

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
November 1, 2005, 5:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman Wayne Winkler, Councilman C. Keith Back, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Douglas R. Miller, Town Manager; Patricia L. Bembe, Assistant Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Town Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department

Minutes:

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

Election Ward Boundary Map Update

Description: The Town's Board of Supervisors of Elections has made a recommendation to put the recently-annexed Grasso property in Ward IV. You will receive their written recommendation and Ordinance 05-18, which will be introduced at the November 8, 2005 meeting.

At the direction of the Town Manager, the Town Clerk explained this is the procedure which must be followed to assign a property to an election ward.

Institute for Governmental Service (IGS) Police Study – continuation of discussion

Description: The Police Chief will discuss the IGS police study in more detail as well as discuss other issues concerning the Department.

Chief Gittings advised that the officers in the La Plata Police Department would like minimum salaries increased, more officers, and an improved pension plan. Mr. Miller and Chief Gittings acknowledged that providing the Law Enforcement Officers Pension plan would be expensive, but suggested that the Town Council may wish to consider providing it and buying back the time for the officers, such as was done when the Town joined the State of Maryland retirement plan.

Location of Public Works Facility

Description: The discussion regarding the possible relocation of the Public Works facility will continue.

As requested, Mr. Miller reported that he asked the Public Works staff where they would prefer to be relocated, and they advised they would prefer the property near the State Highway Administration.

Council consensus: The Town Council agreed to schedule a field trip at the next work session in order to look at the Mote property and the Tilghman Lake property.

Cable Franchise Update

Description: The Assistant Town Manager will review the Comcast Cable Agreement.

Ms. Bembe explained that Comcast is phasing out providing a camera operator but will train Town staff in the use of the camera. They are leaving open the option to buy, install and train on the use of the camera rather than just allocating a dollar amount to pay for the camera.

La Grange Avenue Planting Adjustments (If time permits.)

Description: The State Highway Administration assisted the Town in an unprecedented fashion by designing, financing and constructing a streetscape project on non-State roadways. This project was a major boost to our efforts to rebuild from the tornado. While we were consulted on the planting plan, we have now found that some of the plantings could be replaced with plantings that are better suited for La Grange Avenue. The Beautification Commission would like to discuss how the Town may switch out some of these plantings.

Mr. Miller provided a brief explanation and advised that this would be discussed at the next work session.

There being no other discussion, Councilman Back made a motion to adjourn at 6:01 PM. Councilman Winkler seconded and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk