



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on February 25, 2020 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Fred Chase, Mark Linde, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Matthew Rushton, Aisha Losche, Peter Colombotos and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT: No Councilors were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Edward Caramanica

President Gallagher announced this meeting is being aired live and recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 4, 2020

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0-2 (Councilors Rushton and Linde abstained).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher announced the State of the Town Address will be held March 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.*

APPOINTMENTS

- Maureen Minasian -*Open Space Committee*

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to appoint which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Several Councilors spoke favorably of Ms. Minasian, thanking her for her willingness to serve.

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

HEARINGS -

- **7:33 PM HEARING:** Petition P-2020-004: New Class II Auto Dealer License: Bridgewater Auto Group, Inc. - 567 Main Street

*7:34 p.m., Councilor Sousa recused himself and left his desk.

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:34 p.m.

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the petition noting all requirements have been satisfied.

Gayle Cipitelli came forward and explained she is representing the business, and is a Realtor from Keller Williams

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public

- Keir Howell, 572 Main Street: Relative to the comment that all requirements have been met, Mr. Howell is wondering what requirements have been met and expressed concern for bright lights. He also asked if there would be any trees as a buffer. Mr. Dutton could not speak to the zoning relative to the lights and was not aware of any trees, but stated the building office signed off on the project, all safety inspections have been done and all improvements to the interior of the building have been approved. Ms. Cipitelli stated her client does not want to be a bad neighbor.
- Steve Persell, 5 Magnolia Way: Mr. Persell stated there are not a lot of spots for parking and expressed concern for people parking on the main road. Mr. Dutton responded; parking is not permitted on the main road. They must have customer parking on site. Ms. Cipitelli presented a map showing the parking plan.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- After considering postponing the vote, Councilor Colombotos suggested the council needs to move forward in good faith that the applicant will do the right thing.
- Mr. Linde asked the petitioner; if there is a problem with lighting, can we work with your client. Ms. Cipitelli responded, of course.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0-1 (Councilor Sousa recused)

*7:49 p.m., Councilor Sousa returned to his seat.

- **7:35 p.m.:** Petition P-2020-005: Pole Location - Curve Street

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:49 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this is very simple pole location for Curve Street

Simon Young, Engineer from National Grid came forward and explained, while he is not the engineer for the project, but is here to answer questions. They are relocating the pole as it is currently in the middle of the road, so they'll move it to the side of the road.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Chase confirmed the location of the pole and the fact that it was being relocated.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion:

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

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

- **7:40 p.m.:** Order O-FY20-037: Order of Taking - Property on Elm Street

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:53 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this (process) has been going on for a while. This taking is for road drainage and road widening and is described as a “friendly taking”. It consists of a little more than an acre, most of which is wetland.

Mr. Dutton explained the process, noting it's important to get this done because the contractors are ready to begin.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors: None came forward.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:56 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to amend as indicated which was duly seconded.

Discussion (on amendment): None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion to amend passed unanimously.

Discussion (on main motion): None

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



Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Losche – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; George – YEA; Linde – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion to approve, as amended, passed 9-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

PRESENTATIONS

- Cultural Council

Steve Rogan, Member and Co-Chair came forward discussing the role of the Cultural Council stating the Mass Cultural Council grants each municipality funds to be distributed for grants. The grant cycle and recipients must be publicized. Currently, the council consists of seven members but can have up to 22 members. The committee is much more active meeting once per month; they used to only meet a couple of times/year. Mr. Rogan noted the Cultural Council helped with the funding for the Town Hall feasibility study and gave a brief status update. Mr. Dutton added he believes they intend to get their work done in four months. Mr. Rogan then spoke about other initiatives and a reception they are planning. Councilor Colombotos asked if Mass Cultural Council offers anything towards making a Cultural Center? Mr. Rogan responded; yes, they have had discussions with Mass Cultural Council and an indicator is that we received the feasibility grant.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- Mitchell School Update (*Standing Item*)

The Town Manager's Office is working with the OPM to create a bid package for the demolition. 60% construction drawings are due by 6/2020. Later in summer 90% construction documents. In October we should be at 100% design documents, then we will begin the bid process in November 2020. We are looking to begin construction in December 2020. Total project costs are projected at \$80,600,000; \$46,771,000 of that is owed by tax payers and \$34,000,000 to be reimbursed by MSBA. Materials can be reviewed at www.bridgewaterschoolproject.com Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the timeline is the fastest timeline possible and dependent on state approval? Mr. Dutton confirmed that is correct; the state does lay out a lengthy process, but it is a thorough process ensuring we end up with a quality building.

- Upcoming Events and Updates (*Standing Item*)

A brief discussion took place relative to the topic of "Upcoming Events and Updates" and the potential for councilors to ask questions of the Town Manager that may not be specifically itemized on the agenda. It was suggested the item be removed from the agenda if there are no specific items to list.

- Windstorm Responses

Earlier in month there was a windstorm that resulted in some power outages, which raised questions around town about how we activate the EOC. Mr. Dutton explained about the EOC, which is staffed by paid volunteers. Once activated, there are protocols and procedures to be followed. It is generally not activated unless the state activates. If the EOC is activated with a declared state of emergency, the town is eligible for reimbursement. Mr. Dutton gave examples of incidents that may activate the EOC. Regarding the windstorm, the Fire Chief was told by National Grid (who work together with the Fire Department) that power would be restored by 8pm. The generator in the Academy Building did not trigger during the windstorm, despite weekly testing. The IT Director came down and started the generator and the issue has now been resolved. Councilor George noted he had received calls regarding the power outage in the Common. If we have power out in the Common, he would expect there would be some police presence.

- Updates:

- Town Website

Beginning in March we have the opportunity to revamp and redesign the website. The focus will be on the main page to make it much more dynamic. Encouraged people to email suggestions to

TownManager@bridgewaterma.org

- Parkland Steward Position



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 25, 2020

We are conducting final background checks on a candidate. If all goes well the offer letter should go out Friday.

o Senior Center Work

Mr. Dutton listed numerous activities and events held at the Senior Center as well as efforts towards external beautification. He then spoke about improvements being made inside the building. The Library and Senior Center are connecting, to start a program that brings books to Meals on Wheels clients. There will be substantial improvements to the front area and back parking lots. They can begin the paving to begin the work on pickleball courts. Councilor Sousa asked about ceiling tiles. Mr. Dutton responded he would look into that issue.

- Items for Next Meeting – None were discussed.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY20-045: Establish Town Manager Goals

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to amend as indicated which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Losche explained; Strategic Planning Committee have been meeting. The Town Manager submitted his suggestions for goals. The amended document is the final result. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Ms. Losche for her work on this and pushing to get it done.

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

Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Chase – YEA; Linde – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion to approve, as amended, passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-046: Road and Drainage Betterments - First Street

President Gallagher noted the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3-0 in favor of this order.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

- Petition P-2020-007: Annual Town Election Warrant

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Fitzgibbons asked what would happen if the Council did not approve. Attorney Rawlins responded; it would probably result in a legal action.

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

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY20-004: General Ordinance - Amend Ordinance D-2012-014 - Right to Farm Ordinance

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to table indefinitely which was duly seconded.

Discussion:

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-2 (Councilors Losche and Sousa in the dissent).

- Ordinance D-FY20-005: General Ordinance - Commercial Parking Licensing

Councilor George noted Rules & Procedures committee voted 3-0 to recommend this measure. He then explained; the \$100 license fee is the maximum. His intention in sponsoring this legislation was not to generate revenue. He sees it as a public safety issue.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to send to advertising which was duly seconded.



Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if someone to open up a large commercial lot, would they would be paying taxes on the value of the property? Mr. Dutton confirmed they would.

Councilor Colombotos asked if the zoning code speaks to parking lots? Mr. Dutton responded; it does. Jennifer Burke (Community & Economic Development Director) reviewed this measure; so, we can presume it works with the zoning. The Council briefly discussed whether there should there be a limit to the license?

A voice vote was taken, and the motion to send to advertising passed 9-0.

- Ordinance D-FY20-008: General Ordinance - Rescind Ordinance D-2012-004 Administration & Fiduciary Oversight of Budget - Ambulance Receipts
 This measure could not be taken up pending a disposition from Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY20-047: CPC Transfer - Legion Field Fencing
 Mr. Dutton briefly explained the transfer and what will be funded.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance committees which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Councilor Sousa spoke about the S.A.V.E. program noting they have five openings right now.
- Councilor Chase: Reminded all that the State Presidential Primary is 3/3. He also stated he received a brochure from BSU on Senior College, which appears to have some very good offerings.
- Councilor Linde: Volunteered for Meals on Wheels, which was a great opportunity. He also noted we have a great Library.
- Councilor George: None
- Councilor Rushton: None
- Councilor Losche: None
- Councilor Colombotos: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Wished all B-R Teams good luck.
- Councilor Gallagher: Next meeting will be March 10th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Losche made a motion to adjourn which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 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, March 10, 2020, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
 Town Council Clerk