

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
June 16, 2009, 7:19 PM

Present: Mayor Roy G. Hale, Councilman R. Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd, Councilman Joseph W. Norris; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Michelle D. Miner, Assistant Town Manager

Town Staff: Robert W. Oliphant, Treasurer; Danielle Mandley, incoming Town Clerk; Cathy Flerlage, Director of Planning and Zoning; David M. Jenkins, Director of Municipal Development; Jorge A. Thompson, Director of Inspections

Minutes:

Mayor Hale called the meeting to order at 7:19 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Moratorium on enforcement of certain sign regulations

Description: Discussion and review of impact of moratorium.

Mr. Mears provided an overview of the December 2008 moratorium and March 2009 extension until the end of June.

Butch Hunt was invited to speak on behalf of the La Plata Business Association and stated that the businesses who took advantage of the moratorium would like to see it continued.

During discussion, a PowerPoint presentation was provided to display pictures of banners in the Town. It was noted that the Design Review Board recommends phasing out the moratorium and to draft wording to allow one banner and one off-site sandwich board sign to advertise unique services.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to extend the moratorium for 60 days, after which enforcement will resume, and to recommend that the Design Review Board discuss a permanent solution.

Budget transfers

Description: The Treasurer will discuss budget transfers.

Mr. Oliphant provided a brief explanation of the budget transfers listed below.

**Town of La Plata, Maryland
FY09 Budget Transfers**

Budget Transfer Amount	From				To			
	Function	Expenditure Class	Budget before Transfer	Budget after Transfer	Function	Expenditure Class	Budget before Transfer	Budget after Transfer
5,000	Legislative	Operating	51,300	46,300	Legislative	Personnel	52,859	57,859
20,000	Administration	Operating	71,900	51,900	Legal	Operating	50,000	70,000
15,000	General Services	Capital Outlay	129,000	114,000	General Services	Operating	482,800	497,800
10,000	General Services	Capital Outlay	114,000	104,000	General Services	Personnel	163,071	173,071
2,500	Financial Administration	Operating	99,100	96,600	Public Safety	Operating	8,500	11,000
30,000	Public Works Administration	Capital Outlay	1,000,000	970,000	Public Works Administration	Operating	119,000	149,000
32,000	Public Works Administration	Capital Outlay	970,000	938,000	Public Works Administration	Personnel	74,045	106,045
2,000	Farmer's Market	Operating	4,000	2,000	Farmer's Market	Personnel	3,768	5,768

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to act on the budget transfers as presented at the June 23 regular meeting.

Walnut Hill sewer project

Description: Discuss connections.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed that Mayor Hale, Councilwoman Mudd and Mr. Mears would speak to the owners of the six homes in need of connection to the Town's sewer system to explain that the Town will provide the connections and place a lien on the property in order to collect the cost of their sewer connection at the time of sale of their property.

La Plata Community Foundation, Inc.

Description: The Council will discuss their choices for Class A, Class D, and Class E Directors to be appointed to the Board of Directors of the La Plata Community Foundation, Inc., to serve initial terms. After the initial Directors, Directors serve for a term of three years.

During discussion, a brief explanation was provided regarding the five classes of Directors – Class A, B, C, D and E: Class A shall be appointed by the La Plata Town Council; Class B shall be appointed by the La Plata Business Association (Jon Johnson of County Drug); Class C shall be appointed by the Director of the Charles County Department of Social Services (Dr. Rebecca Bridgett); Class D shall be employed by a bank or other similar financial institution having a headquarters or branch office within the corporate limits (appointed by Class A, B, C Directors); and Class E shall be elected by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Class A, B and C Directors.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to appoint Robert W. Oliphant as the Class A Director.

Appointments to boards and commissions

Mayor Hale asked the Town Council to consider reappointing Judy Hamilton, Joann Baierlein, and Steve Urso to the Design Review Board; to appoint David Gallagher Vice Chairman of the Design Review Board; and to reappointed Debra Posey as Alternate member on the Planning Commission.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to put the appointments on the June 23 regular meeting agenda.

Matters of Information

- Charles County Rescue Squad installation dinner – Councilman Winkler will attend.
- MML Convention update – Mayor Hale will be flag bearer.
- Train Station hours will reduce to Saturdays, 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m., per the Charles County Historical Society.

Future Work Session Topics

- Open Space grant

Other business

The Town Council agreed to submit a legislative action request to MML for support to HB 1362.

There being no other business, Councilwoman Mudd moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 PM. Councilman Back seconded the motion and it carried. Following a short break, the Council moved into closed session.

Submitted by:

Michelle D. Miner
Assistant Town Manager