



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
February 24, 2026, 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting
Council Chambers, La Plata Town Hall

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

ABSENT:

TOWN STAFF: Chuck Stevens, Town Manager
Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager
Don Dooley, Director of Planning (virtual)
Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer
Matt Norris, Chief of Police
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services
Shelby Pritchett, 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.

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Meeting ID: 271 095 028 035 62

Passcode: vp3Sh6j2

(Calendar Year 2026)

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

Councilman Johnson moved to approve the agenda as presented.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

2. Public Hearing - Charter Amendment

2.1. Call to Order (Presiding Officer)

Mayor James called the Public Hearing to order at 6:01 PM.

2.2. Review of Public Notices (Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk stated for the record that public notices were advertised in the Southern Maryland newspaper on January 23rd, January 30th, February 6th, and February 13th of 2026, and via the Town's regular notification online platform.

2.3. Summary of Town Staff Report and Recommendation

The Town Manager provided a summary of the proposed Charter Amendments as listed in draft Charter Amendment Resolution 26-07.

2.4. Questions by the Town Council to Town Staff

The Mayor and Town Council stated there were no questions or comments.

2.5. Written Documents Entered into the Record (Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk advised the Mayor that Legislative Services received no written documents to include in the public record.

2.6. Speakers from the Public

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

2.7. Additional Questions by the Town Council

Councilman Johnson requested a statement be included in the minutes record, "as it relates to Section 1 of the resolution, salary of a council member, and Section 2, salary of the Mayor, as submitted in the agenda summary back in October, compensation is defined as base salary, retirement contributions, and, if applicable, Health Care as and if defined by ordinance."

Mayor James requested that the gender language be updated as part of the proposed revision. Specifically, "Councilman" or "Councilmen" should be changed to Councilmember or Councilmembers, and, in section C5-1, the pronouns that read "he" or "his" should be changed to read "he" or "she" and "his" or "her."

2.8. Conclusion of Public Hearing

The Town Council reached a consensus to close the public hearing and proceed with legislation.

3. Consent Agenda

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

3.1. Approval of Minutes from Regular Meetings on January 13, 2026, and January 27, 2026.

3.2. Adoption of Resolution 26-11 Historic Preservation Commission Work Plan 2025-2030

4. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

4.1. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

5. Legislation

5.1. Charter Amendment Resolution 26-07 Charter Amendment – Appointment and Compensation of Certain Town Officials (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION concerning

Charter Amendment – Appointment and Compensation of Certain Town Officials

FOR the purpose of amending the Charter of the Town of La Plata to define compensation paid to the Mayor and Town Council; to define conditions of the appointment of the Town Manager and the Town Attorney; and all matters generally relating to the appointment and compensation of said officials.

Councilman Johnson moved to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 26-07 with amendments updating gender specific language.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: None
Abstained: None
Absent:
Passed

The Town Council reached a consensus to accept the interpretation of the term "compensation" as presented by Councilman Johnson during the Public Hearing.

6. New Business

6.1. Reports from the Mayor and Town Council

The Mayor and Town Council reported on activities in their respective boards and commissions, and on current and upcoming events and activities in the town.

6.2. Future Agenda Forecast (Written Only)

7. Adjourn

7.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 6:24 PM.

Submitted by:

Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk