



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Timothy Fitzgibbons called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:32 pm, on January 23, 2018 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Aisha Losche, William Wood (arriving at 7:34 p.m.), Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, and Peter Colombotos. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- 1 Councilor Vacancy
- Councilor Shawn George
- Councilor Francis Sousa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Jeff Melford
- Alan Auglis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- December 19, 2017

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 5-0.

- January 9, 2018

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Due to absence of councilors the President asked the Council Clerk to postpone adding the District 4 Councilor candidates to the agenda.
- President Fitzgibbons read an announcement for an event The Art and Green Infrastructure with Eco-Artist Stacy Levy on January 29th at 4:30 p.m. RSVP to the Town Clerk.

**7:34 p.m., Councilor Wood entered the meeting.*

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

- Master Plan Committee – *Matthew Gerritsen*

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

- Zoning Board of Appeals – *Anna Klimas*

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

- Elder Affairs Commission – *Debra Heckbert*



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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

- Planning Board (Alternate) – *Michael MacDonald*

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

Discussion: At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton clarified the role of alternate; stating when a Planning Board member needs to be absent for an issue/hearing or are conflicted, then the alternate will step into the seat.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: Jennifer Burke will be starting as Community & Economic Development (CED) Director on February 5th. The Town has received the 40B application for the Burrill Avenue property. The proposal calls for 60 units on approximately two acres. The Zoning Board of Appeals will be opening that hearing tomorrow night. The Finance Department finished working with the auditors on the FY17 Audit. The report has been released, but there is no the management letter yet. Once the management letter is received, we will release it to the Council. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the Roadways Department's work on snow and ice removal, noting one of the sidewalk plow is down. He further noted the they cleared Central Square of snow once this season. The cost to clear Central Square of snow runs about \$9,000. Mr. Dutton updated all on the progress at Town Hall, noting; new temporary heating is in. Students from Bristol-Plymouth continue to work gutting the electric on the 2nd floor. The Water Department is moving ahead on two major projects. Meter replacement: citizens will be notified when the contractor will be coming out. The High Street Water Treatment Facility project is also moving through the planning process. We have a commitment from the states revolving fund to cover the cost for low or no interest borrowing. The project is delayed by a year. We will need to re-secure the commitment from Clean Water Trust. The Town Council will need to rescind and revote the appropriation due to the project delay. Mr. Dutton also advised; the Water Department is looking to replace water mains next spring. Comcast has submitted their initial renewal proposal, which has been forwarded to the Cable Advisory Committee for review. The Energy Committee is looking at a proposal to convert street lights to LED. Mr. Dutton is getting closer to appointing an Ad Hoc Committee to look at Downtown Revitalization. He expects the committee to be in existence for two - three years. Mr. Dutton reached out to an attorney who specializes in these types of matters to look at the McElwain property. If we move forward, Mr. Dutton will ask him to assist with the negotiation of the Purchase and Sale agreement. He clarified; it is not a low-income development proposal. It is a workforce housing development which is generally defined as units that are affordable to people making 61 – 100% of median area income. It's be mixed income housing. Finally, Mr. Dutton noted; several residents have asked that Town Offices stay open a little later in the evenings. He received feedback from the Rules and Procedures committee and will be making a plan to stay open at least once/month.

Council Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked if there will be a mission statement, etc. for the Ad Hoc Committee? Mr. Dutton responded; yes, he is working on it now. Mr. Wood then noted there seems to be some confusion with the District 4 Councilor vacancy. He requested the Town communicate that the seat is on the ballot.
- President Fitzgibbons noted; other than the Councilor seats on the ballot, there are also School Committee seats, Library Trustee and Town Clerk.

DISCUSSIONS - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-2017-039: Procure Services for a Zoning Consultant

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



Discussion: President Fitzgibbons asked if there was a motion to amend and explained the amendment changed the funding source from Free Cash to Other One Time Revenue.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to amend as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0.

Discussion (on main motion): Councilor Wood noted the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees both voted in favor of this measure. Looking back, he wishes they had hired someone to do the General Bylaws.

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

Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - ABSENT. The motion to approve, as amended, passed 6-0.

- Order O-FY18-018: Affix Town Clerk Salary

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood stated Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee voted in favor of this measure last night.

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

George – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 6-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY18-009: General Ordinance – Amend Tax Fees Table – Retail Tax on Marijuana Sales

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to send to advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

Discussion: Councilor Wood stated, the committees had a discussion last night. We are clearly not taxing retail. However, the town has a host agreement with the medical marijuana company. With this in place, when a retail cultivation company is open it can be taxed. Councilor Gallagher does not think we need to do this. The Town Manager was asked if this was necessary at this point. The Town Manager responded; no, cultivation would be on wholesale basis. Mr. Dutton was asked if the town has full control over license to cultivate? Mr. Dutton responded; that is done at the state level. The town has the ability to control where they can go. Councilor Wood pointed out; this would safeguard against future changes in the law; for instance; if bans are disbanded, then we don't have to go through this again. Discussion continued as Councilors continued to express their opinions and debate the issue.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion to send to advertising failed 3-3 (Councilors Wood, Haley and Fitzgibbons in the minority)

- Order O-FY18-015: Transfer Order - Temporary Consulting Services - Community & Economic Development
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Colombotos. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos explained; there is 2-3 months of salary from the departed Planner and a huge backlog of work to be done. Councilor Wood explained, the notion was to fill the gap while there was a vacancy, but he would like to wait to hear from the office. Mr. Dutton clarified; he did request to withdraw the measure but agrees there are numerous projects that need to be addressed. It would be nice to have the money to refer those projects to. Councilor Wood added; we're not looking for new money. He would support if the Council wanted to vote tonight. Attorney Rawlins advised; the Council may vote this evening.

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

Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - ABSENT. The motion passed 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS - None

CITIZEN COMMENTS



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 23, 2018

- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt appreciates that the Council took up the order to put a consultant in place and cited several projects a consultant can help with.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor George: Absent
- Councilor Colombotos: No comments.
- Councilor Gallagher: Mr. Gallagher thanked the volunteers who were appointed tonight. He spoke about having attended the MMA Annual Conference and got a lot of use out of it.
- Councilor Sousa: Absent
- Councilor Haley: No comments.
- Councilor Vacancy
- Councilor Wood: Mr. Wood was also at the MMA conference and was able to get information on large equipment leasing.
- Councilor Losche: No comments.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Mr. Fitzgibbons thanked his fellow councilors for good meeting. He also thanked the Police Union for signing a good contract.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 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 6, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (5-0) (1 Councilor Vacancy, Councilor Colombotos not present, Councilors Sousa and George abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk