



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:02 pm, on May 19, 2020 via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Fred Chase, Mark Linde, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Matthew Rushton, Aisha Losche, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:55 p.m.) 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 since the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 5, 2020

Motion: Councilor George 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 - ABSENT; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher announced; with the cancellation of formalized Memorial Day activities, there will be some private graveside memorials and some of the Councilors will gather at the common at 10:00 a.m. for a brief moment of silence.

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens spoke.*

APPOINTMENTS

- Darren Boston – *Charter Review Committee*

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:

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

HEARINGS

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2020-012 New Common Victualler's License - GBC Food Services LLC, dba, Yummi Sushi, 233 Broad Street, Suite 17 (Roche Bros)

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton this is pretty straight forward and advised department leaders have all reviewed.

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

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:



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- Mitchell School Update (Standing Item)

The designer submitted the design development portion to the MSBA which will be reviewed tomorrow with MSBA. The work continues on 60% construction documents. We are on track and on budget, though the large pieces of construction have not gone out to bid yet. We are still on track for July 2022 completion. A letter was sent to abutters notifying them of the project information. Next meeting is Monday, June 1st. Information can be found at www.bridgewaterproject.com

At Councilor Fitzgibbons request, Mr. Dutton addressed the possible reasons the demolition bid came in under budget and what happens with the unused funds. The unused funds will continue to appear in the project budget until the general bids are opened and accepted. Then we'll know if there are savings on the project or if those funds will go to other project expenses.
- COVID-19 and Budget Impact

Mr. Dutton provided statistics noting we are holding steady at 54 active cases, there have been a little over 89 released from quarantine and 2 deaths. For the most part the cases reported are not related to DOC (inmates or patients). We are in the planning process for reopening the buildings. Mr. Dutton pointed out there are a great number of supplies that need to be procured. Mr. Dutton clarified, while the offices have been closed, the staff has been working – in many cases longer hours than in-office.

FY20 Budget – Budget & Finance and Finance Committee saw at their last meeting how carefully we are tracking (on a daily basis), real estate, personal property tax and utility bill collections. At this point we don't believe we need to do any short-term borrowing for FY20. There will be FY20 challenges in filling a deficit at the golf course and possibly transfer station.

Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the pricing at the transfer station was correct and is there a mechanism to maintain earnings in good years to offset bad years. Mr. Dutton responded, there is the mechanism is there, but it doesn't yield enough to offset this year. He also noted they have looked at pricing and may do something in the future.
- CARES Act Grant Funding

President Gallagher asked if the town had applied for any reimbursements? Mr. Dutton responded, no. They are waiting for Plymouth County to send the forms to use. Mr. Dutton then explained Plymouth County has taken 25% of the funds and allocated (not distributed) amongst the member communities. Bridgewater has been allocated approximately \$1.2MM. That is what we will draw from when we begin submitting requests. The challenges that Bridgewater faces is a lot of our resources go to servicing state facilities (DOC). Mr. Dutton spoke about concerns he may have had about reimbursement for state related expenses and that the allocation being based solely on census population. He has spoken with the County about these concerns and was assured those weren't issues.

Councilor George asked about the news that CVS is now a testing facility. Mr. Dutton explained; the Department of Public Health and Governor's office announced that CVS and the state had developed a testing system. Bridgewater was one of the designated testing sites. The Health Agent, Police or Fire Departments were not notified. It does not appear to be a public health concern, but the Town would have like to be notified. Multiple Councilors expressed concern about the change.
- Update - Building Maintenance Position

Mr. Dutton provided an update on the recruitment process for the Building Maintenance position, noting they thought they had a candidate, but it did not work out. For the FY21 Budget, due to the severe constraints, they have temporarily eliminated the position. Currently, the Town pays a small stipend to an employee to cover the basics. Mr. Dutton is hopeful that next year there will be better options. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked how the Town determines whether a position is filled via contract versus hiring of a town employee. President Gallagher noted the position had been included in several budget cycles and not filled. While Mr. Gallagher is not against taking the position out of the FY21 budget, he believes a town this size should have at least one maintenance person to service the buildings.



*7:54 p.m., Councilor Colombotos joined the meeting.

- Update – Town Hall on National Register of Historic Places
Mr. Dutton stated over the winter, Community & Economic Development Director, Jennifer Burke did the data collection necessary before the consultant could begin their work. The consultant wanted to take a look at the overall impact adding the building the National Register may have before moving ahead. Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about the makeup of the Feasibility Study Committee.
- Update – Central Fire Station Relocation
Mr. Dutton stated we went out to bid and received about seven responses. Three finalists were selected by the Fire Building Committee, interviews were conducted and the three were ranked. Now Mr. Dutton is negotiating an agreement based on that information. Councilor Colombotos requested minutes be forwarded.
- Update – Comprehensive Zoning Update
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the history. It is called a Zoning Recodification and is designed to take current bylaws and ordinances and bring them into a sequential codified document. It is also designed to sort out the conflicts that exist in the zoning bylaws and incorporate and new zoning and land law updates. It has been referred to Planning Board for a hearing. The Planning Board's intent is to ask the public for any additional concerns. Attorney Mark Bobrowski will attend their June 3rd meeting to address any repeating concerns. Councilor Colombotos asked if there had been any success getting the red-lined version? Mr. Dutton responded; the Planning Office is working on that. They will do a breakdown on the changes. The objective is not to make unilateral policy changes.
- Items for Next Meeting
President Gallagher reminded the Councilors that any request could be made through the Council Clerk.

DISCUSSIONS

- Town Follow-Up to Citizens Comments
Councilor Fitzgibbons walked through his intention. Mr. Fitzgibbons would like to see some follow up when citizens bring issues up at the meetings to close the loop on larger town-wide issues. Mr. Dutton stated he has begun working on a process with the Council Clerk and Town Attorney. Councilor Colombotos noted; as councilors we also have a role.
- Memorial Building – Preservation Restriction Considerations and Historical Commission Comments
Councilor Colombotos thought it would be useful to hear what some of the plans for the use of the Memorial Building and if comments from the Historical Commission had been considered. He also asked how the State Preservation Restriction affects the use of the building. Mr. Dutton responded; we are requesting CPC Funds to do repairs on the building. The long-term use of the building is not in question. It would be great to use the building for display space. However, it's not doable at this time. We have a pressing need for space for the Water & Sewer staff. We have roughly \$700,000 set aside for repairs on that building from the renovation of the Academy Building. If we don't use that money, it will go back. There is a Preservation Restriction on the building, both inside and outside. Major renovations require Mass Historic Commission approval. Once we have the funding we then go to the MHC with the schematic design for their approval. Placement of the proposed restrooms and potential elevator were discussed. Mr. Dutton again noted there was a bit of a time crunch on this item because of the end of the fiscal year. He would be happy to create a committee. Councilor Sousa further articulated concerns with the proposed space and display items. At Councilor Linde's request, Mr. Dutton explained the time constraints are relative to the funding, which has to be approved by end of fiscal year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-FY20-008: General Ordinance - Rescind Ordinance D-2012-004 Administration & Fiduciary Oversight of Budget - Ambulance Receipts
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons provided a comprehensive history of how and why the original Ambulance Receipts ordinance was adopted and the net effect of rescinding.



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.

- O-FY20-053: Transfer Order - Employee Contractual Buyouts

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.

- O-FY20-054: Transfer Order - Prior Year Bill

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:

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

- R-FY20-009: A Resolution Aiding and Supporting the Reopening of Businesses Closed by Executive and Public Health Orders

Motion: Councilor Sousa 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.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY20-056: Affix Town Clerk Salary

President Gallagher briefly explained the purpose of this order as requested by the Town Clerk.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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-FY20-057: Town Council Acceptance of Electronic Signatures by Municipal Boards Recording Standard

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to the Rules & Procedures Committee 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.

FY2021 Budget Orders

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer FY2021 Budget Items to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained give the current times, the FY2021 budget is heavily dependent on stabilization funds. Those funds maintain current staff levels and current work levels. A 2.9% increase has been factored into the budget for the school district, which is based on previous and ongoing conversations with the Superintendent and Raynham officials. We don't yet know if we'll be able to meet the 2.9%, but that is in large part based on Raynham.

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



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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-FY21-001: Budget Order - FY21 Annual Town Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-002: Budget Order - FY21 Water Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-003: Budget Order - FY21 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-004: Budget Order - FY21 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-005: Budget Order - FY21 OSLGC Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-006: Authorization of Revolving Funds
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.
- Order O-FY21-007: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY21
Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- William Akins, 5 Oak Meadow Place: Regarding the election hours, Mr. Akins would like to know if the hours will go back now to the original now that restrictions are being lifted. Should it be revisited?

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Thanked all the first responders and thanked all the people who put up the flags and banners around Town.
- Councilor Chase: Acknowledged the graduating class of 2020.
- Councilor Linde: Agreed with Mr. Chase's comments. He then thanked President Gallagher for giving the council the opportunity to gather on Memorial Day.
- Councilor George: Spoke about the budget noting this budget year is going to be very difficult, but what he's seen so far seems to be very well thought out. Mr. George spoke about the ability to access funds for a rainy day as well as the ability to access at the state level funds and resources available for services provided within the community. Mr. George noted his surprise on the lack of discussion around the Resolution passed this evening.
- Councilor Rushton: Spoke about seeing the flags and banners up, echoing Councilor Sousa's comments. Mr. Rushton acknowledged the CERT Team, David Moore, Roddy Walsh and the many other volunteers that make that happen. Reminded all that it is National EMS week and encouraged people to say thank you or check out the Bridgewater Fire Department's Facebook page.
- Councilor Losche: Nothing
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked President Gallagher for running another good meeting and for listening to Mr. Fitzgibbons when he didn't think it was appropriate not to do something for Memorial Day. Regarding Mr. Akins comments, he pointed out the Town Manager could bring that back to Town Manager's report.
- Councilor Gallagher: Reminded all that Friday, May 29th is the virtual Bridgewater-Raynham Graduation Live on Channel 9 and 98 beginning at 6:00 p.m. It will also be re-aired all weekend. Mr. Gallagher congratulated all the B-R Students. He taped a message to the class. Mr. Gallagher also congratulated all BSU graduates. On Memorial Day we will gather at 10:00 a.m. on the common for a remembrance. Mr. Gallagher reminded all to try and remember those that gave the ultimate sacrifice that day. BTV will also air past services which were held on the common. The next meeting is June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

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:



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

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 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, June 2, 2020, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (8-0) (Councilor Rushton not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk