



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
October 8, 2024, 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Mayor Jeannine James
Councilman David Winkler
Councilman Matthew Trollinger
Councilwoman Evalyne Bryant-Ward
Councilman David Jenkins

ABSENT:

TOWN STAFF: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager, Jeanine Harrington, Director of Planning, Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer, Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services, Jeff Garner, Director of Public Works, and Carl Schinner, Chief of Police

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

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only)

+1 443-961-6481,,171294151#

Phone Conference ID: 171 294 151#

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.

Also in attendance:

- Director Kennedy (via Microsoft Teams)
- Captain Michael Payne, La Plata Police Department
- Olivia Wright, IT Specialist

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from meeting on September 24, 2024.

Motion to approve the minutes of the meeting on September 24, 2024, as presented.

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Public Comment

A member of the public signed up in advance to address the Town Council but was not present.

3.2. Proclamation: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Mayor James read the proclamation for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

3.3. Proclamation: National Code Compliance Month

Councilman Winkler read the proclamation on National Code Compliance Month.

3.4. Proclamation: Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month

Councilwoman Bryant-Ward read the proclamation on Pedestrian Safety Month.

3.5. Proclamation: Walktober

Councilman Jenkins read the proclamation on Walktober.

4. Matters of Council Discussion

4.1. Council Legislative Priorities (Miner)

The Council reached a consensus on the following priorities:

- Town Priorities
 - Water Appropriation – Purchase Agreement
 - Town Operations – staffing, using vendors, identifying operational deficiencies
 - Retrieve monies that have been granted to the Town of La Plata
- Legislative Priorities
 - Police Department
 - Charles Street Project – keep in the state's budget, trying to not have money depleted

4.2. Water Meter Purchase (Miner/Wood)

The Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation for the purchase of five hundred water meters.

4.3. Finance Committee (Larsen)

The Town Treasurer presented draft legislation for the creation of a Finance Committee appointed by the Mayor and Town Council. Line 48 of the draft was revised from "...at least one (1) member..." to "...at least two (2) members..." The Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation for the creation of the Finance Committee.

5. Legislation

5.1. Resolution 24-21 Water Meter Purchase (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A RESOLUTION concerning

Water Meter Purchase

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract purchase agreement for the purchase of water meters; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Motion to adopt Resolution 24-21 as presented.

5.2. Ordinance 24-17 Finance Committee (First Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Finance Committee

FOR the purpose of establishing a Finance Committee for the Town of La Plata; to specify the composition and terms of the office of members of the Committee; to specify the duties of the Committee; and all matters generally related thereto.

The Assistant Town Manager conducted the first reading of Ordinance 24-17.

6. New Business

6.1. Reports from the Mayor and Town Council

- Councilman Winkler reported on the [September 23, 2024] public engagement meeting at Town Hall on the Winkler House, conducted by Charles County Planning and Growth Management and the Charles County Public Engagement Coordinator. Discussion at that meeting emphasized the need for an economic development function in the Town. Councilman Jenkins is preparing a related presentation on this subject for the Town Council.
- Councilman Trollinger requested that separate meters for irrigation be brought forward as a community discussion point.
- Councilwoman Bryant-Ward reported that the Planning Commission did not meet in October.
- Councilman Jenkins had no formal report but informed the Council on his engagement with the Strong Towns program and Safe and Productive Streets. He will forward the report, scheduled for release on October 15.
- Mayor James commended Chief Schinner for his role as keynote speaker at the inaugural autism symposium in Waldorf and the demonstration of Project Lifesaver, and Colleen Wilson for a successful Fall Festival. The next event is the Trick-or-Treat trail on October 26.

7. Motion for a Closed Session

- 7.1. **Statutory Authority to Close Session:** § 3-305(b)(10)(i) to discuss public security, if the public body determines that public discussion would constitute a risk to the public or to public security, including the deployment of fire and police services

Topic: Crime Trend Update

Motion to conduct a closed session pursuant to Code of Maryland, General Provisions, Section 3-305(b)(10)(i).

8. Adjourn

- 8.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the open session at 7:47 PM.

Submitted by:

Kelly G. Phipps, Interim Town Clerk