



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
May 20, 2025, 4:00 PM
Special 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 Treasure
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services
Lawrence J. Jones Jr, Town Clerk
Aaron Mosrie, Director of Inspections
Don Dooley, Director of Planning
Matt Norris, Acting Chief of Police
Kirk Parks, Waste Water Superintendent
Donald Cox, Director of Public Works
Jack Gullo, Town Attorney

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 4:00 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: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Passed

2. Approval of Minutes

2.1. Approval of minutes from Regular Meeting on May 13, 2025.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Councilman McCormick moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 13, 2025.

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

Passed

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

4. Matters of Council Discussion

4.1. Appointment of Acting Town Manager (James)

On the appointment of Michelle Miner as ActingTown Manager, the Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

4.2. Stipend (Miner)

The Acting Town Manager provided an overview of the process by which Jeannine James was awarded a stipend by the previous Town Council.

Councilman Johnson moved to suspend any additional stipend to the Mayor.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Passed

4.3. Fiscal Year 2026 Fee Schedule

The Town Staff answered questions from the Town Council.

4.4. Fiscal Year 2026 Financial Plan/Budget

The Town Staff answered questions from the Town Council.

5. Legislation

5.1. Resolution 25-08 Appointment of Acting Town Manager (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A RESOLUTION concerning

Appointment of Acting Town Manager

FOR the purpose of appointing Michelle D. Miner as Acting Town Manager; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

Mayor James moved to adopt Resolution 25-08 Appointment of Acting Town Manager.

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

Passed

5.2. 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.

The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

The Acting Town Manager provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-04.

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

Passed

5.3. 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.

The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

The Acting Town Manager provided the first reading of Ordinance 25-05.

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

Nays: Councilman McCormick

Passed

Councilman McCormick requested that the following statement be entered into the record:

"I voted 'no' to 'move forward with the new budget' because I think we had four separate subject-matter experts come up here today and clearly to find a secondary and tertiary effects to the government any way for the things they requested.

"The four things that were requested by different subject-matter experts were the discussion of a merit raise for our town employees, the discussion of figuring out if we can do LEOPs here with an initial cost of roughly 7.3K, the Dorchester Community Center and its feasibility moving forward, and in Public Works, potentially adding four headcount.

"Thank you."

6. New Business

6.1. Reports from the Mayor and Town Council

Town Council gave updates on their first meetings with the boards and commissions on which they serve.

7. Motion for a Closed Session

7.1. Statutory Authority to Close Session: § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
Topic: Legal Update

Moved By: Jeannine James, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

Mayor James moved to go into closed session under statutory authority § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice. Topic: Legal Update.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Passed

8. Adjourn

8.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Submitted by:

Lawrence J. Jones Jr., Town Clerk