



### **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 February 6, 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 (arriving at 7:44 p.m.), and Shawn George. 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 who have passed since the last meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- January 23, 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 (Councilors George and Sousa abstained).

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

- President Fitzgibbons announced there would be a Home Safety Presentation by the Fire Department Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:45 p.m. at the Bridgewater Senior Center

### **PROCLAMATIONS - None**

### **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: As member of Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect (BCCR) Mr. Baumgarten spoke about upcoming Active Bystander Training (flier included with materials). Budget issues – encouraged the Council to support Superintendent Swenson’s budget specifically for staffing. Finally, Mr. Baumgarten spoke about his concern with the proposed Elm Street ordinances. He advised if the council moves forward, there will be many people who come out to speak against.
- Fred Chase, 60 Old Farm Road: Mr. Chase announced his candidacy for District 4 Seat stating he has been a resident for 30 years and in the district for 14 years. Mr. Chase spoke about his qualifications for the seat, stating he understands this will not come to a vote this evening, but hopes it will next meeting.

### **APPOINTMENTS - None**

### **HEARINGS - None**

### **LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- **PUBLIC HEARING: 7:40 p.m.:** Petition P-2018-001: Application for Restaurant All Alcohol License and Attendant Licenses- Bogart's Pub & Pizza, 14 Summer Street  
President Fitzgibbons opened the hearing at 7:40 p.m.  
President Fitzgibbons asked if the Petitioner wished to speak. The petitioner did not want to speak at that time.  
President Fitzgibbons invited any questions from the public – None came forward.  
President Fitzgibbons asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.  
President Fitzgibbons asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.  
President Fitzgibbons entertained any questions from councilors:
  - At Councilor George’s request, the petitioner confirmed they planned to be closed on Sundays.



- At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed the Fire Department had completed their inspection. President Fitzgibbons closed the hearing at 7:41 p.m.

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

**Discussion:** None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

- Petition P-2018-002: Transfer of Common Victualler License – Mai Cuisine to Sushi King, LLC, d/b/a Mai Franchising, LLC

**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 confirmed the business was inside Roche Bros.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

- Petition P-2018-003: Change of Hours on Common Victualler License – Bridgewater Girls Softball League (BGSL)

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

**Discussion:** At Councilor George's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed their previous hours were Monday – Friday 5 p.m. – 8 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. and closed Sundays. President Fitzgibbons noted this is in his district who are impacted by the lights. He asked the lights are shut off by 10:00 p.m.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

*\*7:44 p.m.: Councilor Colombotos entered the meeting.*

**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 started as Community & Economic Development Director yesterday and has hit the ground running; developing a short list of things to tackle. Mr. Dutton provided a brief history and update on First Street. They reached out to the town six or seven years ago to have the Town pave it. They would now like to install sewer service, which we've been working with them on. It's an easy fix, which is not an expense to the town, but to the property owners. There has been additional activity on Elm Street. There are a couple of properties under purchase & sale agreements. One proposes a large-scale warehouse, multipurpose building. Mr. Dutton brings this up to highlight the road condition on Elm Street. He noted; the town has not received the grant from MassWorks. However, he anticipates being in a much better position to get it the next time they apply. The estimate to fix the road is \$5.2MM. He has asked the Finance Director to look into possible district funding options to finance the Bond. The Housing Production Plan has been completed and should be coming to the Town Council for approval. Then it gets submitted to DHCD. That will help us be able to secure grant funding. The Town has received a draft management letter from the auditors. The Finance Director is completing management responses. Once the finalized letter is received, it will be distributed. There were no major items of concern. The Roadway Superintendent has concerns about trucks we're using for sanding and treating the roads. Many will not pass inspection. The Finance Director is looking for ways to fund replacements. The town has received Comcast's proposal for renewal. The Cable Advisory committee will review. We have received multiple requests for senior discounts. The town doesn't usually negotiate rates but can negotiate many other things. The Downtown Ad Hoc Revitalization Committee has a draft mission and responsibilities. Now we can start reaching out and recruiting for a two to three-year commitment. Mass Housing looked at the proposal for the McElwain School. We have engaged an Attorney to look at the Purchase and Sale. Mr. Dutton advised; Hale Street will see demolition of the old nail factory. The University owns it now and plans to tear it down.

#### **Councilor Questions:**

- Councilor Sousa asked how long the Building Official has been in the position. Mr. Dutton responded, about a year. Councilor Sousa referenced a booklet with permits. Mr. Dutton explained; the Building Inspector is looking to make some changes to streamline the processes for permitting with the new CED Director. Finally, Councilor Sousa noted; the sidewalk on Mary Lane didn't get cleaned after snow storm.



- Councilor Wood asked if the sidewalk plow is still down? Mr. Dutton responded it is back up. Councilor Wood asked if we are staying true to the paving plan presented to the Town Council previously. Mr. Dutton responded; the plan is online and the Superintendent keeps tabs on the progress. He also keeps an eye on when he may need to change the order based on circumstances. Finally, Councilor Wood mentioned the condition of Oak Street.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if there is an ordinance in place requiring citizens to clear snow on the sidewalks in front of their homes. Mr. Dutton confirmed; we do not. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton provided an update on replacing Streetlights with LED, stating the Green Communities grant application is due in March. That will be our primary request. Councilor Colombotos asked how rough a guide is the paving plan? Mr. Dutton responded; the Roadways Superintendent puts together what he anticipates over a four-year period. The town relies solely on Chapter 90 funds, which is about \$740,000/year. As an example, Mr. Dutton explained; we're mid-way through the Cherry Street upgrade. The drainage cost alone is almost \$300,000.

#### DISCUSSIONS

- Precinct 4 Councilor Vacancy  
President Fitzgibbons explained; it was the intent to previously have a vote based on citizens who put their name in. However, there were two councilors who couldn't attend that meeting. Mr. Fitzgibbons wants to make sure everyone is comfortable with moving forward in making an appointment to replace Dr. Perry. Councilor George stated he will not be at next meeting and cannot call in but is comfortable with the rest of the Town Council moving forward. Councilor Wood noted he is on the fence about appointing someone. Nomination papers are still available. He would be concerned that voting an appointment could possibly dampen people pulling papers. He further noted; we are only a few meetings away from election. President Fitzgibbons clarified; any appointment would not be identified on the ballot as candidate for reelection. Hearing no further discussion, President Fitzgibbons directed this item to come back on the agenda for next meeting.

#### SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - *None*

#### LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY18-020: Conservation Restriction - Deer Hollow Wildlife Trust, Inc. (Colonial Drive)  
**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.  
**Discussion:** Councilor George stated he is glad to keep some valuable space open in Bridgewater. Councilor Wood asked if this costs the Town anything? Mr. Dutton confirmed it does not.  
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 passed 8-0.

#### OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY18-007: Parking Ordinance  
**Motion:** A motion to send to advertising was made by Councilor Haley. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.  
**Discussion:** Councilor Colombotos explained the ordinance and the committee disposition to support with a proposed amendment.  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to amend by omitting Spring Street from Section 2. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.  
**Discussion:** Referencing the amendment; Councilor Wood thinks it's helpful to have a high turnover of those parking spots.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-0.  
**Discussion (on main motion to send to advertising):** Councilor Wood spoke to a vendor at MMA (Mass Municipal Association) Conference. Mr. Wood would like to hear financial information on the Municipal Lot. He'd also like clarification on where Broad Street (#3, Section 3) location is. Mr. Dutton explained; the Broad Street locations are spaces that appear to be in Burger King's parking lot but are closes to Broad Street. He then explained; regarding the Municipal log the town would issue an RFP. Not all the spaces would be eligible for paid parking. Some would need to be set aside for firefighter and sticker parking. Councilor Gallagher stated he is not in



support of this at all and asked what the revenue would be. Mr. Dutton responded; revenues are anticipated at \$275,000 annually. He further stated in the RFP; it could be structured so whoever bids on the proposal would cover that cost. Councilor Gallagher asked what the businesses have to say? Mr. Dutton stated; for those that attended meetings; once they understood the intent and purpose, they saw that this would free up their parking spaces. Councilor Haley asked if there is a count? Mr. Dutton responded; there will be approximately 60 total spaces.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to send to advertising, as amended, passed 7-1 (Councilor Gallagher in the minority).

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

President Fitzgibbons read all items under New Business and asked for one motion to refer all.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Losche to refer all items under New Business to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

**Discussion:** Councilor Colombotos asked to hear more about the loan order. Mr. Dutton explained; the Town Council previously voted a loan order based on the Clean Water act. The DEP was pushing towards additional improvements. The Town will still get Clean Water Act funding. Councilor Colombotos asked if the State Revolving Fund has a better rate? Mr. Dutton confirmed; they have a much better rate. Finally, at Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton stated his belief that the term of the loan would be 20 years.

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

- Order O-FY18-021: Rescind Loan Order O-2017-022: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for High Street Water Treatment Facility  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-022: Loan Order – High Street Water Treatment Facility  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-023: Transfer Order – AFSCME Contract Settlement  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-024: Transfer Order – Bridgewater Police Association Contract Settlement Funding  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-025: Transfer Order – Capital Sewer Special Purpose Transfers  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-026: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Sewer and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*
- Order O-FY18-027: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Water and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding  
*Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion and vote above.*

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS - None**

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor George: Echoed Councilor Colombotos' previous comment about the conditions of the roads in town. He feels this is the worst he's ever seen them; however, this is not a reflection on the Highway Department.
- Councilor Colombotos: Also clarified he was not casting aspersions on the Highway Department.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked everyone who came to his coffee on Saturday. He will be back there in June.
- Councilor Sousa: None
- Councilor Haley: None
- Councilor Wood: Thanked all for donations of eyeglasses through the Lion's Donation box. He spoke about the Robotics competition coming up 3/10 and 3/11. Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School is hosting the event. Mr. Wood then spoke about the highlights of the event.
- Councilor Losche: Congratulated Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School Cheerleaders on their State Championships.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Asked Mr. Dutton if there are still openings on Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Dutton responded; yes, there is one opening.



Town of Bridgewater  
Town Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 6, 2018

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *No Executive Session was held.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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 27, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (6-0) (1 Councilor Vacancy, Councilor George absent, Councilor Colombotos not present).**

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

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Ann M. Holmberg  
Town Council Clerk