



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on May 21, 2019 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Fred Chase, William Wood, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Matthew Rushton, Aisha Losche (arriving at 7:33 p.m.), Peter Colombotos and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

Councilor Francis Sousa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

President Gallagher announced the meeting being aired live and recorded.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 7, 2019

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

Discussion: None

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

- May 14, 2019 (Special Meeting)

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher announced Memorial Day Parade details.
- President Gallagher announced committee assignments are available in the packets. He noted Community & Economic Development Committee was a very popular choice, but there was no interest in Budget & Finance Committee. He encouraged newer Councilors to consider Budget & Finance Committee going forward.

**7:33 p.m.; Councilor Losche arrived.*

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

- Finance Committee – Julie Scleparis

Mr. Dutton explained this is a Council appointment which will fill the one vacancy the Council has. Mr. Dutton thinks Ms. Scleparis will be a great addition.

Motion: A motion to appoint was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Ms. Scleparis for continuing to volunteer for the town.

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

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2019-007: Three one-day alcohol & Entertainment Licenses - Portuguese Festival



Councilor Fitzgibbons asked why this petition was before the Council. Mr. Dutton explained; he only approves one-day alcohol licenses. This is also an entertainment license request.

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

Discussion: Councilors generally spoke in favor of the events.

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

- Petition P-2019-008: One-Day Entertainment License - Block Party Fundraiser

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

Discussion: None

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

- Petition P-2019-009: Five One-Day Alcohol & Entertainment Licenses - 49ers Club

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.

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: The Town is the recipient of MA Cultural Council grant for \$30,000. It's used for feasibility purposes for Town Hall for cultural purposes. Once the feasibility study is done, we'll go back to MA Cultural Council for Capital Grants. We will continue to have discussions about moving the Fire Department and with BSU about sharing the space. We are also discussing whether it's appropriate to replace the headquarters, or to create three facilities. We have been putting together committee to review work of the feasibility study. The benefit of moving out of the current fire station; there is a better use for the property and safety issues with fire trucks and the traffic pattern in Central Square. We have a consultant on board for Town Hall and are doing a feasibility study at the same time we are working on putting Town Hall on the National Historic Register. We are currently working on cleaning out the 2nd floor of Town Hall. Mr. Dutton shares Mr. Colombotos' opinion that cleaning out the 2nd floor will create some dramatic space. We will be looking to get a price on a complete cleanout. We have reached out to some businesses with parking lots in downtown area about faded striping about eight months ago. They all said they were going to look at it, but nothing substantive has been done. Unfortunately, there is really not a lot of enforcement options. Mr. Dutton spoke about the overall debt load. He will be asking the Finance Director to present the information to the Council. We are in the last year of debt exclusion for Fire Station 2 and the Police Station. Mr. Dutton cited the largest items which are debt excluded are the Academy Building and some minor debt on the Memorial Building and Fire Station roof. He then briefly listed other items within the levy which will come off in future years.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons clarified; the Academy Building is debt excluded because that had to happen, but a lot of the cost is funded through Community Preservation funds. Asked Mr. Sulmonte to address what best practices are relative to what an appropriate debt load is. Mr. Fitzgibbons noted; Mr. Gabriel, who does the Winter Place parking lot, has been doing a great job.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if there's currently a feasibility study being done now on the Fire Station? Mr. Dutton responded; we're getting things in order to prepare an appropriation to begin the study. Councilor Colombotos appreciates the feasibility studies; noting it's an important first step. Mr. Dutton added; the feasibility stage is where grant funding buy-in begins.
- Councilor Wood asked if the Town has considered a joint relationship with private business would allow the Town to use spaces for parking in exchange for assistance with striping? Mr. Wood asked if there is a plan for preservation of records in Town Hall basement. Mr. Dutton responded; yes - we have funded the first stage of a digitization process. At Councilor Wood's request; Mr. Dutton cited the biggest benefits of adding a building to the



National Registry as potential tax credits and possible grant funding. For the next meeting; Mr. Wood would like an update on the house on the NIP

- Councilor George would like a status update on letter to the School Committee and potential next steps. He also spoke about vacant lots being used for paid parking during BSU Commencement. Mr. George would like an order for the next meeting looking at permitting for paid parking.
- Councilor Losche stated she is hopeful that all councilors are using one-on-one meetings with the Town Manager.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons suggested including a standing "items for next meeting" agenda item going forward.
- At Councilor Colombotos' request Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about his practice of distributing his Operational Report.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-FY19-005: Zoning Ordinance - Establish Special Permit Criteria - Cultivation, Manufacturing and Testing - Adult Use Marijuana
President Gallagher read the legislation history and dispositions. Councilor Losche stated she had no additional updates to add.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Chase. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: At Councilor Fitzgibbons' request, Attorney Rawlins confirmed 2/3 (6) of the full council needed to vote affirmatively to approve the ordinance. Councilor Wood stated he will be supporting this piece tonight. The quality of the work is high and sets policy.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Sousa – ABSENT; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – YEA; Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Ordinance D-FY19-006: General Ordinance - Acceptance of MGL c. 44, s53 3/4 Concerning PEG Access & Cable Related Fund
President Gallagher read the legislation history and dispositions.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
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; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - ABSENT. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY19-054: Transfer Order - Sewer Reserve Special Purpose
President Gallagher read the legislation history and dispositions.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Motion: A motion to amend was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Wood briefly explained; the amendments adjust the original numbers which were preliminary figures.
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed unanimously.
Seeing no further discussion; a roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Sousa – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; George - YEA; Losche – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion to approve, as amended, passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY19-007: Creation of a "Review Committee"
Motion: A motion to refer to Rules & Procedures committee was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Discussion: Councilor Losche reminded all that we have discussed creating a standing committee whose sole charge is to conduct annual reviews for the Town Manager and Council Clerk. Councilor Wood asked if the intention is to join with the goals & expectations? Councilor Losche responded; that still lies with Strategic Planning.

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

- Order O-FY19-058: Transfer Order - Other One-Time Unforeseen Expenses

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

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Absent
- Councilor Chase: Hopes all find a safe and appropriate way to enjoy Memorial Day
- Councilor Wood: Spoke briefly about the July 4th celebration reminding all; the budget doesn't support the 4th of July events. Those are all donation based.
- Councilor George: Spoke about Student Government Day; stating it was a lot of fun. The kids were very engaged. Mr. George echoed Councilor Wood's comments about July 4th events and echoed Councilor Chase's comments about Memorial Day.
- Councilor Rushton: Spoke about Student Government Day stating he had a really great time and thanked all the Town employees who participated.
- Councilor Losche: Announced there is a 4th of July fundraiser 6/19 at Greyhound Tavern. She thanked all who participated in Student Government Day.
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Echoed comments about Student Government Day and thanked the Town Departments; particularly public safety who did a great job at BSU Commencement last weekend. Mr. Fitzgibbons spoke about the loss of Shoshanah Garshick and offered condolences to the family.
- Councilor Gallagher: Also enjoyed Student Government Day. Mr. Gallagher spoke about the Proclamation delivered earlier today to John Coyle for achieving he Eagle Scout designation. Mr. Gallagher spoke about Memorial Day. He announced the next Council meeting is 6/4/19.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 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 4, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (7-0) (Councilors Gallagher and Losche absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk