

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
November 12, 2024 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Donny Sutton, Councilperson Harry Marcy, Councilperson Wayne Gilchrest, Town Manager Tom Mogle, Town Clerk Sheila Dlugoborski, and Town Attorney Tom Yeager.

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) – Barbara Lamphere, Gerry Werner, Linda Werner, Bob Pyfer, Mary Ann Wasko-Smith, Craig Smith, Rick Bisgyer, Ginny Story, Dick Story, Candi Sorge, and Dawn Daggett.

Presentation to Bob Pyfer and Bill Fracassi. Mayor Sutton presented Mr. Pyfer with a certificate of appreciation of years of serving on town council and a bench has been ordered and will be placed in the community center park in his honor. Mr. Fracassi was unable to attend.

Mayor Sutton administrated the oath of office to newly elected council members Barbara Lamphere and Gerry Werner from the election on October 5, 2024. Both will fill their current seat until 2028.

Appointment of Mayor Pro Tempore. Mayor Sutton motioned to appoint Councilperson Marcy as Mayor Pro Tempore; Councilperson Gilchrest seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Committee Assignments:

Water/Sewer – Councilperson Gilchrest
Streets/Roads/Street Lights – Councilperson Marcy
Safety – Councilperson Lamphere
Personnel – Councilperson Werner

MINUTES: *Councilperson Werner motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes for October 8, 2024, and Council workshop minutes on October 22, 2024. Seconded by Councilperson Lamphere; all in favor, motion carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilperson Gilchrest motioned to approve the October financial report; seconded by Councilperson Marcy; all in favor, motion carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT –Sheriff's Hickman gave the report. There were 2 calls for service, 13 Speed Enforcements, 1 Warnings, 0 Citations and 38 Special Patrol Checks. Discussion about speeding into town and school buses traveling too fast through town.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

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BCDC: Candi Sorge announced the upcoming Holiday Sale on November 30th, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. to purchase Betterton items. Councilperson Werner reported that there will be a Holiday Music performance on November 30th from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

PLANNING: Ginny Story reported that the board is finalizing the comprehensive plan. Mr. Mogle stated that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, 18th at 4:30 p.m. to discuss Comp. Plan and review the survey results. Discussion about the solar proposal in town. The Town will be sending a letter to the PSC about our concerns with that taking our priority zone land out of the Town...we lose tax base, water billing customers and hookup fees... Dick Story said that the Fire Company sent a letter to the Solar Company about at least keeping the grass strip area cleared for overflow parking and medevac landings.

APPEALS BOARD: We are still looking for members. We have two potential members.

ROADS: No Report.

PARK: Mister system has been shut down for the season.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO: Dick Story reported that the fire company had their last food truck night in October along with the trunk or treat.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report submitted by Jeff Miller, Plant(s) Operator. The water treatment plant treated and discharged 808,000 gallons of potable water in the month of October. There was a water leak on a service lateral on First Ave. It was repaired with no further issues. The new lead and copper service line inventory was sent in to MDE. There will be notices sent out to residents that we are aware of the service line material from main to meter as well as service line material from meter to house. We would like to continue to inspect homes in Town that the owners are not familiar with the material of the service line from meter to the house, as we need to fill out the MDE'S service line inventory spread sheet annually. Until we have documentation for entire town, the notices to MDE as well as residents that we are unaware of material, will be classified as "unknown". At this time, we have not seen any lead service lines from the main to the meter, although we have seen a few service lines from the meter to the house being galvanized steel. Jeff met with a contractor at the treatment plant to give an estimate on replacing the existing piping and "demo-ing" the old water conditioner tanks. The existing piping is galvanized pipe, some of which is severely corroded, (probably original to the plant). Jeff will report back with the estimates as they come in.

The wastewater treatment plant treated and discharged 609,000 gallons of effluent to the Sassafras River. We experienced a pipe rupture in the SBR building last Friday evening causing SBR #2 to lose a considerable amount of sludge containing valuable microorganisms. We corrected the problem on

Saturday and had the SBR's back in operation. We are still nurturing the plant back to health as the shutdown and loss of microorganisms caused and upset in the process.

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Water/Sewer report cont.d'

We will be taking back plant operations as of December 1st. from Upper Chesapeake Consulting, as we have been fortunate enough to hire Cody Usilton who is very interested in beginning a career in water and wastewater treatment. Cody hales from Kennedyville & is a Graduate of Kent County High School.

Any further questions or concerns with the Lead/Copper Inventory please contact Jeff. Jeff will be happy to answer any questions or schedule a time to make an inspection of service lines where they enter homes.

Councilperson Werner commented that he received a tour of the wastewater treatment plant stated that it was very impressive, and we are lucky to have Jeff Miller running the plants.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: We have completed the survey and need to catch up with Dr. Stock to find out more about the status.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Annexation – Dave Dahlstrom, Regional Planner for the MD Dept of Planning suggested we need to have a resolution regarding the zoning for the Legion. Neighborhood Business.

Bayside Project – heard from MDE and they will be canceling the project. Still awaiting further instructions.

Ericsson Avenue - met with Jeff Fretwell, MD Water Quality Development Director for MD Dept. of the Environment at the Kent County meeting. He is suggesting that we file another application in December but said our work with RK&K has put us in very good position for funding.

NEW BUSINESS:

Proclamation – Mayor Sutton read into record the Proclamation for November to be Municipal Government Works Month.

Town Manager Report – Passenger Ferry system—We will be meeting with Kent County tomorrow morning to review the process and collect feedback from the various ports of call.

The survey went very well. We had 81 respondents which worked out to be about 28% of the residents. Restore the crosswalk at Sixth Avenue and Main Street; Consider sites for Betterton Dog Park; KC needs to improve the parking lot, painted lines, and trash cans; Kayak rentals and more amenities at or near the beach; Have KC issue beach or parking passes with special prices for residents and in-county; improvements to the pier to accommodate more visitors; repair rebuild launch; KC more year-round maintenance at the beach not just in peak months; Place a DEAD END sign at Idlewhile Avenue and Ericsson Avenue; adjust traffic pattern on Main and Howell Point Road by incorporated a driving circle; more enforcement at the beach so everyone can enjoy grills and other amenities; the mobility map is great but does not reach the beach; more enforcement at the ramp—with jet ski users launch without

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Town Manager report cont'd.

having permits and not operating with safely by ignoring no-wake zones and coming to shore; hotel, restaurant and shopping options;

Many respondents want to participate or volunteer.

OPEN FORUM: The new superintendent of Kent County Schools, Dr. Mary Boswell-McComas introduced herself and gave information about herself.

Discussion about Bayside Avenue and possible taxing district for that area. Town Attorney Yeager explained how a tax district works. Suggestion of meeting with council and residents to do more studies on the area to come up with a solution. *Councilperson Lamphere motioned to facilitate a meeting for Bayside Blvd. bluff; Councilperson Werner seconded; all in favor; motion carried.*

Councilperson Lamphere volunteered to identify how we go about grant proposals and who's involved.

Councilperson Lamphere volunteered to be the council liaison for the Sustainable Communities board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

BCDC – November 30th - Museum Holiday Sale. 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

November 30th - Jingle & Jam Celebration. 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at Community Center

Dec. 7th & 8th – Train Show and Museum open. 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Betterton American Legion –

December 14th – Children's Christmas party sponsored by American Legion Aux. & Betterton Youth Group. 3 p.m. – 5 p.m. at the American Legion. Register children by Dec. 3rd.

Thursday nights – Open Mic Night, 7:00 p.m.
Sundays at 2 p.m. – Cash Bingo

Fridays at 8:30 p.m. – Queen of Hearts
Sundays at 3 p.m. – Bar Bingo

Councilperson Marcy motioned to adjourn the November 12, 2024, meeting, seconded by Councilperson Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

December 10, 2024