

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
May 9, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilman Wayne Gilchrest, Councilman Bob Pyfer, Town Manager Tom Mogle, Town Clerk Sheila Dlugoborski, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager. **ABSENT:** Councilman Bill Fracassi and Councilman Harry Marcy.

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Candi Sorge, Russ Bell, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Rick Bisgyer, Dick and Ginny Story, Malcolm Kram and N/A.

MINUTES: *Councilman Pyfer motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on April 11, 2023 and the Council workshop on April 25, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Gilchrest motioned to approve the April financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer, all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff Dennis Hickman gave the police report for April. There were 7 calls for service; 9 traffic warnings; 0 citations; and no overtime usage.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Berterton Heritage Museum is getting ready for the Kent County Driving Tour on May 20th & 21st. The train show will also be open at that time. Memorial Day weekend will be the official opening of the Berterton Heritage Museum for the season. Hours will be Saturday and Sunday 1 – 3 p.m.

BCDC has been discussing some other dates for a community yard sale.

Mary Roe Walkup has requested that the Town of Berterton do something to honor Mayor Clark in the near future. Mayor Sutton commented that we would look into it.

PLANNING: Still looking to add members to the board.

APPEALS BOARD: None

ROADS: No report.

PARK: Tennis and basketball courts have been painted. The company will be back in the next couple of weeks to finish cleanup and fix ruts in the grass area.

SAFETY: No report.

FIRE CO: No report.

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WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water plant pumped 892,000 gallons of potable water in the month of April. There were no leaks in the distribution system. MDE performed a Sanitary Survey inspection of the plant and found no significant or minor deficiencies.

The wastewater plant treated and discharged 757,000 gallons of effluent to the Sassafra River. We have added Greg Swartz to our team as a part-time employee. Greg has 40+ years in the wastewater field and is helping to re-evaluate how the plant was initially set up to run, to “fine tune” present operations and further lab testing we are examining the food to microorganism ration of the influent in an effort to run the plant more efficiently thereby conserving chemical usage and run times on pumps and blowers. Which will help reduce cost of operations.

Pump station #2 is in dire need of upgrading as the pumps and piping and wet well have long since exceeded their expiration date. We will be meeting with an engineering group next week to evaluate work that needs to be preformed so a request for bids can be posted for the work needed.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: The county has begun work on the bank in front of Ribgie I (county owned portion) with the removal of trees and vegetation. They will be regrading and replanting.

Council agreed to expand the sustainable community to include the Betterton American Legion which is in the county but borders the town last month and has sent the resolution for the Kent County Commissioners to vote on due to the Betterton American Legion being in the county. The property will not be annexed into town, just in the sustainable community. Once this is complete, the town can support any grant assistance the Betterton American Legion applies for and qualify for said grant.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Tower Leases –No payments have been received from Delmarva Wifi now known as East Coast Wifi and Bridgemaxx. Jeff Miller will meet with a Verizon technician to determine which equipment and wires are Verizon’s. Once located we can disconnect Delmarva Wifi and Bridgemaxx. Mayor Sutton suggested sending out an email blast to residents stating that services may be disconnected for these two companies in the near future.

Bayside Project –Reimbursement request has been signed off on and should receive in the next couple of weeks. Phase 2 is moving forward. Have signed an agreement with GMB.

Ericsson Avenue Project – The project has been selected to move forward in the appropriation committee. Ad has been ran for final design.

Tennis/Basketball Courts Project – reported earlier.

WWTP finalizing of project. Finishing up paperwork.

NEW BUSINESS:

Introduction of Budget – Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer presented the draft budget to the Council for review. Discussion. Council will review and will offer any suggestions before the next meeting when it will be voted on.

Town Manager Report –

Betterton Community Park Pickleball Kids Summer Camp – June 19th – 22nd \$99.00 per week. Idinkican.com to register.

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OPEN FORUM: None

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. - Food Trucks – Friday, May 12th 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Designer Purse Bingo at the Fire Co. on July 16th at 12 p.m.

The Fire Company is raffling off a wood carving of a dog with bird by John Elburn. Tickets are \$20 each and will be drawn on Betterton Appreciation Day.

Dick Story stated that the Fire Company and the Town of Betterton need to resolve the pool filling issue. Requested that the Town do a formal letter to the Fire Company.

Betterton American Legion –

May 13th – Basket Bingo - doors open 5:30 p.m., game starts at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday nights – Open Mic Night, Open at 5:00 p.m.

Sundays at 2 p.m. – Cash Bingo

Sundays at 6 p.m. – Queen of Hearts drawing.

Mayor Sutton reported that he will be attending a reception at the Betterton American Legion on Friday, May 12th for the Americanism Essay winners.

Betterton Youth Group – May 19th at 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Church.

Betterton/Still Pond Lions Club – June 10th - Night at the Races. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Race Time is approximately 6:15 p.m. Tickets to sponsor a horse are almost sold out.

Wayne Gilchrest announced that there will be a Nature Hike on Tuesday, May 16th from 10 – noon at Sassafras Management area. Bring a bag lunch for after the hike.

Mr. Gilchrest also encourage people to plant wildflowers and vegetation in their yards. He asked if the town could have a compost area for people to use for their gardens. Mayor Sutton explained that the town used to have an area but people were putting more than just compostable material in it, so they had to do away with it.

Councilman Gilchrest made a motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel at 8:20 p.m.; Councilman Pyfer seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Council returned to the regular council meeting at 8:51 p.m. Councilman Gilchrest motioned to close the May 9, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

June 13, 2023