

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
January 10, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

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

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Candi Sorge, Dick and Ginny Story, Rick Bisgyer, Joe Stock, Larry Crew, Malcolm Kram, George Bailer and Judy Leigh.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on December 13, 2022. There was no Council workshop on December 27, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

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

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Have not received the December Sheriff's report.

GUEST SPEAKERS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Berterton Heritage Museum is closed for the winter and will be doing some revamping of the displays while they are closed. Working with other museums in Kent County for the Smithsonian display in Chestertown. Berterton Heritage Museum will open in May for the summer. Thanked everyone that purchased items during the holiday sales. There are items are still available for purchase. The train show was well attended.

PLANNING: Plan to meet the second Monday of each month and work on the Comprehensive Plan. Plan is due in 2025.

APPEALS BOARD: No report.

ROADS: No report.

PARK: Building has been winterized. Kids are still enjoying the play area.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO: Dick Story reported that the fire company held their annual elections last month. Louie Mancuso continues as Chief, Buddy Campbell as President and Timothy Morris is Chairman for the Board of Directors. Bylaws are almost complete. Once completed an invite will be sent to the council for someone from the town to be on the Board of Directors.

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WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water treatment plant pumped 817,000 gallons of potable water in the month of December. There was one leak on Third Avenue most likely due to the severe cold we experienced the last part of the month. All else is good with the water distribution system at this time.

The wastewater treatment plant treated and discharged 805,000 gallons of effluent to the Sassafra River for the month of December. The “cold blast” and the “warm up” has the microorganisms in shock. Hoping the consistent mild weather will settle them down as they are very fragile this time of the year. Sudden high inflows (rain) and low inflows (which equals low food intake), all have an impact on them this time of year. Our electrical contractor has begun work on the pump station receptacle installations that will enable us to run the pumps with a generator during a power outage.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Joe Stock updated Council about the status of the cover for the “Ark”. Working with Larry Crew and John Swain. They are preparing plans for the cover to present to council then seek approval of the Maryland Historic Trust. Dr. Stock has spoke with Department of Natural Resources about updating “The Jewel” play area to make the area safer as well and there may be funding for both projects.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases –Town Manager, Tom Mogle has spoken with a Jim Conner from Bridgemaxx. Mr. Conner stated that they do not have enough customers to support the cost increase. Mr. Mogle informed Mr. Conner that their equipment would need to be removed from the tower.

Bayside Project –Lindstrom Excavating has started working on the west section of the project.

Ericsson Avenue Project – Completed the semi-annual reports. Closing out the preliminary engineering grant. Councilman Gilchrest asked if we have a design for the project and if the stormwater run-off be reduced. Mr. Mogle commented that the final design has not been completed but the stormwater run-off will be addressed. Mr. Dick Story asked about if there will be additional fire hydrants installed. Dr. Stock commented that fire hydrants should be every 500 feet. Mayor Sutton stated that the fire hydrants are included in the plans.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Town Manager Report –

Jamie Williams, Economic Development Director would like to attend a meeting and tall with the council about making Betterton an Enterprise Zone. Chestertown and Rock Hall have already gained the status.

Ms. Williams would also like the council to consider updating the rental ordinance to include short-term rentals. The town clerk and I have been reviewing the owners rental properties and preparing a to-do list.

Town Attorney, Tom Yeager reported that the Kent County Commissioners approved the grant for the walkway at Betterton Beach which is for the Mobi-mat. Tom Mogle stated that the town has been working with the county on this project.

Maryland Rural Water Association – a resident contacted the town manager about the water service line pilot program. Mr. Mogle is working on information to send out to property owners in the near future.

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OPEN FORUM: Rick Bisgyer, resident on Ericsson Avenue asked if there are any plans for traffic calming on Ericsson Avenue?? Mayor Sutton stated that the project for Ericsson Avenue is currently being designed for the storm water management and road construction. Traffic calming will be part of the design. Mr. Bisgyer suggested speed “humps” which are different than speed bumps. (Speed bumps have been widely used in parking lots to ensure that vehicles slow to a crawl. This reduces hazards for pedestrians by aiming to keep vehicle speeds down to about five miles per hour. The short travel distance to cross a speed bump ensures a sudden jolt to the vehicle as each axle passes over, encouraging drivers to slow down to avoid discomfort. Speed humps, on the other hand, have a gentler slowing function. Traffic can continue to drive safely at fifteen to twenty-five miles per hour where speed humps exist. Because of this, speed humps are used on public roads, although mostly in residential areas where the speed limit is fairly low. Speed bumps are occasionally also used on these types of roads, but this can obstruct traffic flow, so they’re usually saved for private roads and parking lots). There is a speed hump located on Campus Avenue in Chestertown at the Middle School and one on High Street in Chestertown.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Town Hall closed Monday, January 16, 2023 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day.

Betterton American Legion -

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.

Betterton Youth Group – Friday, Jan. 20th, Feb. 3rd & 17th at 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Church

Dick Story announced that the Youth Group would be meeting at the old town hall on January 20th to view the trains.

Closed Session – Discuss personnel.

Councilman Marcy made the motion to go into closed session to discuss personnel matters; Councilman Gilchrest seconded; all in favor; motion carried. Council went into closed session at 7:35 p.m.

Councilman Marcy motioned to close the closed session at 8:09 p.m.; Councilman Pyfer seconded; all in favor; motion carried.

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the January 10, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved: February 14, 2023