



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Edward Haley called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on January 22, 2019 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Peter Colombotos, William Wood, Dennis Gallagher, Edward Haley, Fred Chase, Shawn George, Aisha Losche (arriving at 7:50 p.m.), and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT: *No Councilors were absent.*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**President Haley announced the meeting was being aired live and recorded.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 18, 2018

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.

Discussion: None

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

- January 8, 2019

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Gallagher. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

Discussion: Councilors Fitzgibbons and Sousa noted they will abstain as they were not present for the meeting.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0-2 (Councilors Fitzgibbons and Sousa abstained).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Marilee Kenney Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Ms. Hunt spoke about the upcoming order to affixing the Town Clerk's salary. She presented a letter to the Council, which was handed out by Councilor Gallagher (included with materials). She reminded the Council she takes no benefits from the Town and takes minimal time off. She asked the Council to consider the median salary of Town Clerks. She then spoke about the ballot question. Ms. Hunt does not support making the Town Clerk an appointed position and will campaign against it should it go to the voters as one question.

APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2019-003: Renewal of Class II Auto Dealer's License – Twins Truck & Auto Sales and Repair, 365 Elm Street

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.

Discussion: None

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

PRESENTATIONS

- Mitchell School Building Committee Progress Update

Councilor Fitzgibbons began the presentation by thanking the committee and the OPM for coming out this evening. Mr. Dutton introduced Shane Nolan, who came forward and provided a brief history. Mr. Nolan introduced Gene Raymond and John Bartecchi from Raymond Design Associates. He also introduced, Superintendent Swenson, Mike Dolan and Lil Holbrook of the School Committee. He explained; the committee



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019

has looked at 11 different options. They will be looking to move forward with one option Monday night. We need to submit the PSR (Preferred Schematic Phase) to the MSBA by February 20th.

Councilor Wood stated he reviewed the November presentation, then asked Mr. Nolan if they are actively working with state designers? Mr. Nolan responded; they are working locally. The state reviews when we submit to the PDP (Preliminary Design Program).

Mr. Nolan answered multiple questions from councilors, clarifying that through the process they looked at multiple sites early on. He spoke briefly about the citizen voting, noting that overwhelmingly, the new construction options were preferred, and about the process going forward. He explained, Monday evening he there will be a presentation to the School Building Committee with updated cost estimates. At that meeting they'll be asking the School Building to vote on an option. At Councilor Gallagher's request, Mr. Nolan confirmed all five options include the site the school is currently on. He further confirmed the school does not sit on swamp land, but actually sits on very dry soil. He believes any water issues are due to the way the water sheds. At President' Haley's request, Mr. Nolan ran through the five options: a renovation option, two renovation/addition options (which are pretty much gut renovation projects), and two new construction projects (tear down). Mr. Nolan explained; simply correcting the problem in the existing building is not reimbursable by MSBA. Additionally, if the SBA approves the School Building Committee's choice and the Town votes not to fund the project, the Town would be back at square one in the process. Mr. Nolan then spoke about a potential timeline, stating it's probably a 14-16-month project and assuming approval from the Town in fall, design could start as soon as possible. Mr. Gene Redment, Architect, came forward and spoke briefly about potential footprints for different buildings, noting new buildings would be three floors and do not have courtyards.

Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked everyone for coming in tonight. He encouraged everyone to come to the meeting next Monday here at 6:30 p.m. Mike Dolan provided the project website information:
bridgewater-school-prjct.com

- Presentation of Road and Sidewalk Study

Mr. Dutton prefaced the presentation noting, this is not the final report. He then explained the Street Scan came in; drove every (town-owned) road in Town and assigned a grade to each one. Mr. Dutton projected the software used and the different grades assigned to roads throughout Town. He presented a graph which demonstrated the overall conditions of the roads in town. Councilors asked several questions about the program and graphs and reports presented. Mr. Dutton pointed out; the caveat is, the grading doesn't take into account what's underneath the road (i.e., drainage). Councilor Wood asked; how the information in the app will be communicated to the Town? Mr. Dutton responded; once complete, we can do .pdf's of the screen.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: Work on the Municipal Vulnerability preparedness workshop is in progress. It identifies natural and manmade disasters that may occur. Participation puts the Town in good position for future grant funding. The Town rolled out paid parking, which was uneventful. However, university students and staff will be back this week but should be aware of the program. The permitting process for Debarlow warehouse facility continues. It is a 300-400 square foot facility. Mr. Dutton noted; while he was at the MMA conference, he had a brief conversation with the auditors. They were pleased with our performance over the last few years. Finally, Mr. Dutton stated he attended the DEP hearing on the High Street Water Plant today.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked if the parking meters are in effect Saturdays? Mr. Dutton responded; when the ordinance passed it was for Monday – Friday. Saturday and Sunday are exempt.

DISCUSSIONS - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-FY19-004: General Ordinance - Acceptance of MGL c.40, Section 22A, 22B, 22C Concerning Parking Meters



Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Councilor Wood briefly explained; when this is put in place it allows us to set up a special fund for the parking meter dollars so we can use the funds for improvements.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; George - YEA; Losche – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY19-038: Adoption of MGL c. 147 x. 21A - Authorizing the Appointment of Police Cadets

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons advised, the Public Safety Committee recommended this measure unanimously.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Losche – YEA; George – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY19-039: Home Rule Petition - Authorizing the Town of Bridgewater to Appoint Police Cadets

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons briefly explained; the Police Chief and Town Attorney believe the Town needs the Home Rule Petition Legislature, which is the reason for two pieces of legislation.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; George - YEA; Losche – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-040: Affix Town Clerk Salary

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-041: Loan Order - Elm Street Project

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-042: Loan Order - First Street Project

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-043: Acceptance of Non-Recurring Revenue to Capital ****(Corrected Title)***

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-044: Ballot Question - Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter Changes

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to accept as a first reading. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.



Discussion: Councilor George asked Mr. Dutton why the legislature is making us take this on as one question. Mr. Dutton responded; he does not know. Councilor Gallagher followed up asking; if they sent something in writing? Mr. Dutton responded; they provide the language as part of the legislation. Discussion followed as Councilors asked questions relative to the next cycle of potential Charter Revisions.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-045: Contract Ratification – Town Manager

Motion: A motion to accept as a first reading was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY19-046: Adoption of 5-Year Capital Plan

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Dutton how much will we be asking the citizens to pay in a debt exclusion? Mr. Dutton responded; there are several projects that we don't have final costs on yet. Mr. Fitzgibbons asked the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee to think about that. Councilor Wood pointed out; the document has a lot of great information in it. Councilors should review and send questions to the Council Clerk and she can forward them to the committee.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-047: 2019 Capital Plan Funding

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: No comments.
- Councilor Losche: Thanked the presenters this evening. She hopes people took time to reflect on Martin Luther King Day.
- Councilor George: Echoed Ms. Losche's comments. Great job to the Highway Department over the last few days. They did a great job with limited resources.
- Councilor Chase: Thanked Police Chief for the time he spent with Public Safety Committee.
- Councilor Gallagher: Agreed the Highway Dept did a great job this weekend. Mr. Gallagher attended MMA conference in Boston.
- Councilor Wood: We have reached a major milestone tonight. We finally have a revised Charter to put before the voters to vote up or down on it.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked the Town Manager, Community & Economic Development Director, and Planning Board in getting a commitment from the distribution center up on Elm Street.
- Councilor Sousa: No comments.
- Councilor Haley: No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to move into Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to adjourn from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Losche – YEA; George – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 22, 2019

ADJOURNMENT

Open session adjourned at 9:31 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, February 5, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a roll call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk