

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Special Meeting and Work Session
April 8, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: Mayor Gene Ambrogio, Councilman James Goldsmith, Councilman Scot D. Lucas, Councilwoman Paretta D. Mudd; Daniel J. Mears, Town Manager; Judith T. Frazier, Town Clerk; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer; Cassin B. Gittings, Chief, La Plata Police Department, Robert J. Stahl, Director of Operations

Minutes:

Special Meeting

Mayor Ambrogio called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Legislation

Resolution 08-3 Approval of La Plata Manor Project and Project Financing (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption) – For the purpose of expressing approval of the development of housing in the Town of La Plata to be financed either directly by the Department of Housing and Community Development (the "Department") of the State of Maryland or through the Department's Community Development Administration (the "Administration"); and all matters relating thereto.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to adopt Resolution 08-3. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mayor Ambrogio moved to waive the Town building permit fees up to \$5757 for the La Plata Manor building renovations. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion. Following discussion, the motion passed by majority vote: Mayor Ambrogio, Councilmen Goldsmith and Mudd voted aye; Councilman Lucas voted nay.

Ordinance 08-7 Heritage Green Utility Installation and Cost Sharing Agreement (For Introduction) – For the purpose of approving a certain Utility Installation and Cost Sharing Agreement between the Town of La Plata and Heritage Green Development, LLC, to govern the construction, installation, dedication and conveyance, decommissioning and financing of various Town sewer system facilities related to the development of the Heritage Green mixed use community; providing as part of that Agreement that the Town shall provide a certain credit against future Major Facilities Fees as reimbursement for the Town's share of the costs of the construction, installation and decommissioning of various Town sewer system facilities; authorizing the Town Manager to execute this Agreement on behalf of the Town; and matters generally related to sewer system facilities and the development of the Heritage Green community.

Mr. Mears provided an explanation of Ordinance 08-7.

There being no other discussion, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the special meeting at 7:09 PM. Councilman Lucas seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous vote.

Work Session

Matters of Council Discussion

Budget

Description: FY09 budget items will be presented.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to fund new items recommended by staff, including:

- Increase the annual compensation of the Town Council, to take effect following the General Election scheduled to be held in May, 2009: Mayor – from \$12,000 to \$15,000; Councilmen – from \$8,000 to \$10,000.
- Increase Town employees' annual compensation by 7%
- Hire part-time Events Coordinator
- Hire additional part-time Code Enforcement
- Add two corporal positions and one new police officer
- Parks video program
- Speed Awareness program
- Landscaping service for grounds maintenance of Town Hall, Police Department, Wills Park, fire museum, train station, and park and ride lot

The Town Council also indicated they would allocate \$15,000 for purchase of Tasers for the Police Department. Mr. Mears and Chief Gittings are to research costs and bring the information back to the Town Council.

The Town Council agreed that the tax rate on real property would remain at the rate of thirty-two cents (\$.32) per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of assessed valuation.

Topics of discussion for the April 15 joint meeting with the County Commissioners

Description: The Council will discuss topics they wish to discuss at the next joint meeting with the County Commissioners, which is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 4:00 p.m., in the La Plata Town Hall.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to include the following topics:

- The County's approach to obtaining water from sources other than groundwater
- Traffic Study – update
- Overall operations of Civista Medical Center – update

Matters of Information

Performance Evaluation – Town Manager

Following discussion, the Council agreed to schedule a special meeting to call for a closed session on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 5:00 PM, to tabulate/discuss the performance evaluation of the Town Manager.

Future Work Session Topics

Other business

There being no other business, Mayor Ambrogio moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:08 PM. Councilman Goldsmith seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk