

Council of the Town of La Plata
Town Hall, La Plata, Maryland
Work Session
October 14, 2008, 7:00 PM

Present: 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; Joseph W. Norris, Treasurer

Minutes:

Due to the absence of Mayor Hale, Councilman Goldsmith acted as mayor pro tem and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Matters of Council Discussion

November 11 and November 18 work sessions

Description: Discussion of possible adjustments to the work session schedule.

November 11: *The Town Hall will be closed in observance of Veterans Day – do you wish to cancel or reschedule the November 11 work session?*

November 18: *Biannual joint meeting with the County Commissioners scheduled at 4:00 p.m., at the Charles County Government Building – do you wish to hold your normal work session upon the conclusion of the joint meeting and your return to the Town Hall?*

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to cancel the November 11 work session and to conduct a work session on November 18 upon their return to Town Hall after the joint meeting with the County Commissioners.

Policy questions for the Citizen Survey

Description: Discussion of potential policy topics for the Citizen Survey.

Council consensus: Following discussion, the Town Council agreed to include the following three policy questions on the Citizen Survey, with the categories being traffic, employment and “green”:

- Combine and reword Mayor Hale’s suggested item #2 and survey question #17:
(Mayor Hale) Citizen safety. Which of the following measures do you believe would be necessary to improve citizen safety in La Plata? A) Increase the number of crosswalks; B) Redesign and restripe crosswalks; C) Install flashing lights at crosswalks; D) Increase fines for failure to stop for pedestrians; E) Install right turn only at major intersections; F) Install speed bumps or tables in residential developments; G) Increase the number of police officers.
#17. Congestion on Charles Street through downtown has increased. Would you support limiting some access of downtown streets to Charles Street to enhance safety along that corridor?
- #22. If there were greater employment opportunity located in our community, I would choose to work close to home.
- #33. La Plata is a leader and on the right track with conservation and green building initiatives.

Matters of Information

- Fee in lieu of park land dedication or reservation: Councilman Newman led a brief discussion regarding the issue of payment of the fee in lieu of park land dedication or reservation. Councilman Newman also asked if the Town could ask the Marshall's Choice developer to pay to the Town the amount of money allocated for the proposed recreation equipment (beach volleyball court), leaving the land vacant, and allowing the Town to use that money to improve or create other parks in the Town. Following discussion, the Town Council agreed they want corrective action taken as soon as possible to approve and adopt the Parks Capital Expansion Plan, and to amend the Town Code as necessary, especially to require collection of a parks fee for every new dwelling unit. Mr. Mears will attempt to obtain information and bring it to the next work session.
- Walnut Hill sewer: Mr. Mears and Mr. Sussman will be working on an amendment to the Town Code.
- Lease of buildings to LifeStyles, Inc.: A draft lease has been prepared and Mr. Mears will be talking to representatives of LifeStyles, Inc. regarding their needs. Following discussion of the lease, the Town Council agreed that LifeStyles, Inc. is to be allowed to move into the buildings by November 1, or December 1 at the latest, and that the terms of the lease are to include a lease term of one year, the fair market rental value, with the rental amount set at \$10.00 per month based on the value of services that LifeStyles, Inc. will provide to the La Plata community, and that LifeStyles, Inc. will provide their own maintenance and pay their own utility bills.
- Councilman Goldsmith provided a brief update on the issue of a handicapped resident not meeting the minimum age requirement in the senior living community of Washington Square, noting that the Town has opted not to enforce the Town Code minimum age provision due to the short period of time before the resident qualifies on the basis of age and the length of time it would take for any legal action and resulting appeals. Councilman Goldsmith recommended that the Town allow senior living community homeowners' associations to make recommendations to the Town regarding what they would like allowed and noted that Washington Square's association will be looking at their covenants.

Future Work Session Topics

Other business

There being no other business, Councilman Lucas moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM. Councilwoman Mudd seconded the motion and it carried.

Submitted by:

Judith T. Frazier
Town Clerk