



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
March 10, 2026, 6:00 PM
Regular Meeting
Council Chambers, La Plata Town Hall
305 Queen Anne St.
La Plata MD

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
Monica Kennedy, Director of Human Resources (virtual)
Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer
Mike Payne, Major
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.

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

[Join the meeting now](#)

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 Guttenberg moved to amend the agenda to include additional discussion on HB 1142 at the top of New Business for consideration of Resolution 26-17.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

2. Consent Agenda

Councilman Guttenberg moved to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Gregory Sampson.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

2.1. Adoption of Resolution 26-12 Public Works Department Compact Track Loader Purchase

2.2. Adoption of Resolution 26-13 Extension of Town Sewer Service on La Plata Parkway - Award of Contract

2.3. Adoption of Resolution 26-14 Centennial Plaque Program

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

3.2. Transmission of Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Operating and Capital Budget

The Town Manager provided a high-level budget overview to the Town Council and answered questions ahead of the scheduled Town Council Special Meeting for budget review on March 17, 2026.

4. Matters for Council Discussion

- 4.1. **This agenda item was added during agenda item 1.4, Approval of the Meeting Agenda**
Town Council support of Maryland General Assembly House Bill 1142

The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

5. Legislation

- 5.1. **This agenda item was added during agenda item 1.4, Approval of the Meeting Agenda**
Resolution 26-17 Modernization of County and Municipal Revenue Sources (For Introduction and Consideration of Adoption)

A RESOLUTION concerning

Modernization of County and Municipal Revenue Sources

FOR the purpose of supporting Maryland General Assembly House Bill 1142 (HB1142), establishing a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to adopt Resolution 26-17 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

6. New Business

- 6.1. Town Manager's Operational Report (Written Only)

6.2. Treasurer's Report (Written Only)

6.3. Cash Disbursement Report (Written Only)

6.4. 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.

7. Adjourn

7.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 7:20 PM.

Submitted by:

Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA
Resolution 26-17

Introduced By: Mayor Jeannine E. James, by request
Date Introduced: March 10, 2026
Date Adopted: March 10, 2026
Date Effective: March 10, 2026

A RESOLUTION concerning

Modernization of County and Municipal Revenue Sources

FOR the purpose of supporting Maryland General Assembly House Bill 1142 (HB1142), establishing a Task Force to Modernize County and Municipal Revenue Structures.

* * * * *

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the Town of La Plata provides essential frontline services to its residents,
3 including community planning, public safety, water and sewer infrastructure, sanitation, and
4 stormwater management, all of which rely on stable and diversified revenue streams; and
5

6 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments are facing unprecedented inflationary pressures
7 on construction materials, fuel, and labor, alongside increasing state-mandated costs,
8 making the need for modern and flexible revenue sources more urgent than ever; and
9

10 **WHEREAS**, Maryland’s municipalities are primary drivers of economic activity and
11 tourism in the State, yet the current tax structure fails to reinvest a fair share of the wealth
12 generated within municipal borders back into the local infrastructure that supports that very
13 growth; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, Maryland is one of only six states that fails to share tax revenue from the
16 sale of goods or services with local governments or allow those governments to collect it
17 themselves, creating an over-reliance on property taxes; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the current local revenue structure in Maryland has not been
20 comprehensively updated in decades and does not reflect the modern shift toward a
21 service- and digital-based economy; and
22

Resolution 26-17

23 **WHEREAS**, the proposed Task Force would provide a data-driven, non-partisan
24 forum to study these inequities and recommend solutions that ensure municipal
25 governments can remain fiscally resilient without overburdening local property owners.
26

27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mayor and Council of the Town of La
28 Plata, Maryland, that
29

30 1. **Support for Legislation:** The Town of La Plata formally supports the passage of
31 Maryland General Assembly House Bill 1142 and urges the House Ways and Means
32 Committee and the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee to issue a Favorable
33 Report; and
34

35 2. **Communication of Resolution:** A copy of this resolution shall be transmitted to:

- 36 1. Senator Arthur Ellis, District 28
- 37 2. Delegate Edith J. Patterson, District 28
- 38 3. Delegate Debra Davis, District 28
- 39 4. Delegate C.T. Wilson, District 28
- 40 5. Staff at the Maryland Municipal League
- 41

ADOPTED AND APPROVED by the Council of the Town of La Plata on this 10th day of March, 2026.

SEAL:

COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF LA PLATA



Jeanine E. James

Jeanine E. James, Mayor

Paul C. Guttenberg

Paul C. Guttenberg, Councilman

Patrick McCormick

Patrick McCormick, Councilman

Gregory Sampson, Jr.

Gregory Sampson, Jr., Councilman

Tyjon C. Johnson

Tyjon C. Johnson, Councilman

ATTEST:

Shelby Pritchett

Shelby Pritchett
Town Clerk

Date 10 March 2026