

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Regular Meeting – 7:00 PM
December 16, 2008

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilman Vic E. Newman; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

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

A closed session of the Council of the Town of La Plata was held at 9:07 PM, Tuesday, December 9, 2008, in the La Plata Town Hall.

Present: Mayor Hale, Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Robert F. Stahl, Jr., Director of Operations

On a motion made by Councilman Goldsmith, seconded by Councilwoman Mudd, 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)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss acquisition of property for parkland. Action taken: The Town Council directed the Town Manager on a course of action to take and a maximum amount to offer for the property. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM.

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM, and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of November minutes

Councilman Goldsmith moved to approve the minutes of the November 18 joint meeting with the County Commissioners and the November 25 regular meeting. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Treasurer's Report [Due to the rescheduling of the December 23 meeting to December 16, the November and December reports will be presented at the January 27, 2009 meeting.]

Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Forum

Presentation of Certificates of Participation (La Plata Citizen Academy, Fall 2008)

Mr. Mears briefly explained the topics presented at the Citizen Academy sessions and credited former Mayor Bill Eckman and Robert F. Stahl, Jr. for providing the information and the presentations.

Mayor Hale presented Certificates of Participation to those present of the people who attended the inaugural session of the La Plata Citizen Academy:

C. Keith Back	Bob Jacobs	Steven J. Murray	Margaret Steffens
Bill Chapman	Diane Johnson	Joseph W. Norris	Aaron Tyler
Emily Ferren	Ray Johnson	Mike Pellegrino	Wayne Winkler
John Highby	Marcia Keeth	Carl Ruble	

Oath of Office – Robert W. Oliphant

Mayor Hale administered the oath of office to Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer.

La Plata Police Department monthly report – Chief Gittings

Chief Gittings reported on the department's activities during the month of November, 2008. Chief Gittings also reported that (1) the early warning sirens were tested on December 6 and thanked Mr. Stephens and his staff at Charles County Department of Emergency Services for their participation in the siren testing; (2) the surveillance camera equipment has been received and will be installed at Wills Park; and (3) additional patrols have been scheduled for the holiday season, especially for enforcement of drinking and driving laws.

Public Forum (No speakers.)

Legislation

Resolution 08-16 Fast Food Restaurants – La Plata Village Center (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 limiting the development of a fast food restaurant to a certain other parcel of land within the La Plata Village Center; and matters generally related to the development of fast food restaurants in the La Plata Village Center.

Mr. Mears provided a brief explanation of the purpose of Resolution 08-16.

Councilman Goldsmith moved to adopt Resolution 08-16. Councilman Newman seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Emergency Ordinance 08-25 Temporary Moratorium on Enforcement of Certain Sign and Fee Regulations (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption) – An Emergency Ordinance for the purpose of imposing temporary moratoria, for a certain duration of time, upon the enforcement of certain regulations regarding the placement, location and duration of certain temporary signs in the CB, CBT and CH zoning districts, and upon the payment of certain fees for the issuance of certain sign permits; providing for the effective date of this Ordinance and the termination of the moratoria established by this Ordinance; and all matters generally related to the imposition of a temporary moratorium upon the enforcement of certain regulations relating to certain temporary signs in the Town of La Plata.

Mr. Mears provided an explanation of the purpose of Emergency Ordinance 08-25.

Councilman Lucas stated he was the owner of two small businesses in La Plata, and then recused himself from the discussion and the vote.

Following a brief discussion, Councilman Newman moved to suspend the provisions of Town Charter § C6-4 Ordinances, to adopt this as an emergency ordinance. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Mayor Hale and Councilmen Goldsmith and Newman voted aye; Councilman Lucas did not vote. The motion carried.

Councilman Goldsmith moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance 08-25. Councilman Newman seconded the motion. Vote on the motion: Mayor Hale and Councilmen Goldsmith and Newman voted aye; Councilman Lucas did not vote. The motion carried.

Unfinished Business (None)

New Business

Appoint Town Council representative to the La Plata Business Association

Mayor Hale led a brief discussion regarding Town Council members serving as Council representatives on boards and commissions and noted that Councilman Lucas serves on two such groups [*Design Review Board and La Plata Business Association*]. Councilman Lucas moved to appoint Mayor Hale as the Town Council representative to the La Plata Business Association. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it carried.

Motion for Closed Session

Councilman Goldsmith moved to conduct a closed session, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland* Section 10-508(a)(3) – Consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Mayor Hale and Councilmen Goldsmith, Lucas and Newman voted aye. Motion carried by unanimous vote.

Commission Reports

Councilman Goldsmith reported on topics discussed at the Planning Commission's December 2 meeting.

Councilman Lucas reported on topics discussed at the Design Review Board's December 3 meeting.

Mayor Hale reported that the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Breakfast with Santa events were enjoyed by those present and complimented the holiday decorations at Town Hall.

There being no further business, Councilman Goldsmith moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Councilman Newman 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