



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes

June 9, 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
Martha Tennison, Accounting Manager
Matt Norris, Chief of Police
Mike Payne, Major
Kristen DeMarr, Project Manager
Alison Robb, GIS Specialist
Todd Pounds, Town Attorney
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services
Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

Mayor James called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1.1. Meeting Attendance and Decorum

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)

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.

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 approve the agenda as presented.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

2. Consent Agenda

Councilman Guttenberg moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

2.1. Adoption of Resolution 26-34 Organizational Assessment, Classification, and Compensation Study - Award of Contract

2.2. Adoption of Resolution 26-35 Security Camera Installation - Dorchester Annex

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

3.2. Sacred Heart 125th Anniversary Recognition

On behalf of the Town Council, Mayor James recognized the Sacred Heart Church for 125 years of service to the community.

3.3. Town Parks Presentation

Note: This presentation may be viewed remotely via the [Town's GIS platform](#).

Kristen DeMarr and Alison Robb presented on the current status and condition of the Town of La Plata parks and provided a staff recommendation.

4. Matters of Council Discussion

4.1. Agenda Item Request: Charter Amendment Updates (Johnson)

Councilman Johnson gave a brief overview of his request for a Charter Amendment.

Councilman Johnson moved to have staff prepare a Charter Resolution Amendment to amend Article 4, Section 3, Letter F, by removing the language entirely and scheduling a public hearing not later than September 8, 2026, and for staff to draft updated language in the Council Rules and Procedures established in the process for appointing the Council Chair and Vice Chair, or thereof, to take effect on the 50th day of the resolution posting. Along with staff preparing an ordinance repealing and reenacting Chapter 13-4 Presiding Officer, replacing the reference to the mayor with the Council Chair or similar appropriate language.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: Mayor James

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

The Town Attorney answered questions from the Town Council. The Town Council reached a consensus to proceed with legislation.

4.2. Agenda Item Request: Strategy for Nuisance Un-Registered Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) Enforcement and Accountability (Guttenberg)

Councilman Guttenberg gave a brief overview of the strategy for nuisance unregistered off-road vehicle enforcement and accountability. The Town Attorney and Councilman Guttenberg answered questions from the Town Council. The Town Council reached a consensus to include this item on a future agenda, with date indeterminate and dependent on the urgency as determined by relevant staff.

5. Legislation

5.1. Ordinance 26-12 Finance Committee (Second Reading; For Consideration of Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Chapter 21 – Finance Committee

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 21 of the Code of the Town of La Plata, formalizing the

role of the Finance Committee in providing analytical review, advisory opinions, and ongoing monitoring of the Town's financial condition; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman McCormick moved to adopt Ordinance 26-12 as presented.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

5.2. Ordinance 26-13 Authority to Correct Scrivener's Errors (Second Reading; For Consideration of Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Authority to Correct Scrivener's Errors

FOR the purpose of authorizing the Town Attorney and Town Clerk to correct scrivener's errors in the Town Code and in ordinances, resolutions, and other official documents adopted by the Council without the need for readoption of such legislation or documents; and all matters generally relating thereto.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to adopt Ordinance 26-13 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

5.3. Ordinance 26-14 Revision of Employee Handbook (First Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Revision of Employee Handbook

FOR the purpose of amending certain personnel rules and regulations regarding policies on Civility in the Workplace, Gift Acceptance, Workplace Communication, Vacation Accrual, Sale of Leave, and Heat-Related Illness Prevention and Management in the Town's Employee Handbook; and all matters generally relating thereto.

5.4. Ordinance 26-03 Resign to Run (First Reading; For Introduction)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Resign to Run

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 17 – Elections, requiring incumbent elected officials of the Town of La Plata seeking candidacy through any Board of Elections for a position other than re-election to the Council of the Town of La Plata, to resign from their current position with the Town; and all matters generally relating thereto.

The Town Manager conducted the first reading of Ordinance 26-03 for introduction.

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. Planning Commission 2026 Annual Report (Written Only)

6.5. Future Agenda Forecast (Written Only)

6.6. Reports from the 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. Motion for a Closed Session

7.1. Statutory Authority to Close Session: § 3-305(b)(1)(i) To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction.

Topic: Town Manager Performance Appraisal

Reason for Closure: Discussion concerns evaluation of individual employee.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to enter into closed session.

Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent:

Passed

8. Adjourn

8.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 8:29 PM.

Submitted by:

Shelby Pritchett, Town Clerk