



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 May 8, 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, and Shawn George. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Peter Colombotos

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 24, 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 8-0.

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt came forward and conducted the swearing in of the reelected and newly elected councilors Colombotos, Wood and George. She then called for nominations for the seat of Town Council President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to nominate Councilor Haley to President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

No other nominations were put forward.

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

Newly elected President Haley called for nominations for the seat of Town Council Vice President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Chase to nominate Councilor Gallagher to Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

No other nominations were put forward.

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

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

- Reorganization of the Council

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 | 6. Councilor Chase |
| 2. Councilor Colombotos | 7. Councilor George |
| 3. Councilor Wood | 8. Councilor Losche |
| 4. Vice President Gallagher | 9. Councilor Fitzgibbons |
| 5. President Haley | |

**7:39 p.m., President Haley called a brief recess*

**7:41 p.m., President Haley called the meeting back to order.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT



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- President Haley announced the Memorial Day Parade details.
- President Haley announced the 4th of July Committee is looking for donations and spoke about the “big push” fundraiser.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- James Fruzzetti

PROCLAMATIONS

- Bridgewater-Raynham Robotics Team - TJ Squared
Councilor Wood read a proclamation recognizing the TJ Squared team and their teacher Mrs. Calef.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Danielle Silva, 20 Tommi Ann Terrace: Ms. Silva is a parent in Bridgewater and a teacher in another district. She spoke about the concern of rising mental health issues and the rising class sizes. Ms. Silva shared several statistics relative to emotional issues in the schools. She is very concerned about the negative affect on the children if the school budget is not level funded. Ms. Silva then spoke on behalf of Marie Fahey of Bayberry Circle who could not attend the meeting. Ms. Fahey wished to have conveyed her concern with the emotional issues in the schools and asked the Council to level fund the school budget.

APPOINTMENTS

HEARINGS

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

PRESENTATIONS

- Hometown Hero Project
Historical Commission Chair, David Moore came forward and spoke about having seen banners in central Pennsylvania. He inquired and found the town wanted to recognize veterans and did so by hanging banners on the light poles. The banners were sold to residents in town who wanted to have their family members displayed and honored. Mr. Moore has spoken with other towns who have done this program and spoke about the variations. Mr. Moore showed a banner used in another town. If the program gets off the ground, he would like to see the banners up around Memorial Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day and maybe some days in between. Mr. Moore would like to get a committee together in town to do a program like this. Would like to see the light poles in from legion field through the center decorated with the banners. Mr. Moore will need the support of the Council when Verizon advises on what’s required.

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 held a Committee Training on 5/2. It went well, and the will hold more of those types of training going forward. Mr. Dutton is one of three members of the designer selection panel for the Mitchell School Building Committee. The committee is made up of about 20 people. They met in Boston and selected three finalists. Mr. Dutton spoke about the district infrastructure financing work continues. Meeting with developer proposing a large new facility on Elm Street. The comprehensive re-zoning project will begin this summer with a comprehensive build out analysis. The Town’s 2018 Health Fair was very well attended. The Town Manager’s office puts a tremendous amount of effort into the event to make it such a success. There was a water main break on Broad Street. A private contractor hit a water main that was not mapped. The town is completing a grant request for Mini Vulnerability Planning (MVP). It’s designed to help communities plan for extreme weather events. There are four collective bargaining agreements being negotiated this month. Mr. Dutton is looking to resolve them before the end of the fiscal year or very early into the new fiscal year. The Finance Department has been doing excellent work catching up on tax title collections. The FY2019 Budget hearing will be held May 22nd right here in Council Chambers. Mr. Dutton reminded all that Bridgewater State University’s graduation is this weekend. Finally, Mr. Dutton advised



the McElwain Order cannot be voted this evening. Finance Committee needs to re-vote the measure as it was not on their agenda for a vote last evening

Councilor Questions:

- At Councilor Sousa's request, Mr. Dutton spoke about the zoning density on Broad Street noting; the Community & Economic Development Director is looking at comprehensive zoning that would encompass the entire stretch.
- Councilor Wood requested a hard deadline for Skips and if it's not met, the Council hold a hearing at very next meeting. Mr. Dutton responded he would be happy to do that.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair Wood stated the committee met last night, with Finance Committee. All budget orders were voted last night by both committees. They also looked at the Free Cash Policy. Mr. Wood asked the Council Clerk to share Free Cash Policy with Town Council. Mr. Wood will be putting forward an order to update the Free Cash Policy.
- Rules & Procedures: Committee Chair Losche stated the committee and is starting to look at our Council Rules. The committee will be proposing legislation to be referred to the Committee.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY18-032: Purchase and Sale Agreement - McElwain Property
This measure was not taken up as no Finance Committee disposition was available.
- Order O-FY18-034: Acceptance of Other One-Time Revenue for Special Purpose - Long Built Homes
Mr. Dutton explained; this is a payment made by Long Built Homes. The funds will be used to complete Cherry Street.

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

Discussion: None

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

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

- Order O-FY18-035: Acceptance of Other One-Time Revenue for Special Purpose – Bridgewater Homes, LLC
Mr. Dutton explained; this is one-time revenue from Bridgewater Homes, which used to be referred to as Prattown. The funds are to be used towards drafting an Affordable Housing Production Plan.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood noted both Budget & Finance and Finance Committees voted to approve this measure.

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

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

- Order O-FY18-037: CPC Transfer - Preservation Assessment of Two Old Bridgewater Historical Society Buildings and their Collections

Mr. Dutton explained; this order is based on the CPC's recommendation. The money is requested to do a Preservation Assessment on two structures as well as the collections in those structures. Mr. Dutton pointed out; both structures are in West Bridgewater and that is within CPC rules and law.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood explained these are regional resources and the artifacts in the buildings are Bridgewater artifacts. Both Budget & Finance and Finance Committees voted to approve the request.

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

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



Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to allow someone to speak in the non-comment area of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Without objection, the motion passed.

- Shellie Karol-Chik President of Historical Society came forward and thanked the Council for their support and briefly explained her family history.
- Order O-FY18-038: Transfer Order - Sewer Enterprise Capital Special Purpose Transfers
Mr. Dutton explained this measure is to replace two RBC's in the sewer department.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY18-015: Zoning Ordinance - Zoning Map Amendment South Business District - Lyman Place Area

**Attorney Rawlins left room at 8:35 p.m.*

Councilor Losche explained the area is currently zoned industrial and this ordinance proposes changing it to residential. Mr. Dutton further explained this is designed to move the line between commercial and residential a/b. The lots intended to be residential will now be in a residential zone.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee and Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Councilor George asked if there was required abutters notifications and a hearing requirement. Mr. Dutton responded; there is, though he doesn't believe there are any residences that will be adversely affected. Councilor Wood asked Mr. Dutton if the back lots/recreational lots in the area could be turned into additional residential lots? Mr. Dutton responded; he didn't believe so.

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

**Attorney Rawlins returned to the meeting at 8:42 p.m.*

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt thanked Mr. Wood for listening relative to the CPC Order. He was glad to hear Zoning review is going forward but believes the Master Plan needs to be updated first. Dr. Hunt has asked the Town Manager to put together visioning as part of package. Finally, Dr. Hunt noted he is waiting on Downtown Revitalization Committee from Town Manager. Dr. Hunt feels creation of that committee is urgent.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Congratulations to Vice President Gallagher and President Haley. Also offered congratulations to the reelected and newly elected Councilors, School Committee members and Library Trustee members.
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche agreed with Mr. Fitzgibbons comments and reminded all to donate to 4th of July Committee.
- Councilor George: Offered congratulations to all that were elected. Mr. George also congratulated the committee and Ms. Hunt for a great clean up day Saturday. Mr. George still has concerns around a very conservative revenue estimate. He then spoke about the state being poised to increase school funding. Finally, Mr. George noted May 22nd is the Budget Hearing and encouraged people to come, voice their concerns and hear the presentation. He noted he will be late.
- Councilor Chase: Echoed Councilor George's sentiments on clean-up day. He congratulated his to fellow councilors and Ms. Hunt. Mr. Chase read an article in the Bridgewater Independent today on two young men who aided in rescue on train tracks; the article notes they will be honored just before the Celtics Game tomorrow.



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- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated all who won in election. Thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons for a good year. Regarding the budget hearing; those who can attend should voice their concerns. Mr. Gallagher thanked all who participated in town cleanup; noting there's a bill before state on nips. He spoke about all the nips collected during clean up day. Finally, Mr. Gallagher congratulated all BSU graduates.
- Councilor Wood: Congratulated all who won at the election. He noted May 22nd is awards night at B-R, and he will have to attend. Mr. Wood thanked all who coordinated and attended clean up day. There is no litter ordinance here in town. Mr. Wood explained he watched a trash hauler drop trash on the road and drive off stating; we should explore how to enforce trash haulers. He also congratulated the High School on performance on Footloose. Mr. Wood asked if the Calculation of Free Cash could be distributed to the Council and spoke about two new sources of revenue; the hotel and marijuana.
- Councilor Colombotos: Absent
- Councilor Sousa: Thanked all who served and all who were elected.
- Councilor Haley: Thanked his fellow Councilors for electing him President and congratulated Councilor Gallagher. Mr. Haley also spoke about nips during clean up day. Finally, Mr. Haley reminded all to be aware of cyclists and motorcyclists.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 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 22, 2018, to approve the aforementioned Minutes by a voice vote (7-0) (Councilors Wood and George not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk