



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Edward Haley called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:33 pm, on February 26, 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, 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:

- Paul Heerman
- Bernard Tarpey

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 5, 2019

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Danielle Silva, 20 Tommi Ann Terrace: Ms. Silva came as a concerned citizen, parent of children in the school system and a teacher in another community. Ms. Silva spoke about the psycho-social incidents, she asked the Council to level fund the school budget.
- Lilian Holbrook, 45 Driftwood Drive: Ms. Holbrook is not here as school committee member. She spoke about the social/emotional needs of the school aged children. Ms. Holbrook elaborated on the previous speaker's information speaking at length about the psycho-social visits to the school nurse, mobile crisis calls, acute psychiatric crisis. She asked the Council to level fund the school district FY20 budget.

APPOINTMENTS

- Republican Town Committee:
 - Sandra Wright (1 year)
 - Joseph Gillis, Jr (3 years)

Mr. Dutton clarified an error on the agenda. He explained the vote is to make the appointments to the Board of Registrars. They are at the recommendation of the Republican Town Committee. The Town Attorney confirmed this is an acceptable change as all the information is clearly before the council.

Motion: A motion to adjust the agenda to reflect appointments to the Board of Registrars. was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to approve Ms. Wright and Mr. Gillis to the Board of Registrars. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to amend and specify a term of 1-year for Ms. Wright and 3-years for Mr. Gillis. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.



Discussion: None

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood spoke on behalf of both candidates and thanked them for volunteering.
A voice vote was taken and the main motion to approve, as amended, passed unanimously.

HEARINGS -

- **7:35 p.m.:** Petition P-2019-004: Class II Auto Dealer's License Wayne Richard, DBA South Shore Auto Detailing & Window Tinting

President Haley opened the hearing at 7:46 p.m.

President Haley asked the Petitioner to speak. The business owner, Ray Richard, came forward and explained the business.

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

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor George asked if all work will be done inside? Mr. Richard confirmed all work is inside.

President Haley closed the hearing at 7:49 p.m.

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- **7:40 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-041: Loan Order - Elm Street Project

President Haley opened the hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this is a loan order for the Elm Street Project. \$6.5MM project. The Town has been awarded a Massworks Grant which offsets \$3MM of the \$6.5MM. He further explained; when we go through the bonding authorization we ask for the full amount.

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

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Budget & Finance Committee Chair Wood noted the committee met and voted to recommend approval.
- At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton confirmed the term of the bond is 15 years.

President Haley closed the hearing at 7:53 p.m.

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos commended the Town Manager on this initiative.

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 unanimously.

- **7:45 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-042: Loan Order – First Street Project

President Haley opened the hearing at 7:55 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this is similar to the previous order as MassWorks is funding part of the expense. He further pointed out the Council passed an ordinance on Private Roadway improvements.

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

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors – No Councilor questions.



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President Haley closed the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

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

Discussion: Budget & Finance Committee Chair Wood noted the committee met and voted to recommend approval

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 unanimously.

- **7:50 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-046: Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Plan

President Haley opened the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

Mr. Dutton presented the Capital Plan

Finance Director, Anthony Sulmonte

Mr. Dutton spoke about the use of Free Cash in accordance with the Free Cash Policy. He explained the different funding sources. He explained the five-year plan is designed to be flexible to meet changing needs. The primary source of funding is through the Capital Stabilization fund, grant funding, free cash, occasionally a debt exclusion. Mr. Dutton spoke about the capital project process. Mr. Dutton then spoke about the different projects covered in the plan and highlighted projects that would be proposed for debt exclusions.

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

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Gallagher asked what plans we see for road improvements. Mr. Dutton responded; the adoption of the plan points us in the right direction. As an internal policy, we try where we can to make sure Chapter 90 funds are used for maintenance and upkeep. Replacement of roads needs to be a town obligation.
- Councilor Losche asked if there is a plan for the parks? Mr. Dutton responded; going through operational budget process they're trying to find a way to fund some passive recreation needs. On the capital side, they are looking at certain property purchases with grant funding in conjunction with Community Preservation Funding.
- Councilor Chase asked if there is any way to gauge what the impact to the taxpayers for a debt exclusion would be? Mr. Dutton responded; yes, before we begin the process, we would get that information out to people.
- Councilor George asked for explanation on the footnote on the last page of the plan. Mr. Sulmonte explained; it essentially refers to our maximum borrowing capacity. Regarding our standing he explained the difference between the Moody's & Standard & Poors rating and the factors they consider in the lending.
- Councilor Wood reminded all that this is a plan and asked what the best way for the Council to communicate to the Finance area items we'd like to see moved up or down in the plan? Mr. Dutton responded; some sort of vote by the Council – perhaps a resolution expressing your wishes would probably be appropriate. Councilor Wood suggested it may be a good idea to add that to the Budget Resolution each year. Mr. Wood asked how we reconcile the (school) districts capital plan with the town's capital plan? Mr. Dutton responded; to the extent we know what the district is thinking, we can plug that in.
- Councilor Colombotos expressed concern about the pedestrian and bicycle improvements which are pushed out to 2024. Mr. Sulmonte explained; that will require alternative funding sources.



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- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the Town Manager anticipated coming to the council for a debt exclusion in 2019 for anything outside the school? Mr. Dutton responded; probably not in 2019. At Mr. Fitzgibbons' request, he confirmed there was \$35MM owed in OPEB.

President Haley closed the hearing at 8:46 p.m.

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

Discussion: Budget & Finance Committee Chair Wood noted the committee met and voted to recommend approval as did the Finance Committee. He further noted the Finance Director has been working with the committee to keep us informed of the plan.

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 unanimously.

- **8:00 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-047 – 2019 Capital Plan Funding

President Haley opened the hearing at 8:47 p.m.

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the different projects being funded with this request.

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

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked why the replaced marked cruisers weren't being funded through the revolving fund. Finance Director, Anthony Sulmonte responded; the receipts that go into that fund take several years to equate to one cruiser.

President Haley closed the hearing at 8:54 p.m.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood explained; this is the implementation of a portion of the plan we just adopted. He further noted the Budget & Finance Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval.

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 unanimously.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

PRESENTATIONS

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 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program has had a couple of very productive meetings. The Planning Board and Conservation Commission have approved Debardlow's facility on Elm Street. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on the Comprehensive Plan process; stating it is progressing nicely. The Planning Board and CEDC have held hearings on marijuana table of uses and will have proposed revisions which will be on the next agenda. There will also be a first reading of a special permit criteria ordinance. Mr. Dutton clarified; there has been some confusion about the Mitchell School. There seems to be the worry that it's already been voted and we're about to break ground. The school is a multi-step process. Whatever we do will be subject to a town-wide vote sometime later in the fall.

Council Questions:

- Councilor George asked about the operational plan? He still feels we're way too conservative in revenue projections and doesn't understand why prison mitigation isn't included in the revenue sources. Mr. Dutton explained; the budget resolution has been crafted to allow for some flexibility and we have looked at what you've brought up.



- Councilor Gallagher feels the town will get another \$1.5MM in free cash again this year after looking at the preliminary budget. He then asked about the Highway Barn. Mr. Dutton responded we are on track to give you a full packet on the Highway Barn.
- Councilor Wood asked if there is anything, we should change to make it more predictable? Mr. Dutton responded; we're doing as good a job as we can do to predict.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons addressed the process for the Mitchell School.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair Wood spoke about the upcoming Budget season. He reminded all that everyone is invited to every meeting when we discuss the budget.
- Rules & Procedures: Committee Chair Losche stated the committee went over the orientation process. She spoke about doing it the first Saturday in May.
- Strategic Planning: Committee Chair Losche stated the committee is looking to formulate goals for the Town Manager and a timeline for the review process every year.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

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

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to amend the salary amount to \$75,000 annually. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

Discussion: Councilor Wood briefly explained how the position came to be part-time. We are not a small town; this position should be paid as a professional position. Discussion briefly turned to how the next incoming Town Clerk's salary would be assigned.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out; he has heard several times from fellow Councilors, the Town Clerk does a great job, but we don't have an evaluation though. It was pointed out the citizens do the final evaluation at the election.

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 to approve, as amended, passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-043: Acceptance of Non-Recurring Revenue to Capital

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

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher asked if "non-recurring revenue" is a typical term? He asked if that is what other towns do? At Mr. Dutton's request, Finance Director Sulmonte explained; the DOR will not approve this as a recurring revenue. He further noted; the prison mitigation distribution is not a guarantee to be received every year and there has been a year here where there was no distribution. Councilor Wood agreed; we do not always get the payout and the amount is not consistent. Councilor George re-stated his opinion that it is time for the Town to be more aggressive about revenues. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Sulmonte; this cannot be put on the recap as recurring revenue? Mr. Sulmonte responded that is correct. The DOR certifies everything. There are guidelines we have to follow.

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 unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-048: Acceptance of MassWorks Grant

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood noted Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committees recommended acceptance.

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



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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-049: Transfer Order - Other One-Time Unforeseen Expenses

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer both items under New Business to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly explained the orders. Councilor Gallagher commented he is not sure about the Compensation Classification Survey included in the capital appropriations order.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY19-050: Transfer Order – Capital Appropriations
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: No comments.
- Councilor Colombotos: No comments.
- Councilor Wood: Spoke about TJ-Squared - the robotics competition is this week. Bridgewater-Raynham is the host site for the competition. Mr. Wood described the competition and encouraged all to attend.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked those who came out for coffee with the councilor this past weekend. There was lots of good discussions.
- Councilor Chase: Spoke about the upcoming Comprehensive Planning Meeting and encouraged all those who may be interested to attend.
- Councilor George: Congratulated the B-R Swim and Dive Team.
- Councilor Losche: No comments.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Spoke about the term “level funding the school budget” used earlier in the meeting during Citizens Open Forum. He thinks the speakers mean “level services”; meaning to keep the same services, but at today’s dollars.
- Councilor Haley: Spoke about TJ-Squared, stating it’s great. He noted; the Town still needs volunteers.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 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 12, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Losche not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk



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