

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
July 22, 2008

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

Pursuant to the requirement of Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-509(c)(2), these statements are included in these minutes:

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 2:18 PM, Saturday, June 28, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilman Goldsmith, seconded by Councilman Lucas, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 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. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct an interview of a potential candidate for the position of Town Treasurer. Action taken: Conducted interview; directed Town staff on a course of action to take regarding a specific candidate for the position of Town Treasurer; agreed to schedule a closed session after the work session on Tuesday, July 8, to discuss Town Treasurer recruitment. The meeting adjourned at 4:04 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:46 PM, Tuesday, July 8, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith and Lucas; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 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. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Town Treasurer recruitment and appointments to Boards and

Commissions. Action taken: Town Treasurer recruitment: Agreed to schedule a closed session after the work session on Tuesday, July 15, to continue discussion; directed staff on a course of action to take regarding previously interviewed candidates. Appointments to Boards and Commissions: Agreed to appoint a recommended nominee. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 8:28 PM, Tuesday, July 15, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

On a motion made by Councilman Lucas, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article 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. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Town Treasurer recruitment. Action taken: Agreed to schedule a closed session after the regular meeting on Tuesday, July 22, to continue discussion of Town Treasurer recruitment. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 6:16 PM, Tuesday, July 22, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd and Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations; Frederick C. Sussman, Town Attorney

On a motion made by Mayor Ambrogio, seconded by Councilman Goldsmith, and by unanimous consent of the members present, the session was closed. The authority under which the session was closed was Annotated Code of Maryland State Government Article Section 10-508(7) – Consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss sewer connections. Action taken: The Town Council directed the Town Manager on a course of action to take regarding sewer connections. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and asked Ken Weikel to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of June minutes

Mayor Ambrogio moved to approve the minutes of the June 10 work session, June 17 regular meeting, June 28 special meeting, and June 28 closed session. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report

Mayor Ambrogio reported that the Treasurer's Reports for June and July will be presented at the August 26 meeting.

Petitions, Communications, Appearances, and Public Forum

Public Forum (No speakers.)

Proclamation – Neighborhood Speed Awareness Month – August 2008

Councilman Lucas read the Proclamation declaring August 2008 as Neighborhood Speed Awareness Month.

La Plata Police Department monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the months of January through June, 2008, including crime statistics, tickets and warnings issued, and crosswalk enforcement. Chief Gittings provided tips on avoiding theft of GPS devices in vehicles, which he noted is on the increase. Chief Gittings announced that National Night Out events will be held throughout the community on August 5, 2008, and encouraged any communities who have not yet made plans to contact Det./Sgt. Brooks for help in planning an activity. In response to a question from Councilman Goldsmith, Chief Gittings reported on gas-saving measures that the La Plata Police Department has taken. He noted that the department recognized several years ago that gas prices were continuing to increase and began to switch from Ford Crown Victoria vehicles to Chevrolet Impalas. Chief Gittings also reported that the officers have been counseled on various methods to reduce gas consumption, including reducing motor idle time and maintaining proper tire pressure, oil changes, and clean air filters. He further reported that the officers who are trained for bicycle patrol are patrolling more on their bicycles and other patrol officers are walking in the business areas.

Legislation

Ordinance 08-11 New Irrigation System Installation (*For Deferral to August 26, 2008 meeting*) – For the purpose of adopting regulations pertaining to installation and operation of new irrigation systems; prohibiting the use of potable water for such systems; requiring permits and inspections for such installations; specifying a fee for such permits; defining certain terms; providing for the enforcement of these regulations and penalties for violations; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance are severable; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio advised that a lawn sprinkler vendor had provided additional information at the July 15 work session that needs to be reviewed by the Town Council, and moved to defer consideration of Ordinance 08-11 until the August 26 meeting. Councilman Newman seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Resolution 08-7 La Plata Village Center Fast Food Restaurants (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption) – For the purpose of expressing the concurrence of the Council of the Town of La Plata that the development of a fast food restaurant on a certain parcel of land in the La Plata Village Center would not be inconsistent with the terms of a certain Annexation Agreement, and determining that the development of a fast food restaurant on a certain other parcel of land within the La Plata Village Center would violate the terms of that Annexation Agreement; and matters generally related to the development of fast food restaurants in the La Plata Village Center.

Mr. Mears provided background information regarding the purpose of Resolution 08-7.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adopt Resolution 08-7. Mayor Ambrogio seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's July 1 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Boards July 2 meeting, the Crime Watch Council's July 2 meeting, and the Kent Avenue Corridor group's July 17 meeting.

Councilwoman Mudd reported that the July meeting of the Beautification Commission had been cancelled, but noted that they are working on plans for installing planters with flowers along Charles Street. Councilwoman Mudd also reported that the Kent Avenue Corridor group is very active with the planning of National Night Out events.

Councilman Newman reported that the members of the Parks and Recreation Commission will be touring Town parks on Wednesday, July 23, to determine what upgrades and enhancements are needed. He invited any Council member to contact Chairman O'Farrell if they wished to participate in the tour.

Appointment to Design Review Board

Mayor Ambrogio moved to appoint Stephen J. Urso as a regular member of the Design Review Board, to fill an unexpired 4-year term which began August 23, 2005. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Noting that Mr. Urso was the alternate member, Mayor Ambrogio reported that there is a vacancy in that position which will need to be filled.

Motion for Closed Session

Mayor Ambrogio 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 Goldsmith seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Ambrogio and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas, Mudd, and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

There being no further business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn at 7:28 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk