

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
November 9, 2021 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

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

RESIDENTS: (in person and virtually via GoTo link) Dick and Ginny Story, Joe Sanders, Candi Sorge, Russ Bell, Cheryl Fracassi, Rick Bisgyer, and Mark Zwanger.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the October 12, 2021, meeting. There was no Council Workshop meeting on October 26, 2021. Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the October 2021 financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor, motioned carried.*

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Mayor Sutton read the October report. The 3-Way stop signs have been installed at the intersection of Ericsson Avenue and Howell Point Road.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the museum is closed for the season as of October 31st. Pleased with the attendance over the summer. BCDC will be holding a holiday sale on Friday, November 26th and Saturday, December 4th from 12 pm – 3 pm. Will be meeting with Washington College again about another visit to the museum. Working on a walking tour of the historical sites in Berterton.

PLANNING: Will be meeting again in the next couple of weeks.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: Town crew have been fixing potholes around town.

PARK: The mister system and dog fountain have been winterized. The bathhouse at the Sixth Avenue Park will be winterized in the near future.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO.: Dick Story reported that the fire company will hold its regular meeting tomorrow night (Wednesday, November 19th).

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read report submitted from Jeff Miller, Plant Operator.

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SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: No Report.

Trash: October 2021 – 12.81 Tons
Recycling: October 2021 - 3.10 Tons

Town Manager Report – Work has started on the pavilion stairway. Last week, the Commissioners awarded Cromwell Contractors, Inc. of Towson, Maryland the contract for \$130,430. They have already started work on the project that is scheduled for completion by March 31, 2022.

With the help of our Mayor, AECOM has digital copies of Ericsson maps to continue their work on the preliminary engineering for the reconstruction of Ericsson Avenue. I have also been in touch with ThinkBig to collect the as-builts for Ericsson and the rest of the town. I have begun to catalog digital copies of the various maps and as-builts as I can.

Jeff Miller is collecting information about infrastructure improvements to water and sewer. Jeff is looking to replace and aging generator at the Bayside station. Jeff also hopes to switch from diesel to propane at that station. Other improvements include the purchase of portable generator/light station and install electrical receptacles at the various pump stations.

Still no word on the FEMA review of Bayside Erosion Mitigation Project. I have contacted our MEMA rep to learn more about the delay. She has no new news to report. When I have any information—even if it's information regarding the delay—I will let Bayside residents know ASAP. I understand it is a very difficult and, frankly, disappointing situation for residents, contractors, and for the people we work with at MEMA.

We received the official estimate for the replacement HVAC along with the added air purification system from Montgomery Heating and Cooling. Same as the last one.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Delmarva WiFi and Bridge Max – Town Attorney Yeager asked for guidance from the council. Would like to know what terms for a lease and the monthly amount, etc. Council agreed to \$500/month with a 3% yearly increase and 5-year term.

Bayside Project – Town Manager, Mogle reported earlier.

Ericsson Avenue Project – Town Manager, Mogle reported earlier.

Charter Amendment – Cancelling Uncontested Election – Town Attorney Yeager. - Mr. Yeager drafted a resolution; For Purposes of Amending the Town Charter to Provide for the Cancellation of an Election for Which Any Seats Which Are Uncontested. This language provides that if on the day immediately following the deadline for filing certificates of candidacy for office, the number of duly qualified candidates for the office is equal to or less than the number of vacancies for such office, then no election shall be held for such office on the first Saturday in October, and all such candidates shall assume the office on the second Tuesday of November following the election.

The resolution will be announced at an upcoming council meeting. A public hearing must be done at another time. The hearing must be published 21 days in advance in a local newspaper. After the public hearing, the resolution may be voted on at the following council meeting. Once this is voted on, there is a 40-day period that

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Charter Amendment cont'd.

the charter amendment must be published 4 times in a local newspaper with the fair summary of the charter amendment and a printed copy must be available for inspection by the citizens at the town office. During that 40-day period, citizens have the opportunity to do a referendum. If such petition is done, then the charter amendment does not become effective until a vote is held either by special election or place on the ballot at an upcoming election. After the vote is taken, depending on the results of said vote, it becomes into effect. If a referendum is not tempted, after 50 days passage, the charter amendment is in effect.

Recommend to introduce the resolution at the December council meeting, hold a public hearing the second Tuesday in January prior to the council meeting and take a vote on the resolution at the meeting.

Mr. Yeager commented that the Charter has not been reprinted in approximately 30 years. There have been charter amendments passed and suggested to have the Charter reprinted to reflect such changes to ensure the numbering is correct. Mayor Sutton asked the town manager along with the town clerk to work on getting the Charter reprinted.

NEW BUSINESS: Proclamation – November – Municipal Government Works Month. Mayor Sutton read into record the proclamation. All members present signed said proclamation.

OPEN FORUM:

Dick Story asked when the last day for yard waste would be. The policy states the fourth Monday in November. There will be a holiday tree pick up the second week of July.

Harry Marcy asked if Infinity Recycling has stopped taking #1 plastics?? We have not received any changes in their accepted materials.

OPEN FORUM:

Mr. Marzella is very happy with the new 3-way stop signs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor and Council received a thank you card from the Betterton Youth Group thanking them for their continued support.

Dick Story commented that Veterans Day is Thursday and wanted to say thank you to all the veterans.

Candi Sorge commented about the on-going work at the Betterton Methodist Church and is pleased with the support from the community. The project is still underway and needs additional support to finish the project.

Question was asked about the fiber optics in town and when will people be able to hook up. Individuals should contact Think Big to schedule hook-up.

-Betterton United Methodist Youth Group – Ages 6 – 16. Nov. 19th, 6:30 – 8 p.m. -
Dec. 11th Annual Christmas Party 3 – 5 p.m. at the Legion.

-Betterton Legion – Open Mic night – Every Thursday beginning at 7.
Bingo on Sundays, doors open at 12:30 p.m. starts at 2.

-Betterton Heritage Museum Gift Shop – Friday, November 26th & Saturday, Dec. 4th - 12 – 3 p.m.

-Collecting Hats, Scarfs, Gloves, Mittens, Socks for the Lions Club Christmas Basket Program. Drop off at Town Hall.

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Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the November 9, 2021, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

December 14, 2021