

TOWN OF BETTERTON

Mayor & Council Workshop
January 25, 2022 @ 7:014 P.M.
Berterton, MD 21610

Meeting was held through an online GotoMeeting link.

COUNCIL WORKSHOP

Mayor Sutton opened the workshop meeting at 7:14 p.m. after the public hearing.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Sutton, Councilman Fracassi, Councilman Gilchrest, Councilman Marcy, Councilman Pyfer, Town Attorney Yeager, Town Manager Mogle, and Town Clerk Dlugoborski.

RESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE: RESIDENTS: (virtually via GoTo link) - Mary Luike, Dick Story, Ginny Story, Candi Sorge, Joe Stock, Susan Hutchinson, and Cheryl Fracassi.

VOTE ON CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION 2021-05- Mayor Sutton read into recorded Resolution 2021-05. There were no question or comments. *Councilman Marcy motioned to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution 2021-05; councilman Pyfer seconded; all in favor, motion carried.*

Town Attorney stated that once this is voted on, there is a 40-day period that 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. Town Manager, Mogle will post on the town website.

TOM MOGLE, TOWN MANAGER – PLANNING/ZONING COMMITTEE proposal of allowing chickens with the town limits. The Planning committee has been asked about back yard chickens. The committee are researching various towns/counties and their policies and are working on putting together information to present to the council to consider changing the planning/zoning regulations to allow chickens. There will be stipulations about number of chickens, housing, etc. Once Council receives the request, a public hearing will be scheduled.

Joe Stock asked why do we want chickens in Berterton? Mayor Sutton responded that some residents want them for their fresh eggs. There will be stipulations such as no roosters, flock size, coop size, etc. Dr. Stock stated that he has had through personal experience issues with rodents attracted by the feed, etc. Mayor Sutton stated that they are waiting on the proposal from the Planning Commission and will go from there. Candi Sorge asked if there would be a stipulation about the size of the property and what constitutes a business, i.e., selling the eggs?? Mayor Sutton stated that Planning/Zoning need to work all this out. Town Manager Mogle gave a brief summary of what the commission is considering; three chickens per acre, all person shall provide chickens with secure structure, setbacks for structure. Councilman Gilchrest commented that if it's done wrong you will have rodents; if done right, you won't. Mayor Sutton stated that if anyone has any comments or want to voice your opinion, please contact the town office or any member of the Planning Commission.

OPEN FORUM – No Discussion

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Group Winter/Spring Schedule –Feb. 4th & 18th, March 4th & 18th, April 15th & 29th. April 16th, Easter Egg Hunt @ Betterton Park on 6th Ave. at 11 a.m. Ages up to 13 years old. Bring your own basket to collect the eggs. May 6th end of year celebration. Ages 6 – 16 meet in the Betterton United Methodist Church basement. Any questions, contact Patti Bone 443-298-0057.

Youth Group – February 4th will be viewing the train display at 3 Third Avenue. Contact Patti Bone for details.

Ginny Story asked if there are any updates on the Bayside Project? Town Manager Mogle replied that there are none at this time and they are looking to re-bid the job. Mayor Sutton stated he has spoken with Congressman Harris’ office and they have suggested for the town to contact Senator Van Hollen’s office. Councilman Gilchrest offered to discuss further with Mayor Sutton and to whom to contact. Ginny Story asked about the status of the extension? Mr. Mogle replied that the extension was sent out last week and is looking in favor of extending. Candi Sorge asked if anyone has contact Ginger Gregg, local MEMA person? Mr. Mogle has spoke with her. Was also suggested to contact Representatives and Delegates, Andy Harris, Jay Jacob and Steve Hershey.

Town Attorney Yeager stated that when referencing the land use article as Article 66 B in the Annotate Code of the Public General Laws of Maryland the Town will need to recodify this to read as the Land Use Article of Maryland.

Town Attorney Yeager presented the draft to the Council for the Tower Lease Agreement for further discussion at the February 8th Council meeting. Copies will be sent to council via email.

A motion was made by Councilman Gilchrest to adjourn the January 25, 2022 workshop meeting; seconded by Councilman Marcy; all in favor; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Dlugoborski, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Approved:

February 8, 2022