



TOWN OF LA PLATA
Town Council Minutes
September 9, 2025, 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: Michelle Miner, Assistant Town Manager
Jack Gullo, Town Special Counsel (Virtual)
Don Dooley, Director of Planning
Monica Kennedy, Director of Human Resources
Aaron Mosrie, Director of Inspections (Virtual)
Kirk Parks, Wastewater Superintendent

For the purposes of this meeting, Director Kennedy served as Acting 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.

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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 6:00 PM.

1.2. Roll Call

The Acting 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 Gregory Sampson, Jr.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Passed

2. Consent Agenda

The Town Manager answered questions from the Town Council regarding various monthly reports and the monthly reporting process.

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 Johnson

Nays: Councilman Sampson, Jr.

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Passed

2.1. Department Reports (Written Only)

2.2. Adoption of Resolution 25-19 Employment Agreement between the Town of La Plata and Noel C. Stevens

2.3. Adoption of Resolution 25-20 Issuance of Two General Obligation Bonds in the Respective Original Principal Amounts of \$4,842,000 and \$2,720,000 to Finance or Reimburse Costs of the Sewer System Project Referred to as Project One and Related Costs

2.4. Adoption of Resolution 25-21 Adoption of RUS Bulletin 1780-27 (USDA Loan \$4,842,000)

2.5. Adoption of Resolution 25-22 Adoption of RUS Bulletin 1780-27 (USDA Loan \$2,720,000)

2.6. Adoption of Resolution 25-23 Replacement of Well Head Equipment and Components

2.7. Adoption of Resolution 25-24 2025 Additional Paid Holiday

3. Petitions, Communications, Appearances and Public Comment

3.1. Presentation: La Plata Water and Sewer Infrastructure Strategy for Sustainable Growth

The Town Manager delivered a presentation on "La Plata Water and Sewer Infrastructure Strategy for Sustainable Growth."

3.2. Public Comment

No public speakers were present at this meeting.

4. Legislation

4.1. Amended Ordinance 25-06 Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate (2nd Reading; For consideration of adoption)

AN AMENDED ORDINANCE concerning

Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 Tax Rate

FOR the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Tax Rate enacted by Ordinance 25-06 by correcting erroneous data provided by the Administrator of the Heritage Green Special Taxing District, and by authorizing an additional tax levy for the Heritage Green Special Taxing District; and all matters generally relating thereto.

The Town Manager conducted the second reading of Ordinance 25-06.

Councilman Johnson moved to adopt Ordinance 25-06 as presented.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Passed

4.2. Ordinance 25-08 Amendment to Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Plan/Budget (2nd Reading; For consideration of adoption)

AN ORDINANCE concerning

Amendment to Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Plan/Budget

FOR the purpose of amending the Town of La Plata Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Financial Plan/Budget; and all matters generally relating thereto.

The Town Manager conducted the second reading of Ordinance 25-08.

Councilman McCormick moved to adopt Ordinance 25-08 as presented.

Moved By: Patrick McCormick, seconded by Tyjon Johnson.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Passed

5. New Business

5.1. 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 in the town.

6. Motion for a Closed Session

6.1. Statutory Authority to Close Session: § 3-305(b)(7) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.
Topic: Water Contract Negotiation

Councilman Johnson moved to enter closed session under statutory authority § 3-305(b)(7), to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice.

Moved By: Tyjon Johnson, seconded by Paul Guttenberg.

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

Nays: None

Abstained: None

Absent: None

Passed

6.2. Reason for Closure: Discussion involves privileged attorney-client communications regarding negotiation strategy not appropriate for public disclosure

7. Adjourn

7.1. Adjournment

Mayor James adjourned the open session at 8:25 PM.

Submitted by:

Kelly G. Phipps
Director of Legislative Services