

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
September 5, 2006, 4:00 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:

Due to the absence of Mayor Ambrogio, Councilman Newman acted as mayor pro tem and called the meeting to order at 4:03 PM. [*Mayor Ambrogio arrived at 4:07 PM.*]

Matters of Council Discussion

Draft legislation regarding residential fire sprinkler systems

Description: The Council will review the draft legislation (Ordinance 06-26 Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems – One- and Two-Family Dwellings) prepared by the Town Attorney, and reach consensus as to whether or not this ordinance is ready to be introduced at the September 12 meeting.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed with the amendment proposed by Jorge Thompson, Town Inspector (line 44, replace “75%” with “50%”), and agreed to introduce this legislation at the September 12 meeting.

Draft legislation regarding Election laws reform

Description: The Council will review the draft legislation (Resolution 06-2 Charter Amendment-Elections, Ordinance 06-24 Election Laws Revision, and Ordinance 06-25 Elections-Certificate of Nomination) prepared by the Town Attorney to provide for election laws reform, and reach consensus as to whether or not these documents are ready to be introduced at the September 12 meeting.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to introduce the resolution and two ordinances at the September 12 meeting.

Draft legislation regarding amending the Town of La Plata Infrastructure Bonds, 2006 Series A

Description: The Council will review the draft legislation (Ordinance 06-23 Amendment to Town of La Plata Infrastructure Bonds, 2006 Series A) to amend the list of projects to be funded by the Infrastructure Bonds, to include “Well Number Eight Improvements and Water Tank”, “Paving Overlay of Municipal Streets”, “Walnut Hill Road Sewer Line Extension Project”, and “Kent Avenue Water Line Improvement Project”, and reach consensus as to whether or not this ordinance may be introduced at the September 12 meeting.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to introduce this ordinance at the September 12 meeting.

Grant Application – La Plata Blue Knights (LPBK) Youth Football

Description: The Town Council will discuss the Blue Knight's grant application in the amount of \$2,500. Any action on the grant application would be taken at the September 12 regular meeting.

Ms. Miner reminded the Council that Andrea Sanford made a presentation at the March 21, 2006 work session regarding the LPBK's request for help with enlargement of the concession stand at Milton Somers, use of the Town's concession stand, and installation of a trophy case in the Town Hall, and that the Town Council agreed they wanted the Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the requests and make a recommendation to the Council. Ms. Miner noted that the Parks and Recreation Commission has not yet discussed the requests and asked if the Council still wants them to do so.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed more information is needed and directed Ms. Miner to ask Kerry Smith (Treasurer of LPBK/applicant) to describe the scope of the project, what percent of the total cost the \$2,500 accounts for, and if the Board of Education is also helping financially. They also want to know about the LPBK's fundraising efforts.

Matters of Information

Ms. Miner reminded the Council that the next Southern Maryland Municipal Association meeting would be held in the Town Hall on September 20, and that refreshments would be provided.

Ms. Miner updated the Council on the flooding events during the previous weekend, noting that St. Mary's Avenue was closed briefly on Friday evening. Ms. Miner explained that the contractor left forms in the outlets.

Ms. Miner advised that a closed session was needed on Tuesday, September 12, at 6:00 PM, to discuss Town Manager recruitment, and that the Town Attorney would be present for the closed session and for the meeting. The Council agreed to conduct the closed session.

Per the request of the Council to obtain a price quote to add paving to widen St. Mary's Avenue, Ms. Miner advised that a price quote of \$53,875 had been received from Civil Construction to add 1' of paving on the east side of St. Mary's Avenue, from Queen Victoria Street to Queen Anne Street. The Council agreed to put this item on the September 12 agenda.

Councilman Winkler led a discussion regarding creating a Water and Sewer Commission, with members to include Bill Eckman and Tom O'Farrell. Duties would include determining if the Town has adequate water and sewer capacity for proposed developments. Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that members should have a knowledge base regarding water and sewer issues, that a paid staff member may be needed (such as a representative of URS Corporation on a consulting basis), and that the Council will need to decide what authority the commission would have. The Council further agreed that Councilman Winkler should contact Bill Eckman and ask him to meet with them at a future work session for further discussion.

Presentation by GP Homes

Description: GP Homes will present an analysis of a water system model prepared for the Heritage Green development. The presentation will detail projected demands on the Town's current public water system and discuss proposed improvements/expansion on the current water system.

David Cooksey and Ed Carroll, of Loiederman Soltesz Associates, Inc., made a presentation regarding the water system model and provided a hand-out containing that information, "Water System Modeling, Heritage Green, Town of La Plata", consisting of Sheets 4 of 37, 22 of 37, and 34 of 37, dated July 10, 2006, prepared by Loiederman Soltesz Associations, Inc. They advised that a formal report and recommendations will be provided at a future date.

Future Work Session Topics

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk