

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
October 9, 2018 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

SCANNED

The Berterton Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sutton at 7:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Sutton, Councilman Fracassi, Councilman Gilchrest, Councilman Marcy, Councilman Pyfer, Town Attorney Yeager, Town Manager Greenwell, Jeff Miller, Public Works Employee and Town Clerk Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS: Candi Sorge, Mary Ann Wasco-Smith, Jack Fernwalt, Scott Fernwalt, Shane Fernwalt, Clyde Warden, Carol Casey, Cheryl Fracassi, Ginny Story, Dick Story, Branden Onheiser, Kenneth Traynor, Jodi Paltrineri, and David Paltrineri.

Others in attendance: Undersheriff Brian Kirby, Kent County Sheriff's Office and John Price, Candidate for Kent County Sheriff.

MINUTES: Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the September 11, 2018 meeting. There was no Mayor and Council Workshop on September 25, 2018 due to attending the Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities dinner. Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Councilman Fracassi motioned to approve the September financial report; seconded by Councilman Pyfer; all in favor.

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Undersheriff Kirby gave the report for the Month of September 2018: 23 Speed Assignments; 3 Warnings; 5 Citations; 1 DUI Arrest; 0 Criminal Complains; 4 Non-criminal Calls for Service. Fiscal Year 2018/19 September Overtime Expense – \$0.00; Berterton Patrol Balance F/Y 2018/19 - \$4,049.41.

GUEST SPEAKERS: Tom Timberman, Candidate for Kent County Commissioner spoke to everyone on his goals, views etc.

Jason Loar – Engineer for Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Inc – Update on new WWTP – via phone – difficulties in connecting. Will update at a later date.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: The outside lighting on the building has been changed to pink for Breast Cancer Awareness for the month of October.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported that the museum will be open on weekends the month of October, 1 – 3 p.m. The museum is partnering with a group of Washington College students and are doing museum studies. Talk about ways to improve displays in the museum and a virtual museum tour.

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BCDC Cont'd.

The Ark was on display during the house tours in Chestertown this past weekend. October 13th it will be in Rock Hall for Fall Fest.

Train Show will be December. Wreath making will be on December 1st at the legion.

PLANNING: No Report.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: No Report.

PARK: There has been some vandalism at the park. Investigation in progress.

SAFETY: No Report.

FIRE: No Report.

WATER/SEWER: Starting the initial startup of the new WWTP will be on Monday, October 15th. MDE gives new plants a year to comply.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: No Report.

Trash: September 2018 – 10.93 Tons
Recycling: September 2018 – 3.90 Tons

TOWN MANAGER REPORT: Town Manager Report 7/11/18 – 8/28/18 Average 26 hours per week

Current Grant Applications

FEMA, CDBG, and Community Legacy we are waiting to hear if we received the grants.

Working with Terry Fearins from USDA to secure gap funding for Wheeler Ave. project.

Met with representatives from DNR on 7/24 to discuss ideas for Wheeler Avenue.

Mini-grant – received the grant. Mural was painted during August. Dedication and 2 speakers presented on Betterton Day. Working on submitting the final report.

Submitted Program Open Space Grant submitted for Rigbie Steps and Arbor Play Area (new playground, poured in place, and misters) at Sixth Avenue Park.

Coordinated with Stephanie Jones from the county and Jay Silcox. RFP is going out for the Rigbie bank. Estimate for bench is \$18,000. Stephanie is trying to get it paid for through afforestation funding.

Main Street Outfall

Final report submitted by 7/31. July and August invoices and payment verifications sent. Under budget. Over \$150,000 recouped.

WWTP

First part of the design for Idlewhile Pump Station #1 is complete. Waiting to see if money remains to complete it as part of the WWTP grant.

Sludge beds are an ongoing issue. Need to decide how to proceed.

1. Complete restoration of both beds
2. Installation of dewatering equipment

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Town Manager Report cont'd

County Sign

Spoke with John Carroll and asked him to remove the Welcome to Kent County sign that was in disrepair. Our public works employees removed the sign and saved the parts that the Chamber of Commerce wants to keep.

Permits

Approved several building permits for residential renovations and tree permits.

Issued one tree violation which was resolved.

Issued permits for the WWTP buildings, fencing, and pavement.

Renewed a permit for 9 Bayside for Electrical Work.

Continued to follow-up with MDIA and the county to update outstanding permits from the past several years.

Reviewed payments for building permits and MDIA fees with Sheila and Town of Chestertown permitting fee.

Recommend raising decks, porches, carports, renovations, and additions (up to 400 sq. feet) fee to \$125.

Recommend getting fees from MDIA for larger projects and setting the fees according to current MDIA rates.

Census

Census data completed for June, July, and August.

Orders

Signs were ordered – No parking, children at play, street sign. Signs arrived damaged. Marcellus is following up to return them and have them replaced.

Furniture for the WWTP was chosen and ordered. Should be in soon. Will need to be put together by our staff.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Hunting Ordinance – Mayor Sutton Introduced Emergency Ordinance 2018-02 To Provide Temporary Exemption from the Prohibition of Firearm Discharge in Certain Areas of the Town for the Limited Purposes of Deer and Waterfowl Hunting In Season. There will be a public hearing on the Hunting Ordinance on October 23, 2018.

Permit Fees – Mayor Sutton stated that we will hold off on this until we get fees from MDIA.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election Results – All members currently on council were re-elected as well as Mayor Sutton. Mayor Sutton will be sworn in by the Clerk of Court, Mark Mumford, on October 26, 2018. The Council will be sworn in at the next meeting held on November 13, 2018.

Water Tower Colors – Councilman Marcy motioned to have the tower color “Basin”, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor. Councilman Fracassi motioned to have the design lettering color “Welcome to Betterton” to be “Blue Print”, seconded by Councilman Marcy; all in favor. Councilman Marcy motioned to accept the lettering of “Welcome to Betterton”, seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor. The font style will be voted on at a later date.

Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Plan – Mayor Sutton read the Plan. Councilman Fracassi motioned to adopt the plan; seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor.

Mr. Ken Traylor, resident on the corner of Main Street and Wheeler Avenue commented that he refuses to sign any easement for the project. Has filed a complaint with the Maryland Civil Rights Department.

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New Business cont'd.

Section 3 Plan – Councilman Gilchrest motioned to adopt the plan; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor.

Minor Business Plan for CDBG Program – Councilman Gilchrest motioned to adopt the plan; seconded by Councilman Pyfer.

OPEN FORUM / ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 19th – Auction – Betterton Legion 7 p.m.

October 20th – Costume Dance – Betterton Legion 8 p.m.

October 31st - Trick or Treat hours 5 p.m. – 8 p.m.

November 3 – Lions Club Horse Races – Betterton Fire Hall. Doors open 5:30; races start 6:30.

Candi Sorge announced that on Thursday, October 18th there will be a Wellness Fair at the Kent County High School at 8 a.m. At 12:30 p.m. there will be a forum with all the candidates running for County Commissioner.

Candi Sorge introduced former Sheriff, John Price that is running again for Kent County Sheriff. Mr. Price gave an update on his current status and that he will be running for Sheriff again in the election in November.

Dave and Jodi Paltrineri, residents of Second Avenue asked if the street light that is across the street from their home be turned off, dimmer light or something so it doesn't shine in their home. They prefer to have the light turned off. Carol Casey, also a resident on Second Avenue stated that the light, lights up her bedroom. Mr. Paltrineri has contacted Delmarva Power and was told that the town would have to request any changes. Mr. Paltrineri also stated that the emergency lights at the new waste water treatment plant are very bright. Town Manager Greenwell stated that we have talked with Delmarva Power and have a few options and that we are working on a solution.

Ken Traynor commented that he received a letter from the town a couple years ago stating that if he didn't cut his grass he would be fined \$1,000. Is that standard?? Mayor Sutton explained that it is part of the code for municipal infractions. The code states up to \$1,000. It's a graduated offense.

The meeting will be closed and the Council will go into a closed session for personnel issues.

A motion was made by Councilman Marcy close the October 9, 2018 meeting; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

November 13, 2018