



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00 pm, on May 5, 2020 via Zoom©.

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:

- Scott McNeilly

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 21, 2020

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:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS - *None*

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - *None*

APPOINTMENTS

- Charter Review Committee
 - Thomas Golden
 - Edward Ivaldi
 - James Karol-Chik
 - Steven Persell

President Gallagher briefly explained the process and announced he was still seeking volunteers to fill the remaining three seats. However, he would like to proceed in appointing the first four which will create a quorum so they can begin their work.

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to approve Thomas Golden, Edward Ivaldi, James Karol-Chik and Steven Persell which was duly seconded.

Discussion: At Councilor Colombotos' request, Attorney Rawlins addressed the issue of ineligible candidates for the Charter Review Committee as based on the Administrative Code, Charter and Conflict of Interest Law.

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – NO; Losche – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; George – YEA; Linde – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-1.

HEARINGS -

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:



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting (Virtual via Zoom©)
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2020

- Mitchell School Update (Standing Item)
The committee met last evening. 60% plans are going to estimators this week. It takes roughly three weeks for the estimators to do their work. There will be one final agreed to estimate and that will go to MSBA on June 5th. 90% drawings are worked on through August and submitted to MSBA on August 28th. After that the 100% plans are completed into October. The bid process occurs in October/November this year. Once the bid is awarded, construction would be scheduled to begin in December. The completion schedule remains July 2022. The bid for the demolition has been awarded JR Vinagro, of Johnston Rhode Island. Building Committee meetings are typically held the second and fourth Monday's of the month. The next meeting will be June 1st. The website is www.bridgewaterproject.com
Councilor Fitzgibbons confirmed we are on schedule with returning paperwork.
- COVID-19 and Budget Impact
Mr. Dutton reported on the statistics in town, noting the DOC is going through comprehensive testing. In Town there seems to have been some leveling off in the last few days. Mr. Dutton continues to hold daily emergency team meetings. They have begun to have discussions on plans for re-opening buildings.
Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about legislation passed by the Council at the previous meeting. Asked department heads to think about and come up with scenarios for worst case, best case and middle ground. The budget will not be based on the solid numbers we have used in the past but will be our best guess based on what we know. It's likely the budget that is put forward will need altering. For FY20, believes we'll be able to close out the general fund budget even. There will be a significant revenue shortfall in the Golf Course Enterprise Fund.
Councilor Fitzgibbons would like to see the analysis on the enterprise funds. Mr. Fitzgibbons is also interested in revolving funds and how they fund budgets. President Gallagher asked if any monies had been received for COVID-19 related expenses. Mr. Dutton responded; right now, all expenses come out of the budget, but we are very careful to account for those expenses.
- CARES Act Grant Funding
Mr. Dutton referenced the letter he has sent to Plymouth County Commissioners. He provided a brief background and noted; Plymouth County received \$90MM. The Plymouth County could have transferred the funds to the state for distribution throughout the County. The state has the system in place. Plymouth County's concern was if they turned the \$90MM over to the state there'd be no guarantee that all the \$90MM would flow back to the County. May 1st was the deadline to notify the state if the county was going to turn the funds over to the state for distribution. Mr. Dutton understands the county has hired an accounting firm and an auditing firm to help develop and guide the process. Mr. Dutton's letter expressed his concerns that are specific to the town; the DOC and the University.
- Town Follow-Up to Citizens Comments
Councilor Fitzgibbons explained sometimes citizens come in with specific questions. He would like if those citizens comments can roll into the next agenda under Town Manager's report with a brief recap and response. Mr. Dutton worked with the Council Clerk to come up with a process to use, almost exactly as he laid out. People should remember it's not a discussion, per the Council's Rules & Procedures.
Attorney Rawlins noted he does not want it to come across as a time to be responding to legal issues.
Councilor Colombotos agreed with Councilor Fitzgibbons stating, citizens want to be heard. He also reminded citizens they elect Councilors and can also reach out to them.
President Gallagher thinks this warrants further discussion. He thinks it's difficult during citizens open forum when we can't get involved in a dialogue. Mr. Gallagher does think sometimes it's incumbent upon Councilors to reach out to the citizens. This meeting is to do the business of the Town, if we expand the Town Manager's Report, it can take time away from the business of the Town. Councilor Losche thinks this is a good idea but needs some tailoring.
- Items for Next Meeting: No items put forward at this time.

DISCUSSIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION



- Ordinance D-FY20-002: General Ordinance - Dumpsters in Residential Zoning Districts
Motion: Councilor Chase made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to postpone which received no second.
Discussion: A brief discussion took place relative to regular household trash containers for curbside pickup. A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Sousa – NO; Chase – YEA; Linde – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – NO; Rushton – NO; Losche – YEA; Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - NO. The motion passed 5-4.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY20-008: General Ordinance - Rescind Ordinance D-2012-004 Administration & Fiduciary Oversight of Budget - Ambulance Receipts
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion send to advertising which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – Not Present; Losche – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; George – YEA; Linde – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY20-053: Transfer Order - Employee Contractual Buyouts
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly explained the transfer.
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.
- Order O-FY20-054: Transfer Order - Prior Year Bill
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly explained the order.
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 passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY20-055: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriations
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly explained the transfers, noting CPC funds had not been voted as yet. President Gallagher directed the Council Clerk to schedule a hearing for 6/23.
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.
- Resolution R-FY20-009: A Resolution Aiding and Supporting the Reopening of Businesses Closed by Executive and Public Health Orders
Councilor Rushton explained, he thought it very important for the Town Council to show their support of the reopening the commonwealth and businesses.
This measure was not referred to any committee.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ed Ivaldi: Thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons for bringing the matter of (follow ups) forward. Mr. Ivaldi then spoke about the ethics relative to former Councilor Wood's eligibility to run for Councilor again. He suggested the matter violates the Council's stated ethical standards. Mr. Ivaldi asked the following: Does Mr. Wood's behavior represent the highest ethical standards the Charter calls for, and does Mr. Wood's behavior faithfully discharge



the duties of his position regardless of personal considerations? Mr. Ivaldi further stated his concern that the highest form of elected government has turned a blind eye to the behavior. He then asked; if Mr. Wood is elected in June, does he start he fourth term or his first term?

- Janet Hanson: Appreciated Mr. Fitzgibbons' suggestion relative to follow up to citizen questions.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked Mr. Gallagher for running good meetings of the Budget & Finance committee and Town Council in some challenging times.
- Councilor Colombotos: None
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche pointed out there is a Home Rule Amendment order in Rules & Procedures Committee (to Mr. Ivaldi's point). She also thanked town officials and employees for their hard work during these times.
- Councilor Rushton: Reminded all that there is construction at the mail entrance to the Great Hill Trails and there are new access points. He asked all to keep the young boy, who was struck by a car, and his family in thoughts and prayers. Recognized Captain Tom Schlatz who retired this week.
- Councilor George: None
- Councilor Linde: Echoed Mr. Rushton's comments. He will be thinking of the young boy who was hit today. Thanked the public safety officials.
- Councilor Chase: Thanked Mrs. Hanson for contributions to meetings. Thanked Mr. Ivaldi for his comments. Reminded all that tomorrow is National Nurses Day.
- Councilor Sousa: None
- Councilor Gallagher: Appointed four members of Charter Review Committee, but we are still looking for three individuals to serve. Reminded all that masks become mandatory tomorrow if people are unable to socially distance. Mr. Gallagher offered thoughts to the young boy who was struck today and reminded all to be very aware and careful when driving. The next meeting is on May 19th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

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 passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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, May 19, 2020, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (8-0) (Councilor Colombotos not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk