



**CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**PRESENT:**

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:33 p.m.), William Wood, Matthew Rushton, Dennis Gallagher, 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**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item B “President’s Announcements” out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT** *(Taken out of order.)*

Vice President Gallagher announced –

- TRIAD is hosting event at Senior Center on Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Meals on Wheels is looking for volunteers.
- There will be a Rabies clinic on Saturday 5/11 at the Highway Barn, not 5/18.
- Reorganization of the Town Council

Town Manager, Michael Dutton, came forward and explained he will be filling in for the Town Clerk who is out of town. He outlined the process that will be followed and called for nominations for Council President.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor George to nominate Councilor Dennis Gallagher for President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

**Discussion:** No additional nominations were put forward.

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

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

Newly elected President Gallagher called for nominations for Vice President.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to nominate Councilor Shawn George for Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

**Discussion:** No other nominations were put forward.

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

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

Councilors then drew numbers to assign new seating, with seat #1 to the Presidents far right. Seat assignments were drawn as follows:

1. Councilor Sousa
2. Councilor Chase
3. Councilor Wood
4. Vice President George
5. President Gallagher
6. Councilor Rushton
7. Councilor Losche
8. Councilor Colombotos
9. Councilor Fitzgibbons

\*7:36 p.m.: *President Gallagher called a brief recess.*



\*7:40 p.m.: President Gallagher called the meeting back to order and returned to regular order of business "Moment of Silence".

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE**

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

President Gallagher reminded the public that the meeting is being aired live and recorded.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- April 9, 2019

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

**Discussion:** None

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

- April 23, 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 7-0-1 (Councilor Colombotos abstained).

### **PROCLAMATIONS**

#### **CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

- Jenny Burr, 45 Hartswood Way: Ms. Burr referenced the budget hearing is next week and thanked the Council for all the time they have spent meeting and all the work done bridging the gap in the budget.

#### **APPOINTMENTS**

- Town Council Appointment to Finance Committee – *Lea Wyatt*

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

**Discussion:** Councilor Fitzgibbons stated; a former school committee member has expressed interest and he would like to arrange to have it on the next agenda. Councilor Wood thanked Lea for stepping up. She's attended multiple meetings at this point and has a good understanding of the process. He Highly recommends her appointment.

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

#### **HEARINGS**

- **7:35 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-052: Loan Order - For Upgrade of The Wastewater Treatment Facility  
President Gallagher re-opened the hearing at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Dutton recapped; this will refinance rehab work on the Waste Water Treatment Facility pursuant to the Town's agreement with DEP and EPA. The Town will be applying for state revolving fund financing and will not be drawing off this loan for quite some time.

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

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

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None Came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if this another case of having to check a box to get state money from a state revolving fund? Mr. Dutton agreed.

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

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

**Discussion:** None

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

Sousa – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – ABSENT;

Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.



- **7:40 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-053: Loan Order - Water Main Replacement  
President Gallagher re-opened the hearing at 7:49 p.m.

\*7:50 p.m.: *Councilor Wood recused himself.*

Mr. Dutton explained this funds additional work being done on the water main replacement on Hayward and Wall Streets. We are extending the pipe replacement on Hayward Street. \$1.2MM was appropriated earlier this year. The additional \$500K is to expand the project.

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

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor -None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors – No councilor questions.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:51 p.m.

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

**Discussion:** None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Losche – ABSENT; Rushton – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion

\*7:52 p.m.: *Councilor Wood returned to the meeting.*

## 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: welcoming Katie Deroshers; the new Executive Assistant in the Town Manager's office. Mr. Dutton thanked Sue McSheffrey for filling the position temporarily. Bridgewater State University's Graduation is 5/16 and 5/18 (9am and 3pm). The Finance Director and Mr. Dutton met with MSBA officials at Bristol-Plymouth Technical school about the new facility they're looking at. Bristol-Plymouth will be looking to go through the MSBA for some financing as we did last year. Bridgewater will be responsible for some part of the capital assessment. There will be a rabies clinic Saturday. Traffic engineers are completing traffic counts around Central Square. That will be coming to the Town Council for a presentation in next several months. We are reviewing Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness. The results will help create the Stormwater Ordinance and Zoning and Floodplain requirements, additionally it makes us eligible for grant funding. The Town has found a way to bridge some of the gap to the School District's assessment. It is on this evening's agenda as a supplemental appropriation and uses New Growth numbers. This doesn't solve the structural challenges we face meeting the school's assessment each year; however, Mr. Dutton is hoping to look into that over the summer. Mr. Dutton announced; Wednesday evening, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the Comprehensive Master Plan Public Session will be held at the Senior Center tentatively starting at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Dutton will be looking to schedule a WWI Memorial committee meeting towards the end of May. Mr. Dutton and the Community & Economic Development Director have met with Mr. Paskell on his proposed buildings on Broad Street. He is planning to submit to the Planning Board within the month. Finally, Mr. Dutton gave a brief update about vacancies on the Finance Committee.

#### **Councilor Questions:**

- Councilor Sousa asked about the Senior Center bus driver position, asking Mr. Dutton to check the posting as he believes it's inaccurate. Mr. Sousa followed up asking about the pickle ball court.
- Councilor Wood also asked about pickleball courts as citizens feel there is room on the corner of the driveway now. Mr. Dutton explained; the issue isn't whether we want them or not; it's if we're going to do it we need to do it right. He explained about the lot ownership, pointing out the gavel parking lot is actually owned by the school. He also confirmed, funding has come through the Capital Plan.
- Councilor George asked for an update on the letter about school district agreement? Mr. Dutton stated he met with Pat Riley earlier this week. She was unaware that it was the school district needed to create that. He believes they are on the same page. Councilor George asked if the School Committee was aware. Mr. Dutton has



not advised them as yet. Mr. George suggested a heads up would be helpful. Mr. George asked if Mr. Paskell has given any indication that he made any significant changes to what was presented here? Mr. Dutton has not seen the plans. He has to go through CED office before he can get to the Planning Board.

- Councilor George asked Mr. Rawlins about his advice relative to Town Manager's report topics not being identified. Mr. Rawlins responded; he is concerned that during Town Manager's Report; topics are not identified. There should be some bullet points. What's happening is it's becoming an open forum. Citizens should have the right to know what's going to be discussed. He recommends bullet points for what he'd like to talk about and what you'd like him to talk about. Detailed discussion followed relative to the nature of the discussions that are taking place during Town Manager's report and the best way for councilors to communicate what they would like included. Councilor Wood noted he disagreed a bit with Attorney Rawlins – he feels the discussions are actually a form of transparency. Attorney Rawlins noted his legal advice is the best practice is to have agenda items listed. Mr. Dutton noted he is always happy to answer questions for councilors outside of meetings as well.

## DISCUSSIONS

- Methods for Town Charter Revisions  
Councilor Wood referenced a folder of materials provided to each councilor which contains information relative to what may be our next steps. Mr. Wood advised; he is not sure if the Town Council can make a recommendation to change that can go to the AGs office for simple changes like typographical items. Other than that, everything turns into a Town-wide vote. There are three ways: Charter Commission (but Bridgewater didn't elect a Charter Commission), Special Act (what a lot of towns use and how we got the original Charter), or send a revised charter to the state, who created a special act. If we want multiple questions it needs to be formatted as multiple questions. Our Charter section 9-4 describes how to change the charter. Mr. Wood is hoping we have many more discussions about how we'll revise the Charter for example; the Finance Committee. Mr. Wood referred to Westwood; stating he hopes someone reaches out to them as they make a lot of changes. Finally, he pointed out Home Rule. President Gallagher pointed out we'll have to create a committee. Mr. Wood also noted; we don't have to start from ground zero. We already have recommendations, but we do need to appoint a committee every six years.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair Wood stated; the committee has met many times and had detailed walk throughs of the enterprise funds. Mr. Rushton was there as a member of Finance Committee. There's a supplementary proposal later in the meeting. The Finance Director has been at every meeting and walked through the revenue. There is a Special Town Council meeting next week for the budget.

## LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY18-004: Evening Hours - Office of the Town Clerk  
***Motion:*** A motion to refer to Rules & Procedures Committee was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.  
***Discussion:*** Councilor Wood explained; the original intent for the Clerk's office, then was expanded to the whole town. However, there isn't a strategy on how to do this yet. He would like to refer this back to committee to have detailed discussion and work out a strategy. President Gallagher pointed out the substantially amended document stating if it's not going to work, we shouldn't force it.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY19-055: Acceptance of a Gift - Howard Foundation  
***Motion:*** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.  
***Discussion:*** None  
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:  
Sousa – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – ABSENT;  
Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

## OLD BUSINESS



- Ordinance D-FY19-006: General Ordinance - Acceptance of MGL c. 44, s53 3/4 Concerning PEG Access & Cable Related Fund

**Motion:** A motion to send to advertising was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

**Discussion:** None

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

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Order O-FY19-057: Directing the Town Manager to Create a Special Reserve Fund

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer the measure to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

**Discussion:** Councilor Fitzgibbons (sponsor) explained he drafted this as a means to get in front of maintaining this building. Councilors expressed their overall support of the measure; some noting there are other buildings in town needing maintenance.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-FY20-010: FY2020 Supplemental Appropriation

Mr. Dutton explained; we have been able to add to the monies currently budgeted for the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School assessment. We were able to take some of the additional new growth monies and allocate based on the revenue sharing program. The town was able to add \$230,000 to the assessment, one position to the Highway Department and added funding to account for the additional expense we'll have to incur as a result of the new federal & state stormwater regulations. Mr. Dutton pointed out with a supplemental appropriation, there is no 45-day window as there is with the budget.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

**Discussion:** Councilor Wood stated; one of the items which came up during budget discussions was; did the school include capital items in their assessment? One of the ways we're making room overall is through the use of this capital fund for \$135,000. This allows the school district to pay for items in operational budget through this budget for Capital items. President Gallagher asked the Council Clerk to schedule the required hearing.

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

#### **CITIZEN COMMENTS - None**

#### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor Sousa: - Spoke about the retirement event at the Police Department.
- Councilor Chase: Congratulated all candidates at the past election. He thanked the Town Clerk's office and the student volunteers who make the election day successful. Mr. Chase heard from many citizens that they didn't know there was an election and wondered if there was anything to be done to increase voter participation.
- Councilor Wood: Congratulated everyone who won. It appears the election was one of the best kept secrets; the Enterprise didn't even cover it. Next year we need to make a bigger effort. Mr. Wood spoke about term limits stating; one of the downsides is frequently in their last term elected officials don't work as hard. The campaign was impressive; the Clerk handed out fliers. Most government studies suggest an appointed Town Clerk is best. We have heard many times the Town Clerk has check and balance power over Council and Town Manager. The Clerk's responsibilities do not overlap the Town Council and Town Manager.
- Councilor George: Welcomed Mr. Rushton and congratulated Mr. Chase and Mr. Sousa. Mr. George appreciates all the volunteers time. He thanked his fellow councilors for electing him Vice President. Finally, Mr. George remind all this Saturday is the reschedule of Town Cleanup.
- Councilor Rushton: Thanked the Town Clerk and her staff and the lacrosse team for their efforts on election day. Mr. Rushton thanked the Councilors who stood with him on election day as all the voters.
- Councilor Losche: Absent
- Councilor Colombotos: Congratulated re-elected and newly elected councilors.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Echoed Councilor Colombotos' comments.



Town of Bridgewater  
Town Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 7, 2019

- Councilor Gallagher: Welcomed back Councilors Sousa and Chase and welcomed Mr. Rushton to the board. He thanked the Council for Presidency and reminded all that next week there is a meeting 5/14/19 for the FY20 Budget. Committee assignments will be coming up. Finally, Mr. Gallagher welcomed Lea Wyatt to Finance Committee.

**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 9:08 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 21, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (7-0) (Councilor Sousa absent, Councilor Losche not present).**

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

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Ann M. Holmberg  
Town Council Clerk