



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Timothy Fitzgibbons called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on January 9, 2018 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Francis Sousa, Dennis Gallagher, Peter Colombotos, and Shawn George (arriving at 7:42 p.m.). Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- 1 Councilor Vacancy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed including:

- Clive F. Meyers
- Richard Landry

APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Fitzgibbons read a letter from Knights of Columbus thanking the town for allowing them to hold their Tootsie Roll Drive.
- President Fitzgibbons announced he would appoint Councilor Frank Sousa to the Community & Economic Development Committee to fill the vacant seat left by Councilor Perry.
- President Fitzgibbons recognized today is National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

- Community & Economic Development Director – Jennifer Lynn Burke
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Colombotos. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Ms. Burke and briefly outlined her experience.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

- Mr. Jim Paskell – Various Upcoming construction Projects
Mr. Jim Paskell came forward and introduced himself and Mr. Troy Clarkson. Mr. Paskell explained they were here to outline a plan of development for downtown. The plan includes, several properties in downtown, running from 60 Broad Street to 86 Broad Street as well as 63 and 65. Mr. Paskell feels this development can be great for Bridgewater and the fuel for downtown revitalization. Mr. Paskell then introduced Troy Clarkson who will be assisting with the proposal. Mr. Clarkson referenced a presentation (included in materials). He spoke about the properties Mr. Paskell owns and has revitalized in town and the resources used to create the proposal. Mr. Clarkson highlighted areas where the proposed plan can assist with redevelopment. Mr. Clarkson noted one of the goals for this evening is to consider putting together a group of officials in town to meet and discuss the plan. Mr. Clarkson noted the total number of residential 1 and 2-bedroom units (all rentals) as 80 in 5 buildings which could include 10-12 commercial spaces. He spoke about additional benefits as: meal tax revenue increase, Affordable Housing Trust donations, public parking, Fulfillment of stated goals, and elimination of blight. He then spoke briefly about the zoning bylaws and special permitting process. Finally, Mr. Clarkson stated they would like



to form a task force to brainstorm about issues and to work together. Mr. Paskell walked through the project using the renderings provided.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked if the building height might be about the same as Pope Hall (at BSU). Mr. Paskell confirmed that was correct. At Mr. Wood's request, Mr. Paskell described the size of the residential rental units as 850 – 1150 square foot units.
- Councilor George asked if there will be one entrance off Broad Street. Mr. Paskell responded there would be one entrance (on one building), but it's two car widths so there shouldn't be a bottle neck. Councilor George expressed concern about traffic on Broad Street which is already difficult. How will you address those issues? Mr. Paskell explained his hope that residents will embrace the idea of downtown living and further pointed out historically if residents are granted two parking spaces, a high percentage only use one.
- Councilor Losche asked how they're looking to fill the retail spaces? Mr. Paskell responded he is trying to work with contacts in the city. He is also hopeful some people may want to modernize their space.
- Councilor Colombotos stated his concern around the density. Mr. Paskell responded they have already found in the town that 15-18 doesn't work. That's why the properties are sitting the way they are. Councilor Colombotos pointed out the bylaws state 30% of gross floor area is commercial and no residential on first floor. Mr. Paskell responded they will be proposing removing the residential from the first floor.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to form a committee including:

- Councilor Wood
- Councilor Colombotos
- Tony Aveni
- Pat Driscoll
- Town Manager and/or his designees

The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

- Financial Update – Anthony Sulmonte, Finance Director
Finance Director, Anthony Sulmonte offered a presentation on the Town's current fiscal condition. As he began, he noted, the challenge is to maintain discipline. Mr. Sulmonte spoke about budget to actual, Local Receipts and the Operating Budget. He explained Free Cash and the money allocations. Mr. Sulmonte then spoke about End of Year Reserves; projected local receipts and the Operating Budget. He highlighted a prior year one-time reserve offset adjustment. Mr. Sulmonte spoke about the outlook for FY19 providing details on the General Fund revenue projections. He cited the revenue sharing projection as \$798,616.

Seeing no objection, President Fitzgibbons moved to the Joint Meeting.

DISCUSSIONS *(Taken out of order)*

- **Joint Meeting with Town Manager, Finance Committee and School Committee Chair (or designee)**
Committee Chair, Patricia Riley, called the Special Meeting of the School Committee to order at 8:56 p.m. She introduced those present as: Vice Chair, Michael Dolan, Superintendent, Derek Swenson, Jason Hammond, Lillian Holbrook, Kevin Moreira, Julie Scleparis, and Dr. Prewandowski.
President Fitzgibbons stated he wanted to hear from the School Committee first.
Superintendent Swenson explained; the FY19 budget is underway. They are creating the preliminary budget which will be presented 1/24/18 at the School Committee Meeting which will be held at the Raynham Middle School at 7:00 p.m.
Mr. Swenson stated there has been an increase in the K-4 student population; therefore, there will be additional staffing requests. There has been an increase in social and emotional issues, so they will look to increase social and emotional supports, especially from early intervention.
Superintendent Swenson stated public hearing will be 3/7/18 with a final vote on 3/28/18.
School Committee Vice Chair, Mr. Dolan pointed out class size continues to be a challenge and we need to be mindful.

Council Questions



- President Fitzgibbons clarified; the school budget has nothing to do with the Mitchell School process, which is on a separate track. Mr. Swenson agreed and gave a brief update stating, the School Building Committee authorized moving forward to negotiate with the top candidate for OPM. He is confident they will be able to put something in place by close of business tomorrow.

School Committee Chair, Patricia Riley adjourned the meeting at 9:03 p.m.

Return to regular order of business: Town Manager Report

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: an update on the snow storm and snow removal. Mr. Dutton noted the DPW continues to clear the sidewalks and thanked all who helped to clear fire hydrants. Mr. Dutton spoke about the students from Bristol-Plymouth who have begun to do some work on the 2nd floor for Town Hall. He provided an update on the town email server, which has been down due to the severe cold noting the company continues to work to resolve the issue. The Water Department will begin the water meter installation project in January. Mr. Dutton has been meeting with Dr. Hunt. They are looking to form an Ad Hoc committee to look at the 2014 Downtown Redevelopment Report. Mr. Dutton briefly reminded all that census’ are due and dog licensing is included with the census now and nomination papers are out for the 2018 election.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Colombotos asked if we will apply for additional monies through Green Communities? Mr. Dutton responded he thinks the grant applications are due in March. One project on the list is a LED replacement project. At Councilor Colombotos’ request, Mr. Dutton stated he believes there was one interested citizen for the vacant councilor seat.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-2017-039: Procure Services for a Zoning Consultant
This measure was postponed.
- Order O-FY18-015: Transfer Order - Temporary Consulting Services - Community & Economic Development
The Town Manager withdrew this measure as a Community & Economic Development Director was appointed.
- Order O-FY18-016: Acceptance of Gift(s) - Legion Field Gazebo Renovations
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to amend by adding “community partners of \$6,250” after various and adding “and the Bridgewater State University Foundation” in explanation. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-0.
Discussion (on main motion): Councilor Wood thanked everyone who participated in the gift.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion to approve, as amended, passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY18-018: Affix Town Clerk Salary
This measure was postponed.
- Order O-FY18-019: Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification – Bridgewater Police Association
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly outlined the highlights of the agreement. President Fitzgibbons asked if this contract is sustainable. Mr. Dutton responded that was correct.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

- Ordinance D-FY18-009: General Ordinance – Amend Tax Fees Table – Retail Tax on Marijuana Sales
This measure was postponed.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY18-020: Conservation Restriction – Deer Hollow Wildlife Trust, Inc (Colonial Drive)
Mr. Dutton explained the Conservation Restriction. Councilor Wood requested a map and asked if this would fall under the other catalog with areas of open space and conservation for usage and stewardship. Mr. Dutton responded there is no stewardship responsibility, we just hold the conservation easement.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Haley to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: None.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Losche: Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Councilor Wood: Spoke about the volunteer program at the High School, noting many of the kids doing volunteer hours helped the Lions in taking down the holiday decorations.
- Councilor Haley: Spoke about the snow storm and comments on social media; stating he thought the roads were great.
- Councilor Sousa: Wished all a Happy New Year.
- Councilor Gallagher: Wished all a Happy New Year and Thanked the DPW for their work during the storm. Mr. Gallagher appreciated the Finance Director's presentation this evening. He then announced he will be running for reelection and hopes to continue to serve.
- Councilor Colombotos: For citizens who are looking to get involved, Councilor Wood has started a Facebook page called Bridgewater Roundtable, noting it's a good forum as a stepping stone to getting involved.
- Councilor George: Wished all a Happy New Year. He hopes some of the citizens who attended recent past meetings choose to volunteer and get involved. Mr. George thanked Public Safety, Public Works, and the School District for all their work they did to keep everyone safe during the storm and reminded all that it's always a good idea to check on a neighbor.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked the people in Town and the School Department who worked hard to get us through the storm. Mr. Fitzgibbons also recognized National Grid for all the work they did in trimming back trees to help reduce power outages, noting we had minimal power loss. Regarding the presentation on Broad Street; he believes the ad hoc committee can work with the proponent to try and find something that works for the town.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor George. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.
Minutes submitted by: Ann Holmberg

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (5-0) (1 Councilor Vacancy, Councilors Sousa and George absent, and Councilor Wood not present for vote).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk