



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 27, 2018

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 27, 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, and Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:34 p.m.). Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- 1 Councilor Vacancy
- Councilor Shawn George

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Albert Perry

Reminded all that meeting is being aired live and recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 6, 2018

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Fitzgibbons announced the State of the Town Address will be held Tuesday, March 13th at 6:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

PROCLAMATIONS

- Bridgewater-Raynham Regional High School Cheer Team – National Championship
President Fitzgibbons read a proclamation recognizing the Bridgewater Raynham Regional High School Cheer Team on their National Championship.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Marilee Kenney Hunt, 80 Auston Street: Ms. Hunt brought discarded nip bottles she collected on her walk to work. Ms. Hunt suggested a solution in legislation at the state level (included in materials) and requested the Council ask the Town Manager to write a letter to our State Rep asking him to support the legislation.

**7:34 p.m. Councilor Colombotos entered the meeting.*

APPOINTMENTS

- Planning Board – Lisa Sullivan

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

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher voiced his support of Mrs. Sullivan

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

- Veteran's Council – Kevin Marshall

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

Discussion: Councilor Haley spoke on Mr. Marshall's behalf.

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

- District 4 Vacancy

- Fred Chase



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President Fitzgibbons briefly outlined the timeline.

Mr. Fred Chase came to podium and outlined his history with the town. He has lived in town for 30 years and been at his present address for 14 years. Mr. Chase spoke about raising children in town and expressed his desire to help preserve the character and values of the town. He then spoke about what he views as some positive developments in the past few months; the Mitchell School, Marijuana Ban, Green Communities, Downtown Redevelopment. He supports Town Hall being considered for a commerce center and the zoning ordinance rewrite.

Citizen Questions/Comments: None

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked if Mr. Chase formally pulled papers. Mr. Chase responded; yes, and he is just about ready to submit completed papers. Councilor Wood noted; there are only a hand full of meetings between now and the election; asking why it is important to fill the vacancy just for a couple of meetings. Mr. Chase responded; President Fitzgibbons announced the vacancy in December. He expressed interest in January. He thinks the provision is there to ensure continuity and that the Council should be concerned with ensuring districts are represented.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if Mr. Chase has any other civic involvement. M. Chase responded, he did not, but feels it's a very good time for him to be considering volunteering for the town.
- Councilor Haley confirmed there are four meetings between now and the election.

Motion: A motion to appoint Mr. Chase was made by Councilor Gallagher. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher thanked Mr. Chase for volunteering. Councilor Wood stated; while he appreciates Mr. Chase stepping forward, we're so close to the election he feels an appointment may discourage other people from pulling papers, therefore he will be voting "no". Councilor Colombotos expressed his support for the appointment. Councilor Losche pointed out; if citizens are interested in the seat, they have until 3/8 to pull papers. Finally, President Fitzgibbons stated this is different from the last vacancy and he feels District 4 deserves representation.

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

Losche – YEA; Wood – NO; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - ABSENT. The motion passed 6-1.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to take agenda item J: Discussion, out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa

Discussion: None

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

DISCUSSIONS (Taken Out of Order)

- School Safety Update – Police Chief Delmonte & Superintendent Swenson
Superintendent Swenson and Police Chief Delmonte came forward and spoke about safety in the schools. Both praised the working relationship between the school district and public safety officials, stating they meet monthly. Superintendent Swenson spoke briefly about their recently adopted ALICE program and reaffirmed they take the safety of the district very seriously. The Police Chief and Superintendent elaborated briefly on the ALICE Program (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), speaking about the education/information rollout to parents.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Colombotos thanked and applauded public safety and school district for how they're looking at this.

Return to regular order of business

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: Mr. Dutton and State Representative D'Emilia will be meeting tomorrow with the state to discuss overall affordable housing units and funding for Elm Street to complete the road. Been discussing a DIF (District Improvement Financing) plan with the Finance Director for the remaining unbuilt parcels on Elm Street. Regarding affordable housing, Mr. Dutton has asked for safe harbor on future 40B projects as the projects currently in the pipeline will put the town at 11%. The requirement is 10%. VIVA (Claremont) is supposed to be approved by ZBA with conditions tomorrow evening. Duxborrow Estates is still in hearings, but those are progressing. Burrill Avenue's hearings are beginning. Mr. Dutton continues to negotiate a purchase and sale on the McElwain. He has hired a land use attorney to ensure it's done correctly. The Mitchell School Building Committee continues to meet. They hired an OPM last week. Now the MSBA needs to ratify the hire. Mr. Dutton spoke about the budget season, explaining they have been meeting with various department heads about their budget needs. Mr. Dutton had the Finance Director do an analysis on department budgets over the last 18 years. There were some very dramatic swings in the budgets over the years. The town did not receive any requests for the RFP on the lease of Town Hall. Before we can permit Town Hall for community use, it will need significant repairs/improvements.

