



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 June 23, 2020 via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present via Zoom© 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:

- Ralph Gronlund
- Albert Joseph LaBonte
- Benemino Gallo
- Raymond Rounds
- Joseph Oliveria
- Frederick Westerman
- Calvin Overlook
- Steven McLaren
- Richard Roach

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 2, 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 - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- None

PROCLAMATIONS

APPOINTMENTS - *None*

HEARINGS

- 7:05 p.m.: Order O-FY20-055: Transfer Order – Capital Appropriations

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:05 p.m.

President Gallagher read the dispositions from committees, including the amendment by CPC.

Mr. Dutton explained the items included in the order.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public

- Dr. Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt briefly clarified the CPC reduced the amount of funds.

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 Linde asked why the Finance Committee’s vote was not unanimous. Mr. Dutton stated he believed it was related to the CPC funding which has since been amended.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Via Zoom©
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 23, 2020

- Councilor Colombotos asked if the CPC vote is binding? Mr. Dutton responded, yes, it's binding. Once they made a recommendation, the Council can approve or not approve.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons noted; he has had an order waiting in the Budget & Finance Committee for a while. He thinks it's time for the Town Manager to come up with a building maintenance plan.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:19 p.m.

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

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to amend as presented 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.

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 to approve, as amended, passed 9-0.

- 7:10 p.m.: FY2021 Budget Hearing

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:21 p.m.

President Gallagher referred to the Town Manager for explanation. Mr. Dutton spoke about the challenges in developing a balanced budget during the current times. He noted the state has not provided their numbers yet. There is a proposed transfer of \$1.5 MM from stabilization to assist with funding the budget, which would normally never be done. Roughly half the \$1.5MM is allocated to school and half to the Town. There are no major initiatives funded in this budget and no reserve objectives. The focus is to ensure we do the critical work needed with limited staff. There is no expectation that this is the last time we'll be looking at this budget.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public:

- Dr. Hunt asked if the transfer to the energy fund means it's a revenue stream now? Mr. Dutton explained that is essentially an accounting function. There are solar credit that need to be transferred. Yes, it could be considered a revenue stream.
- At Councilor George's request, Attorney Rawlins clarified the appropriate time to make any amendments is during legislation for action.

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:

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:34 p.m.

**Return to regular order of business – Citizens Open Forum.*

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Marilee Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Town Clerk Marilee Hunt spoke about the election, which will run from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and the safety protocols in place. Ms. Hunt noted Raynham has since changed their hours to mirror Bridgewater hours.
- Ed Ivaldi, 10 Boxwood Lane: Mr. Ivaldi spoke about the election and reminded the district 6 citizens of the consequences of the election. Mr. Ivaldi reminded all about the controversy of Mr. Wood's candidacy. He spoke about ethics and character necessary for a Councilor.
- Lauren Webb, Union Street: Ms. Webb urged the Council to have a discussion about the role of the Police Department in society and as it may relate to the budget.



- Steve Rogan, Howard Street: Thanked Mr. Dutton and Councilor Linde for attending the Stand Up for Justice rally last weekend. Mr. Rogan runs the Historical Commission page. He then spoke about a document found between Bridgewater MA and Bridgwater England from 1846/1847 with a statement about anti-slavery. Mr. Rogan has been in touch with Bridgwater, England and they are interested in being a “twin town” with Bridgewater, MA.

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:

- Mitchell School Update (Standing Item)
The demolition phase has begun. The building teardown will take place after the July 4th weekend. The architect is working towards 90% drawings through August. We are still anticipating a 2022 completion and continue to be on budget. The next meeting is July 29th via Zoom. More information can be found at www.bridgewater-school-project.com
Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if we are still on track with state filings, etc.? Mr. Dutton responded, yes. The MSBA has reviewed all submissions and have had very little comment.
- CARES Act and FEMA Funding
Mr. Dutton explained the CARES act funding and the allocation of the funds through Plymouth County. We apply to FEMA first, who reimburses 75% of eligible costs and the CARES Act reimburses the 25%. The town has submitted a reimbursement claim to FEMA for \$287,544 (which is 75% of \$336,716). The balance was included in the CARES Act funding which was also submitted last week.
 - President Gallagher asked if all the expenses incurred from within the FY20 Operating Budget? Finance Director, Tony Sulmonte responded; these are expenses related to items not budgeted for; for example, PPE. Mr. Sulmonte provided a detailed explanation of the accounting for the expenses. Mr. Gallagher followed up asking if the expenses were paid from the FY20 revenues. Mr. Sulmonte responded, no. Once an emergency is declared, the town is allowed to deficit spend for the expenditures not budgeted for.
- Items for Next Meeting:
 - Councilor George requested an update on the Broad Street Project
 - Councilor Sousa requested an update on the power failure at the Academy Building

