

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
March 13, 2007, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Joseph W. Norris, Acting Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Grasso Annexation Agreement

Description: Thomas F. Mudd appeared before the Council on February 13, 2007, asking if the annexation will still be in good standing if the manor house gets completed. The Council agreed they wished to discuss this at a work session, at which the Town Attorney is present, and further agreed that a public hearing should be held on any amendment to this annexation agreement. Mr. Sussman will be present to discuss the Grasso Annexation Agreement with the Council.

Mr. Sussman provided a brief history and update regarding this request to amend the annexation agreement, noting that Summers and Bryans Road Corporation must be parties to the revised annexation agreement, and that Bryans Road Corporation must agree to pay the costs. Mr. Sussman described the hearing process for revising the annexation agreement.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Council agreed that the Town Attorney is to contact Thomas F. Mudd and advise him of the following: (1) no building permits will be issued until the manor house is completed, and that completion includes removal of tornado-damaged trees and vegetation on the entire property and installation of landscaping on the manor house property; and (2) provide a financial contribution to the Town in exchange for consideration of the request to amend the annexation agreement, which amount Mr. Norris is to research (cost of sidewalks on both sides of E. Hawthorne Dr.) and advise Mr. Sussman. Mr. Sussman is to confirm that Mr. Mudd represents the Grasso Trust.

Mirant

Mr. Norris advised that MDE plans to recommend that Mirant negotiate with the Town for effluent from the Town wastewater plant, that this is an adjudicated process and that Mirant can still appeal to the PSC for use of the aquifer. It was agreed by the Council that the Town will give it a thorough review when the matter is presented to the Town.

Budget

Description: Mr. Norris will discuss FY08 budget items with the Council.

Mr. Norris noted several items he termed were over and above the normal budget: \$130,000 for two new police officers, bringing the department to a total of 15; \$100,000 for an administrator of Public Works (professional/engineer); \$20,000 for four additional in-car video systems for the police department (two are currently in the Police Department's budget request – there would be a total of six with this addition); \$3,000 for a professional map to distribute. Mr. Norris advised he will have the General Fund income and expense budget at the March 20 work session.

Bypass workshop – The Town Council members will not be attending as a group.

Town Manager interviews – Scheduled for Saturday, March 24, at 8:30 a.m.

Town Hall landscaping and bioretention pond

Description: Mr. Norris will provide a project update.

Mr. Norris reported on his meeting with a Dennison representative and described the plan to try to pipe the storm water as much as possible from the bioretention pond to Queen Anne Street, which may including pumping it as it cannot be accomplished solely by gravity flow. The bioretention work would be done after the storm water drainage work is completed by the Town. Grass seeding can be done at any time, but Dennison would prefer to wait if the Town is going to put in an irrigation system, and Mayor Ambrogio has asked that research be done on using artificial turf or zoysia. A maintenance plan will be needed.

In response to Mayor Ambrogio's suggestion that the Town hire a maintenance person via the County's program for getting people back to work, for which they pay the salary for four months, Mr. Norris advised that the program does not allow that it be a new position and that the Town must train and counsel the person, provide benefits, and that this would be an ongoing obligation after the four months period under the program.

Council consensus: The Council agreed to look at all options regarding the grass or artificial turf.

Railroad realignment feasibility study – National Capital Planning Commission – The Council agreed they want a representative to come to a Council meeting to provide a briefing.

Proclamation for La Plata High School Wrestling Team – The Council agreed with Mayor Ambrogio's suggestion that a proclamation be presented to congratulate the La Plata High School Wrestling Team for winning the State Championship. Mayor Ambrogio will contact the coach of the team to obtain more information. Presentation will be made at the March 27 meeting.

Performance evaluation – The Council scheduled April 10, 6:00 p.m., to conduct a special meeting for the purpose of calling a closed session, to conduct a performance evaluation of the Town Manager/Town Treasurer.

Matters of Information

Councilman Winkler reported he was advised by a person in the real estate industry that IHOP is interested in building on the Baldus property just east of the Baldus Centre building. He noted that the IHOP is open 24 hours a day, which he believed may not be good for this location in the heart of the downtown area.

Future Work Session Topics

- Heritage Green Developers Rights and Responsibilities Agreement

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk