NEW CHARTER SUGGESTIONS

Public Meeting Tuesday, December 30

An outline of a proposed charter for Chestertown, to replace the one now in operation, has been drawn by the committee named several weeks ago for that purpose and will be submitted to the citizens of Chestertown at an open meeting to be held next Tuesday, December 30, in the Court House here. The meeting has been called by W. B. Copper, chairman of the Citizens' Committee.

The proposed charter, as outlined, is the work of a committee composed of Charles N. Satterfield, chairman; W. R. Hubbard, secretary; M. deK. Smith, R. Hynson Rogers and A. S. Turner, Jr. The outline of the charter is as follows:

Article 1

Acts of assembly to be repealed and reenacted.

Article 2—Incorporation

Changing the present form of government consisting of three Commissioners to a new body by the name of the Mayor and Town Council.

Article 3—Boundaries

Section A. The present boundaries of Chestertown to remain as they are at present.

Section B. The Mayor and Town Council may extend the boundaries and limits of Chestertown for 3000 feet whenever they deem it expedient.

Property laid out into lots and developed, before same can be offered for sale must be approved by the Mayor and Town Council and filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Kent County.

The Mayor and Town Council shall have control of all sanitation and police protection within the limits of said town, and one mile there of.

The corporation of Chestertown shall have the right to receive and enjoy any gift of land or money and use same for the benefit of the Town.

Section C. Chestertown shall be divided into four wards as follows:

First Ward. To extend from the River to the center of Queen Street.

Second Ward. To extend from the center of Queen Street to the center of Kent Street.

Third Ward. To extend from the center of Kent Street to the northerly boundaries.

Fourth Ward. To embrace all lands north of Maple Avenue extended and Prospect Street, consisting chiefly of the lease-hold lands of Washington College.

Article 4—Voters and Qualifications

The qualified voters of the Town of Chestertown shall be residents thereof, for twelve months, be 21 years of age, and assessed for Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) of property within the corporate limits, and have paid all corporate taxes previous to the election.

Article 5—Registration and Election

The Mayor and Town Council shall appoint two qualified voters to serve as Supervisors of Election, one to be Register of voters and Judge of Election and the other to be Clerk of registration and Clerk of Election, each to receive three Dollars ($3.00) per day.

Before election they shall sit on days to be advertised between 1 P. M. and 9 P. M. at the Court House to register voters.

The Supervisors of Election shall have the right to refuse registration, if the voter fails to qualify. The voter will have a right of appeal to the Circuit Court for Kent County, and the case to be handled as under our present election law.

The election for 1931 to be held on the third Monday in May, and election for 1933 and thereafter every two years, to be held on the third Monday in March.

Persons desiring to be candidates must file a petition fifteen days prior to the election. The petition must be signed by ten qualified voters.

After petition has been filed a copy of the official ballot must be published in the County newspapers.

On completion of the election the results shall be announced and filed with the Clerk of Chestertown provided there is no contest of the election. Any candidate may contest the election and the Judge of the Circuit Court for Kent County shall have jurisdiction to determine such contest.

ARTICLE 6

Elected Officers

Section A. List and Qualifications.

The government of the Town shall be vested in a Mayor and four Councilmen, the later to be a resident one in each of the four wards of said town. The Mayor shall be a registered voter not less that twenty-five years of age, a citizen of the United States, an owner of real estate amounting to Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) and shall have been a resident within the limits of said town at least two years previous to the election.

The Councilmen shall have the same qualifications as does the Mayor and in addition, at the time of his election and during the entire term of office shall reside in the ward which he is elected to represent.

Section B. Duties and Authority of the Mayor.

The Mayor shall be the executive officer of the Town and it shall be his duty to see that all ordinances thereof are duly enforced, he shall have the general supervision over all departments and employees.

The Mayor shall be president of the Council, preside at the meetings, discuss and vote on any question, but have no power to veto. All ordinances to become effective must be signed by the Mayor and two Councilmen or by three Councilmen.

The Mayor with the Approval of the Council shall make all contracts, purchase material and supplies and employ such laborers as may be required for the work ordered done by the Town Council. He may remove any officer, agent or employee and regulate the duties of all employees but shall report same to the Council.

Section C. Duties of the Councilmen.

The Council shall meet on the first Monday of every month, all regular meetings and special meetings, to be open to the public.

In case of disability of the Mayor the Council shall elect one of their number as Acting Mayor, who shall have all the powers and perform all the duties of the Mayor.

The Mayor and two Councilmen shall consitute a quorum and in the absence of the Mayor, three Councilmen present and voting shall constitute a quorem for the transaction of business, three affirmative votes shall be required for the passage of any measure.

The Mayor and Town Council shall be vested with the power and charged with the duty of making all laws and ordinances not inconsistent with the Constitution and Laws of the State. Ordinances shall be published in the County papers.

Section D. Duties and Authority of the "Mayor and Council."

The Mayor and Council shall meet for qualification on the first Monday night of June, 1931, and in April, 1933, andevery two years thereafter. They shall have control and supervision of all departments of said Town and the power to make and enforce such rules and regulations as they see fit to prescribe, have control, management and operation of said departments.

The Mayor shall appoint with the advise and confirmation of the Council the following officers.

One Town Clerk.
One Solicitor.
One Town Engineer.
One Chief of Police.

All such officers shall receive such salary as the Mayor and Council may by ordinance provide, shall hold office for two years or until his successor is elected and qualified.

The Mayor and Council may provide for the appointment of such other officers and employees as may be deemed necessary.

The Mayor shall appoint with the confirmation of the Council the following committees with the Mayor as chairman of each committee.

A. "Public Safety," consisting of two members of the Council who shall have charge of the enforcement of police regulations and general supervision of the Fire Company.

B. "Water," consisting of the Councilmen, and one person not a member of the Council but with equal qualifications and authority, to maintain and operate the Water Works with the same power and authority as does the Water Board of Chestertown.

C. "Streets, Sewers, Garbage, Electricty and Gas;" consisting of two members of the Council who shall have supervision over these departments, charged with keeping the streets and public grounds clean and sanitary and with all public improvements and see that contracts are faithfully carried out.

D. "Buildings and Parks;" consisting of two members of the Council who shall have charge of all buildings in said Town. And see to the safety and convenience of the Citizens and to the enforcement of all regulations pertaining to same. They shall have supervision for over all public parks, public squares and play grounds, and see that same are kept clean and sanitary.

The Mayor and Town Council may provide by ordinance that may seem proper for the Town government and such ordinance shall be binding.

The Mayor and any Councilman who should fail to perform any duties may be removed from office—by a vote of three-fifths of the members of the Council after proper charges have been brought and a trial held, appeal may be taken to the Circuit Court for Kent County who shall have full jurisdiction of same.

Duties of the Clerk

The Clerk of the Town Council, shall not be a member thereof. He shall act as secretary and clerk to the Council, collector of taxes and treasurer. He shall receive such salary and compensation as may be fixed by the Mayor and Town Council and performs such duties as may be imposed by ordinance and law.

He shall keep the assessment books and collect all taxes and report the same to the Mayor and Town Council at every regular meeting.

He shall execute a bond with corporate surety approved by the Mayor and Town Council.

Duties of the Solicitor

The Town Solicitor shall handle all legal business in connection with the corporation. He shall prepare ordinances, contracts, deeds and all legal papers of the Mayor and Town Council.

Duties of the Town Engineer

He shall perform and have charge of all work ordered by the Mayor and Town Council.

Duties of the Chief of Police

The Chief of Police shall hold office for two years or until his successor is qualified. He shall within the limits of the said town and one mile beyond have all the police powers of a constable of the State of Maryland, and receive the same fee when acting in such capacity out side of town limits. He shall enforce all ordinances and the laws of the State of Maryland in relation to crimes and misdemeanors.

He may be suspended with out pay for thirty days for neglect of duty, but shall have the right to appear and defend himself after charges in writing have been made.

General Powers

The Town Council shall have the power to prescribe all ordinances not contrary to the Constitution and laws of the State of Maryland as they may deem necessary. The general good of the town, for the protection of property, for the preservation of peace and order, for the protection of health, comfort and convenience of the citizens, for the appointment of a Board of Health for the establishing and maintaining a fire department, for the establishing and maintaiinng an adequate police force or the control, erection and inspection of buildings, for the collection and disposition of garbage, for the regulation and control of traffic and for all other purposes for the good of the Town.

Streets

The Mayor and Council shall have the power to establish, grades of sidewalks and streets and to abandon same in whole or part after proper publication of their intentions. The Commissioners of Kent County are authorized to continue the support for the maintainence of the streets of Chestertown as outlined in the original Charter.

Sewers

Sanitary sewerage and storm water drainage systems shall be provided and the costs assessed in whole or part against the abutting property.

Contracts

No officer or employee may make a contract, or incur any obligation against the town with out the written authority of the Mayor and Town Council.

Condemnation

Property may be condemned as prescribed in Article 23 of the Annotated Code of the General Laws of Maryland.

Franchises

Franchises may be granted for below on or above the streets or public property of said town, when deemed necessary, after it has been published in the newspapers of Chestertown. No right so granted shall continue longer that twenty years.

Fire Company

May provide and maintain a Fire Company.

Garbage

To provide a special tax not to exceed five cents for the collection and disposal of garbage and refuse.

Finances

The Mayor and Town Council shall not in any one year expend for the general use of the town more money than they receive for taxes, from the County Commissioners of Kent County or from any other source.

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year shall begin on January 1st and end on December 31st, of each and every year.

Budget

In March the Mayor and Council shall make appropriations for every department of the town government. They shall also provide a contingent fund not to exceed ten percent of the total amount of budget.

Audit

On or before the first day of March an audit shall be made of the books and transactions of the corporation and some shall be published in the newspapers of Chestertown.

Attendance

Officers and employees when requested must attend meetings of the Mayor and Council. They shall have the privilege of discussion but no vote.

Section E. Terms of Office and Compensation.

The Mayor shall receive annually the sum of Three Hundred dollars ($300.00) paid quarterly. He shall serve for a term of two years or until his successor is elected and qualified. The Council shall receive one dollar ($1.00) per diem for each and every meeting of said Mayor and Council, and shall serve for a term of four years or until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

Section F. Vacancies and Removal.

In case of a vacancy in the office of the Mayor or Council the Council at their next regular meeting shall elect one suitable person as Mayor or Councilman, who shall qualify and serve out the unexpired term.

Section G. Appointment, Duties and Removal.

The Mayor and Council have the authority to create, fill and discontinue all offices and employees herein prescribed and may remove the occupants of said offices.

In case of removal for cause said officer shall have the right of appeal with trial and be represented by counsel.

ARTICLE 7

Assessment and Taxes

The Mayor and Council shall have the right to assess for general purposes of the corporation within the town limits, or may use the assessment made by the State or County. The tax rate shall not exceed $.75 on every $100.00.

The Clerk of the town of Chestertown after the tax rate has been established shall mail to every taxpayer a bill. Taxes will be due and payable on September 1, if not paid on January 1 interest will be charged.

Taxes not paid by March or after proper notice be given, the Town Council have the authority to sell such property for the amount of taxes and expenses. No property can be sold for less than the total amount due the corporation. In case no bid is received it shall be sold to the Mayor and Town Council. The property shall be held for one year and one day and if not redeemed the Mayor and Town Council may sell at private or public sale any such property.

ARTICLE 8

All ordinances shall remain effective until repealed.

ARTICLE 9

The rights acquired under the old Charter shall not be impaired or chaned gy the passage of this act, and all contracts and obligations will continue in full force.

ARTICLE 10

All officers and offices shall continue until their successors shall be duly qualified.

To Foretell Change of Weather, Watch Spider

It is not everybody who can afford to buy a barometer, but no one who possesses even the smallest of back gardens need be at the mercy of the vagaries of climate. The discovery has been made that spiders are quite good substitutes for barometers, providing one has time to study them. Here are some hints as to how to "read" spiders in relation to the weather. If your spider is lazy and sits complacently thinking of those things that occupy the spider mind, then it is a sign that it is going to rain, but if it busies itself and runs here and there in the rain, fine weather is likely to follow soon. Before putting on the filmy frock, see if the spiders have made their webs with the filaments—the supporting "strands" so to speak—shorter than usual. If they have done so, don't wear anything that will spoil in the rain, for the weather will very probably prove to be unpleasant. On the other hand, if these filaments are unusually long the sun will shine and a perfect day will result. For those romantic young people who are fond of moonlight walks, it should be pointed out that if they see a spider change the construction of its web between the hours of six and seven in the evening, they will not need an umbrella. These are the conclusions of one who has made a study of the habits of spiders for years.

Irony Proved Boomerang

Lord Bowen, in his early days at the bar, prosecuted a prisoner who had been caught in a house at midnight crawling downstairs with his boots off, laden with plunder, relates a columnist in the Manchester (England) Guardian. The evidence was so overwhelming that Bowen indulged in a little irony, remarking on the thoughtfulness of the prisoner in removing his boots, so as not to disturb the slumbers of the family. The jury was so impressed with this extenuating circumstance that they returned a verdict of not guilty.



NOLAND

WISHING YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

We thank our customers and friends for their generous patronage during the holidays and the past year and hope we have pleased you. We thank our sales force for their loyal service, especially during the rush of holiday business when they have tried so cheerfully to take care of their extra duties in a helpful and efficient manner. On behalf of the public, and ourselves, we say to them "WELL DONE".

Wm. Medders & Co, "KEEPING A BETTER STORE" Still Pond, Md

We make FREE DELIVERY via ERICSSON TRUCK to your town

We Begin Our "JANUARY SALE" Next Week

Many New Things For The HOME Will Be Needed In The New Year

BEST 50C WINDOW CURTAINS NOW 35c

BEST 75C WINDOW CURTAINS NOW 50c

The $50.00 New Bengal, Double Heaters, only..... $37.50

New Rugs All Reduced

Smith's Axminster, full seamless Rugs, size 9x12. $40.00 value $29.50
The $25.00 Body Brussels Rugs. On sale..... 19.50
The 18.00 New Art Rugs. Pretty colors..... 14.50
The 17.50 Rattan Rugs. All New Patterns..... 12.50
The New "Gold Seal" Congoleum Rugs Size 9x12..... 8.50

MATTRESSES MUCH LOWER IN PRICE



THE STERNS & FOSTER MATTRESSES REDUCED

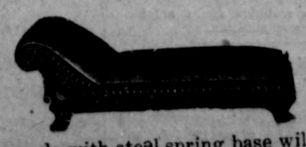
The $20 High-Grade Sterns and Foster Mattresses are extra quality, and we place them on sale at only..... $13.50
The $15.00 Layer Felt Mattress are now $10.00
The $12.50 Mattresses are now..... $8.50
The $10.00 All Cotton Mattress are now..... $6.50

These are the lowest prices we have ever known on good Mattresses.

NEW BEDS AT LOWER PRICES



Made in All sizes and all colors
Prices $6.50, $8.50, $10.50, $12.50

$19.00  $22.50

Couches made with steel spring base will not sag

$22.50 Couches at..... $19.00 | $35.00 Couches at..... $29.00
$25.00 Couches at..... $22.50 | $45.00 Couches at..... $39.00

HOT AIR WOOD STOVES REDUCED



We are showing a large line of Wood Stoves, "Big and Little." Prices Much Lower.

THE NEW SWING TOP HOT AIR STFVES



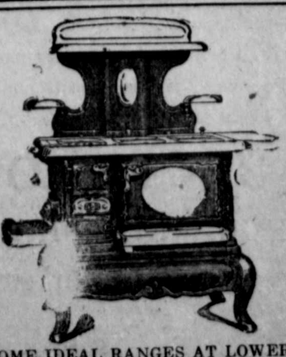
The entire top of Stove swings off admitting large chunks of wood.

They are powerful heaters.

EVERY STOVE REDUCED

The $15.00 Hot Air Stoves are only..... $10.00
The $20.00 Hot Air Stoves are only..... $15.00
The cheaper heaters at..... $2.85, $3.50, $4.50

Only $32.50



Only $32.50

THE HOME IDEAL RANGES AT LOWER PRICES

You get the car-load price on this Grand Range, $32.50, Every stove sold on a guarantee. The "Home Ideal Range," a perfect baker, requires little fuel and you now get these Best Ranges for only..... $32.50

We Keep Rapairs for the Home Cemfort Ranges

©Maryland State Archives msa_sc3326_scm8226-0454