed to consult with the Town Attorney regarding this use and the issue of whether or not it meets the Town Code definition of "family," after which an official response will be given to Mr. Zimmer.

### Heritage Green

*Description: Discussion of possible location of a 5-acre substation for SMECO.*

Charis Lapas and Nicholas Tryfon, of GP Homes, were present to discuss a request from SMECO for a 5-acre parcel of land within the Heritage Green development for a substation.

During discussion, it was noted that MUD zoned property does not allow for placement of such a substation and that the substation may not serve just the Heritage Green development but would also serve St. Charles and its expansions. It was also noted that Industrial zoned property is available to the north of the Heritage Green property, and would be more suitable than placing a substation within a development which is being developed under the Town's Traditional Neighborhood Development regulations.

Mayor Ambrogio advised that he received a call from SMECO asking that a meeting be scheduled, which will be held in the Town Hall, with Mayor Ambrogio, Joe Norris, Mr. Lapas, and SMECO present.

Following discussion, the Council agreed the meeting as described should be held.

### Secondary entrance on Rosewick Road for Rosewick Crossing Shopping Center

*Description: The Council will discuss a request for support of obtaining the County's approval of a secondary entrance on Rosewick Road for the Rosewick Crossing Shopping Center. If in agreement, the Council will be asked to sign a letter (prepared by Town Staff) addressed to the County Commissioners, asking that they grant an entrance permit for the secondary entrance.*

During discussion, Councilman Back reported that the Planning Commission discussed this with Faison representatives at their November 7, 2006 meeting, and agreed this secondary entrance was needed.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to support the request and signed the letter to the County Commissioners.

### Replacement for utility body truck from Hunt Ford

*Description: On August 8, 2006, the Council approved purchase of a utility body truck from Hunt Ford, in the amount of \$40,710.11. The truck is no longer available from Ford Motor Company. The Council will discuss proposed replacement alternatives.*

Mr. Norris explained that the factory which manufactures this truck will be closed for a period of a year while Ford Motor Company retools. He advised he was able to find a replacement utility body truck at Haldeman Ford in New Jersey, at a cost of \$47,952. He noted that this utility body truck is better than the one approved in August and includes a snow plow attachment.

Council consensus: The Council agreed to approve purchase of this truck at the December 12, 2006 regular meeting, and further agreed that Mr. Norris may proceed with the purchase order to obtain the truck.

Ordinance 06-22 Regulation of Smoking and Tobacco Products – Private Clubs

*Description: The Council will discuss the draft amendment provided by Mr. Sussman, incorporating the language based on the Philadelphia regulations, as agreed at the November 21 work session. If agreed upon, the amendment to the ordinance and the ordinance will be placed on the December 12 agenda for adoption.*

Following discussion, the Council agreed to strike certain words in the text of the proposed amendment in §161-6B.(5)(F): The private club annually adopts a resolution by a minimum affirmative vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of its ~~governing body or membership in accordance with its by-laws or other governing documents~~ seeking to be exempt from the provisions of this Article. They further agreed to place Ordinance 06-22 on the agenda of the December 12, 2006 regular meeting for adoption.

Matters of Information

Mr. Norris reported the following items:

- The new water tank is being filled.
- A memorandum was sent to all Town employees advising them of Town policy regarding when they may and may not smoke in Town vehicles.

Chief Gittings reported that his department received an email from a citizen who complained that smoking was occurring within 20' of an entrance to a business. Upon investigation, it was determined that the entrance was not a public entrance. Chief Gittings also advised that none of his officers have received complaints related to the smoking ban ordinance.

During discussion of the policy on smoking in Town vehicles, the Town Council agreed they do not want to allow smoking in Town vehicles. Mr. Norris was directed to advise Town employees that there will be no smoking in Town vehicles.

Following a suggestion made by Mayor Ambrogio, the Town Council agreed to amend their meeting schedule to provide for having work sessions on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month and regular meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, beginning in February, 2007.

The Town Council agreed to cancel the work session scheduled for December 26, 2006. This will be included for action on the agenda of the December 12, 2006 regular meeting.

There being no other business, Councilman Winkler moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 PM. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

---

Judith T. Frazier  
Town Clerk