DISCUSSIONS

- Update – Status of Order to Abate Local Meals Tax
Councilor George explained; Attorney Rawlins reached out to the DOR for guidance on what we can and cannot do. He spoke about the real issue being the timing. The earliest it could be effective would have been October, which was well after the intent. Attorney Rawlins confirmed and noted now you have until 8/31 to revoke for October.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY20-058: FY20 End of Year Transfers
President Gallagher read the committee dispositions.
Motion: Councilor Chase 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.
- Order O-FY20-059: FY20 End of Year Transfer - Olde Scotland Links Golf Course and Transfer Station
President Gallagher read the committee dispositions.



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.

- Order O-FY20-060: Acceptance of a Gift - Parks and Recreation
President Gallagher read the committee dispositions.

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.

- Order O-FY21-001: Budget Order - FY21 Annual Town Budget
President Gallagher read the committee dispositions.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons noted both the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees both unanimously approved this order and reiterated what the Town Manager said earlier.

Motion: Councilor George made a motion to amend Stabilization to \$1,698,032.00 and Other Financing Sources Total to \$4,558,487.00 and the last sentence total to \$60,194,911.00. Line item 292 (BR School District Expense) amend to \$29,623,685.00 which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor George referenced the supplemental appropriation last year and his comment that last year's newly supplemented funding to the school should be the starting point for FY21, which is what he is doing here. Attorney Rawlins stated you can't increase the budget without a corresponding decrease. Discussion followed regarding the proposed amendment and the purpose and appropriateness based on the Charter. Attorney Rawlins reiterated; for the annual budget, the Council can amend by increasing line items and decreasing corresponding items. The Charter doesn't grant authority to increase the top line of the budget through Stabilization. President Gallagher spoke about the process stating we were always in agreement that Raynham was going to put in the corresponding amount. We were told 2.9% was what everyone agreed to. Then Raynham voted a different number. If we can't do it now, Councilor George should work with the Town Manager's office and perhaps put in a resolution. Attorney Rawlins noted; if you make a supplemental appropriation, it will go through the normal process. Councilor George clarified; his intent is was not to get closer to Raynham's number. *Councilor George withdrew his motion and Councilor Fitzgibbons withdrew his second.*

Discussion (on main motion): Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Sulmonte how will you be monitoring the revenue numbers? Mr. Sulmonte responded they are monitoring the revenue numbers weekly, noting a slow-down in motor vehicle excise tax and real estate tax payment.

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-FY21-002: Budget Order - FY21 Water Enterprise Fund Budget

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked when will we see expenses for DEP? Mr. Sulmonte responded; not until late FY21/22.

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-FY21-003: Budget Order - FY21 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget

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.

- Order O-FY21-004: Budget Order - FY21 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked how long will we need to fund the transfer station? Mr. Sulmonte responded; rates were increased right before the pandemic and we’re seeing some revenue. We are watching the rest of the year and first quarter, noting there’s a longer-term plan for restructuring how we’re billing.

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-FY21-005: Budget Order - FY21 OSLGC Enterprise Fund Budget

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Sulmonte why it’s important to make this transfer and the estimated impact of the pandemic on revenues to the golf course. Mr. Sulmonte responded; there was zero revenue in April vs. \$90,000 last year. We’re only down \$4,000 for May. We’re seeing solid play for June, but not able to do the events. We will get some CARES funding for the extra staff to ensure social distancing. Discussion briefly followed related to what is currently reimbursable under CARES Act. Mr. George asked if Plymouth County denies the reimbursement, is there another avenue? Mr. Sulmonte responded; he can reach out to other communities who are applying through the state to see if they were reimbursed.

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-FY21-006: Authorization of Revolving Funds

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.

- Order O-FY21-007: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY21

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

Motion: Councilor Linde made a motion to amend as written which was duly seconded.

Discussion (on amendment): 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.

Discussion (on main motion): 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

- Ordinance D-FY20-007: Zoning Ordinance - Adoption of Codified Zoning Ordinances

President Gallagher read the disposition that the intention was to withdraw this ordinance.

Motion: Councilor Colombotos made a motion to withdraw the measure which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if this implicates any timeframes for being brought back. Attorney Rawlins responded, it does not.

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-FY20-050: Home Rule Petition - Town of Bridgewater Charter Amendment - Councilor Term Limits
Motion: Councilor Losche made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor George briefly explained; this was brought to the Rules & Procedures Committee who voted to recommended approval. Attorney Rawlins then explained the process.
Motion: Councilor George made a motion to refer to Charter Review Committee which was duly seconded.
Discussion: At Councilor Linde’s request, Mr. Rawlins confirmed the process to implement can take a while.
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.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY20-009: General Ordinance - Amend Administrative Code Article II, Section I (B) and Article III, Section I (I)
Motion: Councilor Sousa made a motion to refer to the Rules & Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.
Discussion: President Gallagher explained his intent is to loosen the strings a little on some of the restrictions for volunteers and allow citizens who want to serve on more than one committee to do so. Attorney Rawlins reminded the Council to be sure you reach out to me to ensure we comply with conflict of interest law.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Losche – NO; Rushton – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; George – YEA; Linde – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-1.
- Order O-FY20-062: Acceptance of a Gift - Bridgewater State University
Mr. Dutton explained this is a gift that BSU has given annually.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor Colombotos thanked the university.
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-FY20-063: Acceptance of a Donation for Central Square
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the donation.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to the 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.
- Resolution R-FY20-010: A Resolution Supporting COVID-19 State Funding for School Districts
Councilor Fitzgibbons briefly explained the purpose for this resolution.
This measure was not referred to any committee.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Dr. Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt explained why there were amendments to the CPA Reserve Accounts.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Thanked the Council for their actions on Charter update. He spoke about the last process which took almost four years, noting when we adopted the Charter it only took three years. Mr. Ivaldi was surprised there was nothing on agenda for citizen feedback process. He then stated he is fully aware some people do not think Mr. Wood is in the wrong, which he finds astonishing.
- Marilee Kenney Hunt: Ms. Hunt spoke as the BIA President. She wants everyone to know the Central Square maintenance is funded by BIA.



COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Hoping to move meetings back into the Council Chambers.
- Councilor Chase: Wished all a Happy and Safe 4th of July reminding all it is wise to refrain from the use of fireworks.
- Councilor Linde: Thanked President Gallagher for running a good meeting. Commended the Rogan's and BCCR for the standouts. Mr. Linde thanked the Town Manager for speaking. Mr. Linde is hoping to be back on July 7th
- Councilor George: Agrees with Councilor Colombotos' statement thanking BSU for another gift. It brings to mind the kindness we're seeing. Briefly spoke about the budget and ongoing challenges.
- Councilor Rushton: Very proud to be part of the town and seeing the standouts over the last few weeks. Mr. Rushton spoke about Chief Delmonte and his hard work.
- Councilor Losche: Nothing
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked the Town Clerk for all the work on the election noting the early voting numbers. Thanked fellow Councilors on budget. Thanked Mr. Gallagher for another good meeting.
- Councilor Gallagher: Hopes we can meet in person 7/7, but don't count on it. He thinks we probably will have to meet via Zoom. We'll reorganize that evening. Mr. Gallagher reminded all to vote Saturday from 10 a.m. -4 p.m. He hopes all have a Happy 4th of July.

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:

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 8:44 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, July 7, 2020, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (8-0-1) (Councilor Wood abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk