



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 March 27, 2018 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Fredrick Chase, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Francis Sousa, Dennis Gallagher, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:32 p.m.), and Shawn George. 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 who have passed since the last meeting.

President Fitzgibbons reminded all that the meeting is being aired live and recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 27, 2018

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 6-0-2 (Councilors Chase and George abstained. Councilor Colombotos not present).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS - *None*

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- James Shave, Amherst Ave.: Mr. Shave spoke about the numbers presented at the school budget meeting last night. He spoke about growth of student population and improvements needed. Mr. Shave asked; if there are any other monies available he requested it be directed to the schools.

APPOINTMENTS

- Cable Advisory Committee – Sherley Phillips

Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Ms. Phillips, noting, she also serves on the Citizens Advisory Committee.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood also spoke favorably on Ms. Phillip's behalf.

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

- Veteran's Council – William LaBossiere Sr.

Mr. Dutton spoke on Mr. LBossiere's behalf.

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

Discussion: Councilor Sousa stated his opinion that Mr. LaBossiere will be a good asset.

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

- Board of Registrars Democratic Party Representative – Dr. Frances Jeffries

Mr. Dutton explained; in the case of the Parties, he makes the appointments based on recommendations from the respective Party.

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 9-0.

HEARINGS -

- **7:35 p.m.:** Order O-2018-022: Loan Order – High Street Water Treatment Facility



President Fitzgibbons opened the hearing at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. Dutton explained this is the second version of this loan order. Further explaining; the point of the treatment is to remove iron and manganese and reduce the corrosive nature of the water. It also includes new well pumps, site work, access improvements, a new administration office, a clean space for the treatment employees. They are also looking at building a new garage facility and proposing to renovate a distribution system maintenance facility. Mr. Dutton explained the changes between the two orders are based on the engineer's advice in conjunction with DEP. We also see this as a 30-year solution.

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 Wood's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed this is for a new treatment plant.
- President Fitzgibbons confirmed; this is not going through the general fund and not increasing taxes? Mr. Dutton confirmed that is correct.

President Fitzgibbons closed the hearing at 7:45 p.m., noting the vote on this order will be taken under New Business.

• **7:40 p.m.:** Undesignated Funds Balance Transfers:

- Order O-FY18-026: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Sewer and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding
 - Order O-FY18-027: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Water and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding
- Mr. Dutton briefly explained these items require hearings as they are essentially transferring monies from the enterprise fund's free cash. He explained what the transfers would be funding.

President Fitzgibbons opened the hearing at 7:45 p.m.

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:

- Councilor George asked if the \$500,000 for the capital account was earmarked for anything? Mr. Dutton responded; not at this time.

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

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 ZBA continues the hearings on Duxborrow and Burrill Ave. VIVA has been approved and construction will begin in the spring. The Housing Production and Open Space Plans have been sent to the state. The town did not receive the Complete Streets grant this year. We are following up to see what we can make improvements to our process. A grant for Way Finding was approved today. The Finance Committee and Budget & Finance Committee have been meeting to discuss the FY19 budget. The 2017 audit is complete and will be circulated in the next few days. The Auditors have asked to be at the second meeting in April. The Treasurer/Collector and Assessor have worked to drill down into the list of town-owned properties or tax title properties. We will probably follow the auditor's advice and package those and sell them for collection. Storm related damages will take a little time to finish cleaning up. The town spent about \$125,000 in the last storm. We also lost another truck. The Mtichell School Building Committee selected Daedaluss as their OPM and the MSBA has approved the selection. Their first order of business is to



organize the procurement of an architect. The town has received Comcast's 10-year renewal proposal, which will be sent to the Cable Advisory Committee.

- Downtown Ad Hoc Advisory Committee –

Council Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked about the status of the boat launch out at the Nip. Mr. Dutton responded; we have signed the agreement with the Department of Fishing and Boating Access. They will begin the work as soon as it's funded through the state budget. Councilor Wood asked for an update on the Strategic Planner. Mr. Dutton responded; Strategic Planning Committee met with the Strategic Planning consultant. The process will involve Council and Strategic Planning Committee. Mr. Wood then asked for an update on Skips. Mr. Dutton explained; Mr. Patel came in to meet with Town Manager. They are now required to install sprinklers; they'll be done as soon as the sprinklers are in.
- Councilor Gallagher asked a priority list of streets in town next in line for repaving was being worked on. Mr. Dutton responded he sent the tentative plan out for spring of 2018 but will resend it. He noted Bridge Street and Cherry Street are on the list. They are not proposing to use any Chapter 90 funding for Elm Street.
- Councilor Haley asked what the intended use for the upstairs of Skips is. Mr. Haley asked if a road list was on the website. Mr. Dutton responded; the original pavement management plan done by Weston & Sampson was posted on the website, but he cautions people when they look at it that priorities change, but it's a guide.
- Councilor Losche asked if the purpose of the Downtown Ad Hoc Committee is to do something? Mr. Dutton responded; the purpose is to plot out how we can implement the Downtown Revitalization plan. Mrs. Losche asked if the committee is going to be a combination of employees and volunteers? Mr. Dutton responded; anytime you look for funding outside the TIP program, it's important to have public buy-in. We want to make sure we have a committee of dedicated people who can communicate to DOT what's needed.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if the town can require restriping of internal parking lots. He noted; the turn going into Walgreens from Summer Street needs re-striping. Mr. Dutton responded; that's an appropriate ordinance. Councilor Colombotos asked Mr. Dutton if he would look into it.

DISCUSSIONS

- Town Council Rules and Procedures/Councilor Orientation
Councilor Losche reminded the Council this was mentioned this in a committee report previously and asked if Councilors had any concerns or ideas that can take back to the committee. The committee is looking to build out some type of handbook. Councilor Wood pointed out there are a number of things board members are obligated to complete, which should be included. He further suggested; we should review our own rules once a year. Councilor Losche suggested there should be some type of history of how we got to where we are. President Fitzgibbons pointed out; the way our election cycle happens, it's almost immediate that new Councilors have to deal with the budget.
- Town Council Support of House Bill H.3528 – An Act promoting the proper disposal of miniatures
Councilor Gallagher explained the Bill and expressed his support. Discussion continued with the majority of Councilors expressing support.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos authorizing the Council President to write Senator Pacheco and State Representative D'Emilia urging their support of House Bill H.3528. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.
- Street Tree Management – *Councilor Colombotos requested this item be postponed.*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Councilor Wood advised Budget & Finance Committee voted to support the measures up for a vote this evening. The Finance Committee did also. The Budget & Finance and Finance Committee had a good meeting last night. The Town Manager is close to having a balanced budget. They are also getting us the five-year numbers. Mr. Wood spoke about the transparency in the process. He then advised that the Finance Director



thinks we can offer the school 3.6% and reminded all that we not only support B-R, but the agricultural schools as well.

- Community & Economic Development Committee: Councilor Colombotos stated the committee has zoning ordinances before them and are scheduled to meet 4/17 at 7:30 p.m. Councilor Losche noted; the current zoning sets growing as allowable in any district.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY18-021: Rescind Loan Order O-2017-022: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for High Street Water Treatment Facility
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: Councilor Wood explained this will be replaced by the new loan order.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-022: Loan Order – High Street Water Treatment Facility
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted both the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee approved this measure.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-026: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Sewer and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted both Budget & Finance and Finance Committees supported this measure.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-027: Transfer Order – Undesignated Fund for Water and AFSCME Contract Settlement Funding
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted both Budget & Finance and Finance committees supported this measure.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-030: Acceptance of One Time Revenue - Bridgewater Preserve
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Haley. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: It was noted that this measure was approved by both Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton confirmed \$75,000 the original figure, but we will be getting additional funds.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Petition P-2018-004: Annual Election Warrant
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion: At Councilor Wood's request, Attorney Rawlins confirmed; if the Council does not approve the warrant, there cannot be an election.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS



- Ordinance D-FY18-014: Establish District Improvement Financing District – Elm Street
Mr. Dutton explained; this is a process which establishes a dedicated revenue stream to fund infrastructure within the designated district. He then explained the process and noted this does not preclude the town from any grant funding. Councilor Wood asked if the two churches in the district pay taxes. Mr. Dutton responded he did not believe so. Councilor Colombotos confirmed this directs the taxes to the district, it does not increase the taxes business pay within the district.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: None.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-032: Purchase and Sale Agreement – McElwain Property
Mr. Dutton explained; a Purchase and Sale (P&S) has been drafted to the one response we received. Mr. Dutton explained the P&S and that this proposal is not Section 8 Housing, but Workforce housing. Unlike a P&S for a home; the developer still needs to go through the ZBA process. This provides them with site control, so they can move forward with seeking funding.
Discussion followed as councilors expressed their opinions and concerns. Mr. Dutton pointed out this would give the town preference in many grants for example: MassWorks grants, in LAND and PARC grants and Complete Streets as it is a threshold question on almost all grant applications. In answer to a question by Councilor Gallagher, Mr. Dutton explained cost and benefits had been factored out and stated he would put together a spreadsheet of the cost, tax revenue and the softer benefits. Councilor Gallagher was interested in three costs 1) special counsel to prepare, 2) the Town Manager’s continued involvement and 3) closing costs. Councilor Losche would like a comparison of what’s been done in other towns and Councilor Colombotos would like a summary of the Housing Choice designation benefits. Councilor George expressed concern around the financing commitment; particularly the CPA funds. He asked if CPA doesn’t fund the project, and the town walks away, there can be no repercussions from the developer? Mr. Dutton responded that is correct.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to refer to the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Gallagher asked if there is a timing element to this? Mr. Dutton responded; as long as MassHousing accepts his letter, then there isn’t an urgent deadline, as long as it comes back by the second meeting in April. Councilor Losche asked if it can be sent to two council committees. Attorney Rawlins advised; measures should not be referred to two committees.
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY18-033: Acceptance of a Gift – Howard Foundation
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the order.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt provided a brief update on the Master Plan Committee’s meeting, noting they will be sending a request as the Master Plan is in need of updating before doing zoning updates. Dr. Hunt has asked the Community & Economic Development Director what her priorities are; one of the items is to include a request that \$100,000 be budgeted for an updated Master Plan.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor George: Announced May 5th is Town Clean Up Day. Mr. George highly recommends people go to the school budget meeting tomorrow evening. Regarding the McElwain School, Mr. George has received a lot of input on this issue. He will really have a hard time selling another piece of town property.
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing



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

- Councilor Gallagher: Also spoke about Town clean up on May 5th from 11 a.m. -1 p.m. Food will be provided at Music Alley. Mr. Gallagher stated the budget as a whole is a huge process and time commitment. It's important that people who want to comment attend meetings. Regarding the McElwain School Mr. Gallagher recalled when the school closed, he was a selectman and had suggested putting out a RFP to sell. Mr. Gallagher stated his opinion that another RFP may need to be done.
- Councilor Sousa: Spoke about clean up day. This year we will also be focusing on the route 104 area.
- Councilor Haley: Will be participating in town clean up day. Mr. Haley then spoke about the Budget and process and urged people to attend budget meeting. Regarding the McElwain School; Mr. Haley loves the school and property but would rather see great things happen there.
- Councilor Chase: Stated it's an honor to have been appointed and looks forward to working with the councilors.
- Councilor Wood: Mr. Wood spoke about the B-R Robotics team – TJ2 noting the team won this year at the first and second competition, which qualified them for the district championships and the world championships. The McElwain got him thinking; there are four empty buildings right now; Town Hall, Memorial Building, McElwain and the Mitchell. Once we get to a resolution on some of these buildings, it will create a line item need in the budget and we'll need to keep that in mind. Councilor Wood really enjoys going through the budget process. The objectives are simple: no layoffs and no override.
- Councilor Losche: Election day is roughly a month away. She encouraged people to vote and stated she would also love to see more volunteers. We have to hold ourselves accountable to get things done.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Welcomed Mr. Chase. Echoed Mr. Wood's comments about the budget. It's about what's best for the Town as a whole.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Haley to move into Executive Session under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

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

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

ADJOURNMENT

Open session adjourned at 9:37 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 10, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Chase absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk