



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
May 13, 2025, 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Mayor Jeannine James
Councilman Paul Guttenberg
Councilman Patrick McCormick
Councilman Gregory Sampson, Jr.
Councilman Tyjon Johnson

ABSENT:

TOWN STAFF: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager
Monica Kennedy, Director of Human Resources
Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer
Aaron Mosrie, Director of Inspections (Virtual)
Matt Norris, Acting Chief of Police
Kirk Parks, Wastewater Superintendent
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services
Lawrence J. Jones Jr, Town Clerk

GUESTS:

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.

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Meeting ID: 240 806 147 692

Passcode: 2T5Bm6FQ

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 Town Clerk conducted Roll Call.

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor James led all assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.4. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Mayor James moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented, and amend the agenda to include the adoption of the rules and procedures resolution 23-01 as listed on the special meeting agenda from May 12, 2025.

Passed

2. Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2026 Fee Schedule

2.1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the public hearing to order at 6:03 PM.

2.2. Review of Public Notices

2.3. Summary of Town Staff Report and Recommendation

2.4. Questions from the Town Council to Town Staff

The Town Staff answered questions from the Town Council.

2.5. Written Documents Entered into the Record

There are no written documents to be entered into the record.

2.6. Speakers from the Public

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

2.7. Additional Questions from the Town Council

There were no additional questions from the Town Council.

2.8. Closing of Public Hearing

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Councilman Johnson moved to Motion to keep the record open until May 20, 2025, 4:00 PM.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

Madam Mayor closed Public Hearing at 6:18 PM.

3. Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Plan Budget

3.1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the 2nd Public Hearing to order at 6:19 PM.

3.2. Review of Public Notices

3.3. Summary of Town Staff Report and Recommendation

3.4. Questions from the Town Council to Town Staff

The Town Staff answered all questions from Town Council.

3.5. Written Documents Entered into the Record

There was no written documents entered into the records.

3.6. Speakers from the Public

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

3.7. Additional Questions from the Town Council

Additional questions from the Town Council that were answered by Town Staff.

3.8. Closing of Public Hearing

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Councilman McCormick moved to Keep Public Record open until May 20, 2025, 4:00 PM.

Passed

Mayor James closed the Public Hearing at 7:26 PM.

4. Approval of Minutes

4.1. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting on April 22, 2025.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve minutes as presented from Regular Meeting on April 22, 2025,

Passed

4.2. Approval of minutes from Special (Organizational) Meeting on May 12, 2025.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve minutes as presented from Special (Organizational) Meeting on May 12, 2025.

Passed

5. Disclosure of Closed Session

5.1. Disclosure of Closed Session on April 22, 2025.

Mayor James read the Disclosure of the Closed Session from April 22, 2025.

6. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

6.1. Public Comment

Tarina Olley from Ward III made a public comment about voter turnout, and is also proposing a Walk for Your Ward on May 31, 2025, from 9 AM to 11 AM, at Tilghman Lake.

7. Matters of Council Discussion

7.1. Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate (Miner)

The Assistant Town Manager spoke about the Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate, and stated that the tax rate did not change. The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

7.2. Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Purchase

Kirk Parks, Waste Water Superintendent, spoke about Waste Water Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Purchase. The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

7.3. Adoption of the rules of procedure in accordance with resolution 23-01

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to adopt the Rules of Procedure as presented.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick

Nays: Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.4. Appointment of Boards and Commissions

7.4.1. Design Review Board

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman Sampson, to the Design Review Board.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.4.2. Keep La Plata Beautiful

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman McCormick to the Keep La Plata Beautiful Commission .

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.4.3. Planning Commission

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman Guttenberg to the Planning Commission.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.4.4. Parks & Recreation Commission

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman Johnson to the Parks & Recreation Commission.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.4.5. Historic Preservation Commission

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman Guttenberg for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

7.5. Appointment of Mayor Pro Tem

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

Mayor James moved to appoint Councilman Johnson as Mayor Pro Tem.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

8. Legislation

8.1. Ordinance 25-04 Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Fee Schedule (1st Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Fee Schedule

FOR the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Fee Schedule, dealing

with fees set by the Town of La Plata; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Ordinance 25-04 was not introduced.

- 8.2. Ordinance 25-05 Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Plan/Budget (1st Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Plan/Budget

FOR the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Ordinance 25-05 was not introduced.

- 8.3. Ordinance 25-06 Fiscal Year Tax Rate (1st Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate

FOR the purpose of adopting the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Tax Rate; and all matters generally relating thereto.

The Assistant Town Manager read the Ordinance 25-06 Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate.

- 8.4. Resolution 25-06 Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Purchase (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A RESOLUTION concerning

Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Purchase

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to enter into a contract purchase agreement for the purchase of a sludge pump for the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and all matters generally relating thereto.

The Assistant Town Manager, read Resolution 25-06 Waste Water Treatment Plant Sludge Pump Purchase.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Councilman McCormick moved to adopt Resolution 25-06 as presented.

Ayes: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg, Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Passed

9. New Business

- 9.1. Reports from the Mayor and Town Council

There were no reports from the Mayor and Town Council.

10. Adjourn

10.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:51 PM.

Submitted by:

Lawrence J. Jones Jr., Town Clerk