Council Questions:

- Councilor Colombotos followed up on Mr. Dutton point about asking for 40B Safe Harbor in advance, asking if they have granted those requests in past? Mr. Dutton responded; it's not common, but we are unique because of the 40B's in the pipeline.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance Committee: Councilor Wood stated the committee met on 2/26. They voted in the affirmative on all items. He referenced Order O-FY18-021, which comes up later in the agenda; noting he will be asking it be postponed as it should be discussed with the new Loan Order so people will understand the full picture.
- Rules & Procedures Committee: Councilor Losche stated there are three ordinances in committee; one which is related to marijuana. The committee will wait to see what happens with Planning Board before issuing a disposition.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-FY18-007: Parking Ordinance
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Colombotos. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Colombotos explained; this sets a very rough framework for the Town Manager to implement some paid parking. It should not affect anyone from shopping. Mr. Colombotos thinks it will raise some sorely needed revenue. Councilor Wood expressed support for the ordinance. Councilor Sousa expressed concern for where the business owners will park if the Municipal lot is metered. Mr. Dutton explained business owners are currently issued permits and will continue to do so. He further explained; of the 60 spaces, only about 30 would be paid parking. Councilor Haley pointed out there seems to be a misconception that we're going to put meters all through downtown. Councilor Haley asked Mr. Dutton to put a map on website/social media showing where the paid parking will be. Councilor Gallagher expressed his opinion that this is a failed policy before we even pass it. He doesn't feel the revenue will be anywhere near what's projected and the town is too small for this policy. Discussion briefly turned to enforcement with Councilor Losche asking if enforcement would be done by the agency. Mr. Dutton explained it will be written into the RFP that the respondent includes a mechanism to issue citations. In the ordinance the Town Manager is responsible for implementation/execution and the Police Chief is responsible for enforcement. In the RFP you ask the respondent to provide a proposal for enforcement. Worst case; implementing the meters provides a revenue source which can fund enforcement, in addition to other capital items. Chief Delmonte noted there is a line item budget for parking enforcement. Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – NO; Sousa – NO; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 5-2.



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- Order O-FY18-017: Town Council Acceptance of Housing Production Plan
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Gallagher. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: None
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 - ABSENT. The motion passed 7-0.
- Order O-FY18-021: Rescind Loan Order O-2017-022: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for High Street Water Treatment Facility
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to postpone until Order O-FY18-022 returns to the agenda. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.
Discussion: Councilor Wood explained; the other order is a replacement order. Makes sense to have full discussion with both orders before us.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.
- Order O-FY18-023: Transfer Order - AFSCME Contract Settlement
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
Discussion:
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.
- Order O-FY18-024: Transfer Order – Bridgewater Police Association Contract Settlement Funding
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted this was recommended by both Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. President Fitzgibbons also noted the Police Association was more than reasonable.
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 - ABSENT. The motion passed 7-0.
- Order O-FY18-025: Transfer Order – Capital Sewer Special Purpose Transfers
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
Discussion: Councilor Wood stated this transfer covers some mechanical repairs. It was recommended by both Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY18-028: Loan Order – Water Main Replacement
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted he needs to recuse himself as this covers his street.

**8:43 p.m., Councilor Wood stepped away.*

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0 (Councilor Wood recused).

**8:44 p.m., Councilor Wood returned.*

- Order O-FY18-029: FY18 Capital Transfers – Phase I
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.



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Discussion: None

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

- Order O-FY18-030: Acceptance of One Time Revenue – Bridgewater Preserve

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

Discussion: None

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

- Order O-FY18-031: Roadways and Sidewalk Maintenance and Improvement Plan

Councilor Colombotos explained; based on recent discussions felt this was a prudent step to get a plan together.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *No citizens came forward.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Losche: Reminded all of the Bystander Training being offered through the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility & Respect.
- Councilor Wood: Congratulated Mr. Chase. Mr. Wood spoke about volunteer apathy around town. He feels that if there were more people who stepped forward, there may have been a different decision. Mr. Wood spoke about Finance Committee noting; they have a vacancy and couldn't meet because there was no quorum. We need to find a way to get more people interested. He then spoke about the Robotics competition on March 10th. Sunday March 11th is elimination.
- Councilor Haley: Agreed the Robotics Competition is exciting. He spoke about school safety, noting Massachusetts is one of the strongest states for safety.
- Councilor Sousa: Welcomed Mr. Chase.
- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated Mr. Chase.
- Councilor Colombotos: Congratulated Mr. Chase.
- Councilor George: Absent
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked fellow Councilors for another good meeting and welcomed Mr. Chase. He noted we are coming up on budget season and need volunteers. He sees a lot of people on Facebook who have great ideas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 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 27, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (6-0-2) (Councilors George and Chase abstained. Councilor Colombotos not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk