



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Edward Haley called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on March 26, 2019 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

- Councilor Aisha Losche

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Cornelius McLaughlin
- James Ellis

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 12, 2019

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0 (Councilor Losche absent. Councilor Colombotos not present.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS

President Haley read a Proclamation for Lisa Buzzell-Curley and Jeff Fowler for their work on the Bridgewater 4th of July Committee.

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

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item "J: Discussions" out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

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

DISCUSSIONS (take out of order)

- 4th of July Committee Update

Lisa Buzzell-Curley came forward and spoke about fundraising for the event. Last year they did not meet their budget goal. The expenses came in around \$30,000. Their big fundraiser is the letters they send out each year. They are working on a t-shirt contest. Would love to see the high school students get involved. They are also doing a National Anthem contest. Keith Buohl also spoke about the effort and the great success of the day, noting they can still use more volunteers. The committee meets the first Tuesday of every month. Councilor Fitzgibbons reminded all that this is not a town funded event. It's run entirely with donations. Councilor Wood highlighted the police detail is also paid for with funds raised; not paid for by the Town.

- Town Council Letter to Senator Pacheco and State Representative D'Emilia

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to send the letter as written. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: None

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

Return to regular order of business – Citizens Open Forum

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None



APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS -

- **7:33 p.m.:** Petition P-2019-006: Joint Pole Locations National Grid/Verizon –Gadsby Drive, Pole 22-50
President Haley opened the hearing at 7:46 p.m.

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.

Petitioner: Engineer, Simon Yeung came forward and explained the pole requests, noting three lot underground development.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- President Haley asked if the line will be fed underground. Mr. Yeung confirmed.

President Haley closed the hearing at 7:48 p.m.

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

Discussion: None

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 – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- **7:35 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-049: Transfer Order - Other One-Time Unforeseen Expenses

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

Mr. Dutton explained; the funds coming out of other one-time stabilization. This transfer funds Master Plan/Comprehensive plan to finalize the plan. Will fund a personnel matter that required an investigator. The salary survey with includes assessment for public safety employees.

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 stated he was dissenting vote on the Budget & Finance Committee. His concern is there are actually three separate items in the \$91,000. Mr. Dutton responded; originally looking for company to look strictly at zoning. Attorney Babrowski's fee was low enough that it allowed us to include a comprehensive plan update. The additional \$30,000 gives us a complete updated master plan and a complete updated book of zoning. Councilor Gallagher stated his opinion that the wage & compensation study could have been budgeted. - not unforeseen. He further hinks these should have been separated so they could understand what was included. Finally, Councilor Gallagher noted his opinion that some of the work on the compensation study could be done internally.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if there is there some way to create a separate fund for these things?
- Councilor Wood pointed out "other one-time stabilization" is taking the strategy Councilor Colombotos suggested. It's for those one-time things we see every once in a while. He agrees it would have been easier to have the line items broken out se we can see. They can't keep it in the operational because it's not an annual item.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons thinks it's vitally important to do the compensation evaluation to ensure we're paying the people who work here competitively. He would expand it out to total benefits.
- Councilor George asked when was the last time did this? Mr. Dutton responded; FY2014. The data was presented in FY2015. Mr. Dutton agrees with Councilor Gallagher that do not need to reinvent the wheel on the compensation study, but we do need to include benefits.

President Haley closed the hearing at 8:08 p.m.

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



Discussion:

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Losche – ABSENT; George – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- **7:40 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-050: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriations

President Haley opened the hearing at 8:08 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this is a reallocation of appropriated funds.

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 Wood noted the Budget & Finance Committee supported this measure 3-0 and the Finance Committee also supported the measure.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons reminded all of Councilor Colombotos' point of budgeting consistently.

President Haley closed the hearing at 8:12 p.m.

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

Discussion: None

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 – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

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: The town has received their Chapter 90 funds. Mr. Dutton spoke about a concern raised by a citizen on Vernon Street regarding a possible project in Middleboro for a 1MM square foot warehouse in Middleboro. The issue is access. Originally there was some discussion that the warehouse wanted to use Vernon St for access as route 44 was not an option. That option creates enormous issues in that neighborhood. Now there is a proposition to use another access point off route 44. However; Middleboro hasn't heard anything on the project for some time. Mr. Dutton provided an update on the Mitchell School Building Committee, who met last evening. The preferred schematic was submitted to MSBA 2/20/19. Mr. Dutton attended with the Superintendent. There was a subcommittee meeting 3/13 to discuss. The MSBA subcommittee had some questions. We will be also responding to some written follow up questions. The committee signed a MOU with National Grid for to participate in Nation Grid's Integrated Design Path, which is an energy saving program. Mr. Dutton stated we are not close to breaking ground. This will have to go to the ballot. The MSBA board meets 4/10 and we are expecting a positive recommendation. Then we move into schematic design phase. There is a deadline of 7/10 to submit a schematic design. If those targets are met, then approve a project scope and budget. If we received approval from MSBA on 8/28, then we must secure an affirmative vote within 120 days. Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on Elm Street projects and permitting. Finally, Mr. Dutton spoke about the Comprehensive Master Planning session which was broadcast over Facebook Live. There was a lot of good, valuable input.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor George asked if there was any additional information on why the charter changes was one question? Mr. Dutton responded; there were so many proposed changes it was not going to be feasible to create different questions. Some changes were dependent upon other changes. Councilor George stated he would like to propose a committee to look into the Regional School District Agreement Mr. Dutton responded; he would be very happy to help with the process.
- Councilor Wood requested a copy of the agreement.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons spoke about Mitchell School process, emphasizing we will have 120 days to get a vote done once the MSBA approval is received. He asked if there is any talk about doing a vote sooner rather than later and



potentially doing a second vote? Mr. Dutton responded; he has heard the vote should be sooner rather than later. Councilor Fitzgibbons followed up, asking if we would be able to get another vote in, if we vote sooner. He pointed out the 8th grade has been at the High School since the roof collapse under an “emergency” situation. Mr. Fitzgibbons’ recollection was the Superintendent commented that If the Town votes against the funding then the Town would have declared the emergency over. Mr. Fitzgibbons would like to have a town plan outside of the MSBA process in the event the vote fails.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: *None*

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY19-051 -Acceptance of a Gift - Bridgewater Police Department
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted the Budget & Finance Committee met this evening and voted 3-0 to recommend approval.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Losche – ABSENT; George – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - *None*

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-052: Loan Order - For Upgrade of The Wastewater Treatment Facility
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to bundle orders 052 and 054 and refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton began; Order #052 is not insignificant. It raises and appropriates \$32MM for the wastewater treatment facility to comply with the discharge order. This is a little on the early side; we won’t be drawing off it for a while. He stressed; it’s Important to vote this because it qualifies the town for favorable state revolving funds. Mr. Dutton briefly explained 054. Discussion followed briefly regarding the current equipment and the potential life of the new equipment at the Water Treatment Facility. Mr. Dutton believes the term of the bond is 30 years.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY19-053: Loan Order - Water Main Replacement
**8:42 p.m., Councilor Wood recused himself and stepped out of the room.*
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained this is for water main replacement. It will extend the line replacement. It will allow us to replace the line and repave the street. Councilor Gallagher asked; when it’s repaved is it part of the project or is it from Chapter 90 funds? Mr. Dutton responded; the repaving comes out of Chapter 90.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0-1 (Councilor Losche absent, Councilor Wood recused).
**8:43 p.m., Councilor Wood returned to the meeting.*
- Order O-FY19-054: Transfer Order - Sewer Reserve Special Purpose
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per previous motion above.
- Resolution R-FY19-004: Urging the State Legislature to Adopt a Deposit on "nip" Liquor Bottles
Councilor Colombotos explained; this resolution is modeled after the city of Gloucester and was brought to his attention by a citizen, Pat Neary. This asks state to pass legislation to add a deposit to the “nip” bottles.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to keep this resolution at the council level. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilors briefly expressed their general support of the legislation; several suggesting there should be a \$1 deposit as there is a real problem with “nip” bottles.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 26, 2019

- Lilian Holbrook, 45 Driftwood Drive: Ms. Holbrook is here as a citizen, not a school committee member and spoke about the reimbursement of the transportation funding. She asked that the Councilors to reach out to Senator Pacheco and State Representative D'Emilia to sign the letter that was being circulated.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Spoke about Jimmy Ellis passing. Mr. Fitzgibbons worked for him over the summers and remembered his dedication to a job well done. Next to Mr. Fitzgibbons Dad, Jimmy taught him about a strong work ethic. Wanted to acknowledge his passing. He will be missed.
- Councilor Losche: absent
- Councilor George: Spoke about the School Committee budget committee meeting which was well attended. Good job to Budget & Finance Committee and Councilor Fitzgibbons for representing the town and to Mr. Fitzgibbons for explaining the tax rate. It was a good/informative session. Mr. George feels some work needs to be done on the revenues and thinks we can be more aggressive. Mr. George watched a little of the 3/18 Charter Review Info Session. He is planning to hold an info session 4/20.
- Councilor Chase: Spoke about the Comprehensive Master Plan meeting which was well attended. He was very impressed by the work of the committee, and of the Barrett group and their expertise. Mr. Chase announced on 4/3 the Planning Board will hold public hearing for special permit to allow 16-acre solar farm.
- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated the 4th of July committee for being recognized. Mr. Gallagher didn't feel there was too much support for the charter changes at the info session. The Budget subcommittee meeting shed a lot of light on the process that they go through and we go through. The Comprehensive Master Plan meeting was very well attended
- Councilor Wood: Thanked all who participated in the Charter Info Session. The presentation is on the Town's website. Mr. Wood spoke about the charter changes for the future. Mr. Wood spoke about the budget; on the Mass.gov there's a tutorial about Proposition 2 ½. He thinks it's fair to show everyone the details of the sources and revenues. We don't vote on the line items, but we do vote on the whole budget. He will perhaps ask for that from the schools too. Finally, Mr. Wood spoke about ambulance receipts.
- Councilor Colombotos: Shares Councilor George's concern that the town is not being proactive enough in the revenues. He feels we're a little under-invested in the town; pointing out the condition of many streets.
- Councilor Sousa: Spoke about the Comprehensive Master Plan meeting and echoed Councilor Gallagher's comments. While collecting signatures for the election, Mr. Sousa spoke with many people who are not registered to vote or who don't vote. People also asked why the Town Council wants to get paid and why we'd change the Town Clerk to appointed.
- Councilor Haley: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor George. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 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, April 23, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a roll call vote (7-0-1) (Councilor Losche abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk