

TOWN OF BETTERTON
Mayor & Council Meeting
July 09, 2019 @ 7:00 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

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, and Town Clerk Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS: Clyde Warden, Candi Sorge, Cheryl Fracassi, Sharon Sutton and Brandon Onheiser.

Mayor Sutton opened the Public Hearing and read into record Resolution 2019-02, A Resolution of the Town of Berterton to Revise Water and Sewer Rates and Ordinance 2019-04, An Ordinance of the Town of Berterton to Increase the Special Assessment Charges on Properties Located within Town Limits for the Purpose of Funding the Town's Water and Sewer System.

Mayor Sutton asked for Questions/comments. Candi Sorge stated that she understands what the ordinances and resolutions are for but would like an assurance that after the plant is operational in a couple of years to look at the rate again and also do the increase in increments. Mrs. Sorge also showed charts from the meter software that if you have a leak it will determine if there is a leak and when the water is used the most. Sheila will contact Neptune and Jeff and Sheila will be trained to use the software.

Councilman Marcy motioned to close the public hearing; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; motion carried. Public Hearing ended at 7:19 p.m.

Mayor Sutton opened the Council meeting at 7:19 p.m. with the voting of Resolution 2019-02 and Ordinance 2019-04. *Councilman Marcy motioned to accept Resolution 2019-02 A Resolution of the Town of Berterton to Revise Water and Sewer Rates; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor; motion carried. Resolution 2019-02 effective July 1, 2019.*

- Water Rate - \$ 59.50 per quarter
- Sewer Rate - \$ 170.00 per quarter
- Water usage over 12,000 gallons per quarter is \$20.00 per thousand gallons of metered water flow per quarter.

Mayor and Council voted to deem Ordinance 2019-04 an Emergency Ordinance as per 209 in the Charter. *Councilman Fracassi voted to suspend Ordinance 2019-04 and the twenty day effective date and make it Emergency Ordinance 2019-04 an Ordinance of the Town of Berterton to Increase the Special Assessment Chagres on Properties Located within Town Limits for the Purpose of Funding the Town's Water and Sewer System. Councilman Gilchrest seconded; all in favor, motion carried.*

Councilman Gilchrest motioned to adopt Emergency Ordinance 2019-04 An Ordinance of the Town of Berterton to Increase the Special Assessment Charges on Properties Located within Town Limits for the Purpose of Funding the Town's Water and Sewer System; Councilman Pyfer seconded; all in favor, motion carried. Emergency Ordinance 2019-04 is effective July 1, 2019.

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1. Properties with 200,000 square feet (approximately 4.6 acres) or less: \$150.00 per year
2. Properties greater than 200,000 square feet but no more than 500,000 square feet (approximately 11.5 acres): \$275.00
3. Properties over 500,000 square feet: \$400.00 per year, plus an additional \$187.50 for each additional 500,000 square feet.

MINUTES: *Councilman Marcy motioned to approve the Mayor and Council Meeting minutes of the June 11, 2019 meeting (there was no Mayor and Council Workshop June 25, 2019 meeting); Seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

FINANCIAL REPORT: *Councilman Pyfer motioned to approve the June 2019 financial report; seconded by Councilman Fracassi; all in favor, motioned carried.*

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

SHERIFF'S REPORT: Sheriff John Price gave the report for the Month of June 2019: 26 Speed Assignments; 18 Warnings; 13 Citations; 1 DUI Arrest; 0 Criminal Complaint; 0 CDS Case- 0 Charges Pending; 9 Non-criminal Calls for Service. Fiscal Year 2018/19 May Overtime Expense – \$759.42 leaving a balance of \$1,862.48.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

BCC: A/C unit has been fixed.

BCDC: Candi Sorge reported the museum is open for the summer with weekend hours of 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. until the end of September. Betterton Day, August 3rd the museum will be open from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and hopefully the Ark will be open as well. Met with Washington College reference the virtual tour of the museum which is almost finished. Sunday, August 4th Concert – Mainstay/Tom McHugh and Friends, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.. Community yard sale will be August 24th. September 5th at 7 p.m. there will be a showing of the virtual tour.

PLANNING: Continuing to meet and work on the comprehensive plan. Have received the USDA regulations for a butcher shop and have asked Mr. Burke several questions that he has not answered to date.

APPEALS BOARD: No Report.

ROADS: Three mail boxes on Bayside Alley will need to be moved due to making the alley one way as a result of closing of Bayside Blvd. The mail truck will not go the wrong way on a one way road. Residents will purchase boxes and the town crew will install where the post office deems suitable.

PARK: No Report

SAFETY: No Report

FIRE: Beach Party Friday night August, 2nd. Betterton Day Parade August 3rd with vendors at beach and Cow Plop Bingo at Sixth Avenue Park. Parade starts at 10:30 a.m.

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WATER/SEWER: Mayor Sutton read a brief report from Jeff Miller, plant operator, on the performance of the plants in the last month.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES: Mayor Sutton read the report of Sustainable Community Committee to Mayor and Council 7/9/19. The Betterton Sustainable Community Committee continues its efforts to identify and rank potential goals for the Town of Betterton over the next 5 years. This list currently includes some 25 goals.

1. The top goal on the list remains the renovation of the Rigbie Steps. We have submitted a grant to Community Legacy for funds for the restoration effort. Representatives from Community Legacy will come for a site visit on July 30th. We have indicated to them that this is a critical part of the walkway in Betterton as well as an important part of its history. We are hopeful that this application will be successful.
2. A second important goal is one that we previously discussed with Mayor and Council—that of applying for a grant to perform water, sewer, sidewalk, stormwater infrastructure analysis by an engineer. The end product of the analysis would be a written long-range plan for replacement with prioritization of the most critical needs. This will be a blue print for Mayor and Council as well as the Grant Committee in prioritizing projects.
3. Numbers 3 and 4 on the list involves the design and construction of storm water BMPs (Best Management Practices) for Wheeler and Bayside. We have been awarded a WAGPA grant for the design of these structures but are awaiting allocation of the funds.
4. Rounding out the top 10 goals to date are:
 - a. Renovation of Ericsson Ave. Infrastructure including sewer, water, storm water, sidewalks, and street.
 - b. Upgrade the water treatment plant
 - c. Develop a solar array for electric power to the WWTP
 - d. Develop an historic walking trail called “The Crews Landing Historic Trail”. There are many grants available to develop walking and biking trails. We want to develop formal trails throughout the Town.
 - e. Explore economic development strategies.
 - f. Discuss beach upgrades with the county to include improved parking, replaced boat ramp, floating dock for kayak and paddle launch, possible food and snack structure on the beach.

Maryann Wasko Smith will lead an effort to develop the Crews Landing Historic Trail. She will do some benchmarking with other towns that have done this successfully.

We discussed the need for a periodic (quarterly) meeting with Kent County leadership to discuss improvements at the beach and possibly help to obtain grant money. Elizabeth will talk to Shelley Heller to try to make this happen.

We have previously assigned sections of the Sustainable Community re-application to various members of the Committee. At the next meeting, we will begin the process of responding to the various categories outlined in the application, including Environment, Economy, Transportation, Housing, Quality of Life, and Land Use/Local Planning. For each category, the application asks for Strengths, Weaknesses, Desired Outcomes and Progress Measures, Strategies and Action Items, and Implementation Partners. The Committee will work collectively to answer these questions.

Elizabeth brought us up to date on the many activities that are ongoing with the various grants. She will give you a brief overview. Respectfully Submitted, The Sustainable Community Committee.

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Trash: June 2019 – 11.96 Tons (last month 11.32)

Recycling: June 2019 – 4.00 Tons (last month 2.23)

TOWN MANAGER REPORT: Elizabeth Greenwell reported that USDA approved the Wheeler contract. Next step for Wheeler is to approve the RFP. The town is still applying for grants but only for projects that we currently are working on and need “gap” funding. Wheeler and Idlewhile projects both received “gap” funding to cover the difference that the original grant did not cover. Still looking for “gap” funding for the Bayside project. Other projects/grant applications are on hold until the town gets the other projects underway.

Mayor Sutton stated that we received a new water/sewer rate assessment which everyone received a copy of. Asked for the council to review study and will discuss in the future.

Town Manager Greenwell stated that the playground at Sixth Avenue Park will begin approximately in August. The storm water WAGP funding will be released in August for the Bayside project.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Employee Retirement Plan – Mayor Sutton stated that the cost to the town if all employees were to participate in the plan would be up to a 3% match \$5,745.09. *Councilman Marcy motioned for the town to match up to 3% of retirement plan per employee enrolled in retirement plan; seconded by Councilman Gilchrest; all in favor; motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 2019-01: Community Legacy Grant – Mayor Sutton read into record the resolution. *Motion to adopt Resolution 2019-01 was made by Councilman Marcy; Councilman Fracassi seconded; all in favor; motion carried.*

OPEN FORUM / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cheryl Fracassi asked about golf carts in town. They are on the roads, not moving out of the way, underage drivers, etc. Mayor Sutton stated that they are not permitted on the streets in town. It is illegal to drive the carts on town and state roads. Mayor Sutton will contact Sheriff Price to make his department aware of the situation.

Town Attorney Yeager thanked the Mayor and Council for contributing to his attendance at the Maryland Municipal League conference in Ocean City.

A motion was made by Councilman Fracassi to close the July 09, 2019 meeting; seconded by Councilman Marcy; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

August 13, 2019