



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
August 12, 2025, 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: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager
Don Dooley, Director of Planning
Monica Kennedy, Director of Human Resources
Karina Larsen, Town Treasurer
Aaron Mosrie, Director of Inspections
Matt Norris, Acting Chief of Police
Kirk Parks, Wastewater Superintendent
Kelly Phipps, Director of Legislative Services
Danny Wood, Acting Director of Public Works

GUESTS:

1. Call to Order

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

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

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 McCormick moved to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

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

Passed

2. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

2.1. Public Comment

Ms. Renata Rhodes provided her public comment.

3. Disclosure of August 11, 2025, Closed Session Meeting

Mayor James read the Disclosure to the public for the closed session that was held on August 11, 2025.

3.1. Disclosure of August 11, 2025 Closed Session Meeting

4. Consent Agenda

Councilman McCormick moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Gregory Sampson, Jr.

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

Passed

4.1. Ethics Commission Appointment

4.2. Department Monthly Updates (Written Only)

4.3. Treasurer's Report (Written Only)

4.4. Cash Report (Written Only)

4.5. Approval of Resolution 25-14 Wastewater Treatment Plant F-550 Vehicle Purchase

5. Matters of Council Discussion

5.1. Planning Commission Appointments

The Town Manager provided an update on applicants for the vacant positions on the Planning Commission, David Jenkins and Emily Whales, and Councilman Guttenberg provided a background history of the two applicants.

Councilman Guttenberg moved to appoint David Jenkins and Emily Whales to the Planning Commission. Moved By: Paul Guttenberg, seconded by Patrick McCormick.

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

Passed

5.2. Town Council Agenda Item Requests

5.2.1. Steeplechase Secondary Access

Councilman Sampson is advocating for Steeplechase Secondary Access point off of Catalpa Drive. Councilman Sampson provided numerous examples of how dangerous it is only having one way in and out. The Town Council reached a consensus for this topic to be discussed at their council retreat.

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

Passed

5.2.2. Discussion of Reprimand Authority

Councilman McCormick is advocating for Town Staff to explore language to put into the Rules of Procedure. The Town Council reached a consensus for the Town Staff to explore language to put into the Rules of Procedure.

Ayes: Councilman McCormick, Councilman Sampson, Jr., Councilman Johnson

Nays: Mayor James, Councilman Guttenberg

Passed

6. Matters of Information

6.1. US Department of Agriculture Loan

Town Manager provided information about the U.S. Department of Agriculture Loan.

7. Legislation

7.1. Ordinance 25-07 Authorization of General Obligation Bonds Evidencing USDA Loans for Sewer System Project One (2nd Reading; For Consideration of Adoption)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Authorization of General Obligation Bonds Evidencing USDA Loans for Sewer System Project One

FOR the purpose of authorizing and empowering Town of La Plata (the “Town”) to issue and sell to the United States of America, acting through the United States Department of Agriculture (“USDA”), upon the Town’s full faith and credit, two separate general obligation installment bonds,

one in original principal amount not to exceed Four Million Eight Hundred Forty-Two Thousand Dollars (\$4,842,000) and the other in original principal amount not to exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$2,720,000), pursuant to the authority described herein, for the public purpose of financing, reimbursing and/or refinancing all or a portion of the costs of activities relating to a sewer system improvement project generally referred to as "Project One" and related costs, as further described herein; providing that each bond shall be sold at private sale without advertising or publication of notice of sale or solicitation of competitive bids in a direct purchase transaction to the United States of America; determining or providing for certain details of the bonds; providing that the Council of the Town (the "Council") by resolution shall determine or provide for other details of the bonds; acknowledging and confirming the provisions of certain resolutions to be adopted by the Council as required by USDA; covenanting to comply with a certain letter of conditions issued by USDA, as amended, unless any provision thereof is waived or modified; providing that any such bond will be payable in the first instance from sewage treatment plant and sanitary sewerage system revenues, including (without limitation) revenues for use of or connection to such plant and system, to the extent lawfully available for such purpose; providing for the imposition and collection of ad valorem taxes sufficient for the payment of debt service on the bonds; providing that the full faith and credit and unlimited taxing power of the Town are pledged to the payment of debt service on the bonds; providing that debt service on the bonds may be payable from other sources legally available for that purpose; authorizing certain officials to take certain actions in connection with the bonds; authorizing modifications of the bonds and related documentation to be provided for by resolution; overriding any inconsistent provision of the Town's debt policy; providing that the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liberally construed; and generally relating to the issuance, sale, delivery and payment of and for the bonds.

The Town Manager conducted the second reading of Ordinance 25-07.

Councilman Sampson, Jr. moved to adopt Ordinance 25-07 as presented.

Moved By: Gregory Sampson, Jr., seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

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

Passed

8. New Business

8.1. Report from the Town Manager

Town Manager provided an update on current activities in the town.

8.2. 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 in the town.

9. Adjourn

9.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the meeting at 07:23 PM.

Submitted by:

Lawrence J. Jones Jr., Town Clerk