



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
December 10, 2024, 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Mayor Jeannine James
Councilman, Ward I David Winkler
Councilman, Ward II Matthew Trollinger
Councilwoman, Ward III Evalyne Bryant-Ward
Councilman, Ward IV David Jenkins

ABSENT:

TOWN STAFF: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager
Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer
Aaron Mosrie, Director of Inspections
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services and Interim Town Clerk
Martha Tennison, Accounts Manager

GUESTS: See Roster

1. Call to Order

1.1. Call to Order

Attendees, please use meeting courtesy. Virtual attendees are asked to mute microphones when joining the meeting. Participants may be muted by the Town Clerk and meetings will be recorded.

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to view/listen to the discussion only. At their discretion, the Town Council may allow participants to voice questions or provide comments on the topics under discussion. Written comments may be submitted via email to Legislative@townoflaplata.org. Individuals wishing to address the Town Council may sign up in advance on the Town's website (Public Communications) or on the meeting sign-up sheet.

Join on your computer, mobile app, or room device.

[Join the Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 239 407 032 347

Passcode: vEFjZB

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In accordance with the Code of Maryland, General Provisions, Section 3-302 (Open Meetings Act), notice is hereby given that a portion of this meeting will be held in closed session.

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1.2. Roll Call

The Interim Town Clerk conducted Roll Call.

Councilman Winkler joined the meeting virtually and was present until 7:24 PM.

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Councilwoman, Ward III Bryant-Ward moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved By: Evalyne Bryant-Ward, seconded by David Jenkins.

Passed Unanimously

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting and Closed Session on November 12, 2024.

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Public Comment

Kenny Yekstat spoke on the subject of the National Community Survey results.

Molly Pinkas spoke on the subject of D.R. Horton sediment & erosion environmental noncompliance.

3.2. Expense Report: Budget vs Actual as of September 30, 2024 (Larsen)

The Town Treasurer answered questions from the Town Council.

4. Matters of Council Discussion

4.1. American Rescue Plan Act Budget Amendment (Larsen)

The Town Treasurer answered questions from the Town Council. The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

4.2. 2025 Town Council Meeting Schedules (Larsen/Phipps)

The Town Treasurer and Interim Town Clerk answered questions from the Town Council. The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation adopting the schedules as presented, with the understanding that additional Special Meetings could be scheduled if necessary.

4.3. Tourism Zones Ordinance (Phipps)

The Interim Town Clerk answered questions from the Town Council. The Town Council advised that the proposed legislation should contain more specific language on incentives offered to qualifying businesses, and declined to proceed with legislation.

4.4. Board, Commission, and Committee Vacancies (Miner)

The Assistant Town Manager presented three candidates for the Finance Committee and one for the Ethics Commission. Councilman Winkler was not present to vote.

Finance Committee Candidates:

- Michael Gahan

- Joseph Norris
- Kathy Brandt

Ethics Commission Candidate:

- Patrick McCormick

Voting

Councilman, Ward II Trollinger moved to appoint Michael Gahan, Joseph Norris, and Kathy Brandt to the Finance Committee.

Moved By: Matthew Trollinger, seconded by Evalyne Bryant-Ward.

Passed Unanimously

Councilman, Ward II Trollinger moved to appoint Patrick McCormick to the Ethics Commission.

Moved By: Matthew Trollinger, seconded by Evalyne Bryant-Ward.

Passed Unanimously

5. Legislation

- 5.1. Resolution 24-27 La Plata Town Council 2025 Meeting Schedules (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A RESOLUTION concerning

La Plata Town Council 2025 Meeting Schedules

FOR the purpose of maintaining regulated and publicly accessible schedules of Town Council Meetings; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman Winkler was not present for this vote.

Mayor James moved to adopt Resolution 24-27 as presented.

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Matthew Trollinger.

Passed Unanimously

- 5.2. Ordinance 24-18 Amendment to Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Plan/Budget -- 2023 Series Bonds (2nd Reading; For Consideration of Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Amendment to Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2024 Financial Plan/Budget – 2023 Series Bonds

FOR the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) Financial Plan/Budget to reflect the activities of the 2023 Series Bonds; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman Winkler was not present for this vote.

Councilman, Ward IV Jenkins moved to adopt Ordinance 24-18 as presented.
Moved By: David Jenkins, seconded by Matthew Trollinger.

Passed Unanimously

- 5.3. Emergency Ordinance 24-19 Town of La Plata ARPA Spending Plan, Fourth Amendment (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE concerning

Town of La Plata ARPA Spending Plan, Fourth Amendment

FOR the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Spending Plan; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman Winkler was not present for this vote.

Councilman, Ward IV Jenkins moved to adopt Emergency Ordinance 24-19 as presented.
Moved By: David Jenkins, seconded by Matthew Trollinger.

Passed Unanimously

- 5.4. Ordinance 24-20 Tourism Zones (1st Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Tourism Zones

FOR the purpose of establishing Tourism Zones in the Town of La Plata, as authorized by Maryland Code, Local Government Section 18-401, and to define the administration of a program of incentives to “qualified tourism businesses” located within such Tourism Zones to encourage growth and expansion of tourism-related businesses in the Town of La Plata; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Ordinance 24-20 was not introduced.

6. New Business

6.1. Reports from the Mayor and Town Council

- Ward 1: Councilman Winkler was not present to report.
- Ward 2: Councilman Trollinger reported on the following:
 - Keep La Plata Beautiful (Beautification Commission) is changing the regular meeting time to 3:00 PM on 4th Mondays to better accommodate member work schedules.
 - The 2025 community litter cleanup schedule will be available shortly; the monthly cleanups begin again in March 2025.
 - There is a vacancy on the Beautification Commission.
- Ward 3: Councilwoman Bryant-Ward reported on the following:
 - The Planning Commission met on Dec. 3 and considered a parking waiver for the Charles County Public Library. The Commission requested additional information from the Town's Contract Planner before rendering a decision.
- Ward 4: Councilman Jenkins reported on the following:

- Mary Winkler's term on the Parks and Recreation Commission has expired, leaving a vacancy.
- Mayor: Mayor James reported on the following/had no report:
 - The next Town event is the Old Tyme Holiday Gathering and tree-lighting
 - Residents should visit the town website to answer questions regarding loose leaf collection
 - Other upcoming Town events are Breakfast with Santa and the 2024 Light Up La Plata contest

7. Motion for a Closed Session

- 7.1. Statutory Authority to Close Session: § 3-305(b)(15)(iii) deployments or implementation of critical infrastructure
Topic: Information Technology

Councilman Winkler was not present for this vote.

Councilwoman, Ward III Bryant-Ward moved to enter Closed Session under Statutory Authority § 3-305(b)(15)(iii), Topic: Information Technology.
Moved By: Evalyne Bryant-Ward, seconded by David Jenkins.

Passed Unanimously

8. Adjourn

- 8.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:06 PM.

Submitted by:

Kelly G. Phipps, Interim Town Clerk