

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
February 14, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held via GotoMeeting link.

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

RESIDENTS: (in person or virtually via GoTo link) Candi Sorge, Dick and Ginny Story, Rick Bisgyer, Malcolm Kram, Mary Luike, Sharon Sutton, and Cheryl Fracassi.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Council meeting minutes on January 10, 2023. There was no Council workshop on January 24, 2023. Seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor, motioned carried.*

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

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

GUEST SPEAKERS: Jamie Williams, Director of Kent County Development of Economic and Tourism Development. Ms. Williams presented the Council with information on the Enterprise Zone Application Opportunity. Berterton and the surrounding area qualify for the Enterprise Zone designation. The key incentive is the local (Town and County) property tax credit, a 10-year credit on the increased assessed value of the expansion, renovation, or capital improvement. The amount of the annual credit is 80% of the "eligible assessment" in each of the first 5 years. The credit decreases by 10% annually for each of the subsequent 5 years. The State reimburses the Town and County 50% of the credit issued. Creating a EZ does not change or otherwise effect local zoning control, regulations, or ordinances. An EZ program is a valuable incentive to promote job creation and capital investment within the existing business community and an essential tool to position Kent county with surrounding jurisdictions to attract new businesses to our community. Deadline for application for the Spring 2023 Designation is April 15th. If the Council wish to participate, the County will prepare and submit the application collaborating with the Town on meeting all the requirements. The County Economic and Tourism Director would be the Zone Administrator and work with the Town to process applications, certify properties, and work with the County Office of Finance to ensure credits are issued and State reimbursement is requested. Ms. Williams asked Council if they would be interested in applying for the EZ designation. *Council agreed to pursue the EZ designation. (A vote was not needed on this item).* There will be a joint public hearing and resolutions from both the Town and County which are required components of the application.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: No Report.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the Berterton Heritage Museum is closed and will reopen in May. Working with Washington College to upgrade the displays. Planning a community yard sale in May.

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PLANNING: Met last night. Reviewed rules and procedures for the planning board. George Bailer and Cheryl Fracassi were both certified by the Maryland Department of Planning. Ginny Story has been working on the Comprehensive Plan.

APPEALS BOARD: No report.

ROADS: No report.

PARK: Tennis and Basketball courts have been paved. The painting of the courts will be done in the spring. Backboard for the tennis court has been installed as well as the field goals for the basketball court.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE CO: Installation of Officers will be held on March 18th. Council should RSVP before March 3rd if any plan to attend.

WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read the report that Jeff Miller, Plant operator submitted. The water plant pumped 806,000 Gal. of potable water in the month of January. There were no leaks in the distribution system. And everything at the plant is operating as it should. Southern Corrosion our tower maintenance contractor inspected the water tower and reported no issues at this time. The Wastewater plant treated and discharged 744,000 gal. of effluent to the Sassafra River. Things at the plant are operating as expected for the season. The milder temps are welcome helping to maintain somewhat of a favorable temperature in the SBR's. The electrical contractor is working on the receptacles at the pump stations to allow us to run the pump stations with a portable generator. We are still awaiting delivery of the generator for pump Sta.#2. Any further questions feel free to contact Jeff.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Tower Leases – Equipment for AB Indiana (Bridgmax) have not been disconnected at this time. We are in the process of trying to identify which equipment belongs to which company.

Bayside Project –Lindstrom Excavating should be finishing up the project shortly.

Ericsson Avenue Project – MRDC submitted a grant to BDE. The Town Manager has a meeting scheduled with Senator Cardin's committee and will be asking for \$880,000 for this project.

WWTP – There is money left over with USDA for this project and in order to close out the project we either have to spend the money or turn it back over to USDA. With USDA's approval, we are working on purchasing a new loader to replace the old one we have. Bid requests have gone out and will open bids at the upcoming workshop on February 28th.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Town Manager Report – Maryland Rural Water Association – will be meeting on February 27th to discuss MDE information and making available to the public.

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Town Manager Report cont'd.

Emailed Bill Mackie regarding Rigbie Bluff. Mr. Mackie stated the county can move forward with Unity on the project if Unity abides by an equivalent contract price for similar projects. So far, Unity has not provided any work.

OPEN FORUM: Mary Luike asked about the control burn that is to take place on Howell Point Rd. Mrs. Luike wanted to know which fields would be burnt because one of the fields borders the back of their property. We know the burn will take place on the right side of the road headed west and that field is included.

Dick Story reported that the Betterton Volunteer Fire Company will be hosting the Food Trucks again this year starting in the Spring on Friday nights. The fire company has been updating their by-laws. At the time of approval, the fire company will appoint someone from the town office (i.e. Mayor, Council, staff) to sit on the board as a liaison.

Candi Sorge asked about getting information/plans for the Ericsson Avenue project. Town Manager, Mogle stated that he would send her a copy of the preliminary plans. Mayor Sutton stated that the design is not fully completed.

Candi Sorge announced that the Museums of Kent will be doing another driving tour in May and they would like the train display open for the tour.

Councilman Harry Marcy reported that he had submitted to DNR a No Wake Zone for Betterton Beach area and adjacent docks. Received a response that the submission was on the list to be considered. DNR will place temporary buoys out this summer with a contact number on them for people to contact DNR with their opinions. In October they will decide if they will deem it necessary to be a No Wake Zone.

Ginny Story asked Councilman Marcy if he spoke with DNR about the two buoys that have broke loose and he responded that he had notified them about these.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: -

Betterton Vol. Fire Co. Pancake Dinner drive thru. February 21st. 4:30-6:30

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, Feb. 17th, March 3rd & 31st. at 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. at Church

Motion was made by Councilman Marcy to close the February 14, 2023, meeting, seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

March 14, 2023