



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 p.m., on July 7, 2020 via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present via Zoom© were, Francis Sousa, Fred Chase, William Wood, 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 and others who have passed including:

- Harry Gustafson
- Donald Chartier
- Charles Kent
- Joseph Cap
- James Sullivan
- Dr. Dianna Draheim

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 23, 2020

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; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0-1 (Councilor Wood abstained)

President Gallagher took a moment to read the Proclamation by Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Reorganization of the Town Council

Town Clerk, Marilee Kenney Hunt, called for nominations for Council President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to nominate Councilor George for President, which was duly seconded.

Discussion: No additional nominations were put forward.

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 - YEA. The motion passed unanimously.

Newly elected President George called for nominations for Vice President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to nominate Councilor Rushton for Vice President, which was duly seconded.

Discussion: No other nominations were put forward.

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

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

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



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

HEARINGS

- 7:05 p.m.: Petition P-2020-013: Alteration of Premise - Riviera Café Inc, 288 Broad Street
 President George opened the hearing at 7:13 p.m.

At President George’s request, Mr. Dutton briefly explained the proposed expansion.

President George invited any questions from the public – *None*

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - *None*

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - *None*

President George entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if Police and Fire had any issues with losing the one parking spot. Mr. Dutton confirmed they had no issues.
- Councilor Chase asked if the outdoor seating would be contiguous and would there be another entrance. Mr. Dutton confirmed it is contiguous to the current outdoor patio and there will not be another entrance.

President George closed the hearing at 7:17 p.m.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood spoke in favor of the change.

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

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

- 7:50 p.m.: Petition P-2020-014: Pole Location – New Intermediate P58-50 In Between P58 and P59 - Elm Street
 President George asked if the petitioner was present. As no petitioner was present, Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of the pole location request.

President George opened the hearing at 7:19 p.m.

President George invited any questions from the public – *None*

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - *None*

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - *None*

President George entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if this is part of ongoing upgrade to Elm Street. Mr. Dutton responded this is actually for a new building.

President George closed the hearing at 7:21 p.m.

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

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

President George reminded all of the guidelines for Citizens Open Forum

- Mark Linde: Thanked the Councilors for his time on the Council. Congratulated Mr. Wood.



- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten shared a good news story about his older daughter getting married in his backyard. Because of heavy truck traffic due to construction, his wife spoke with the truck foreman on the project and asked for help. The SLT Trucking Foreman rerouted trucks for the day.
- David Moore 54 Flagg Street: Chairman of Historical Commission. Spoke about concerns the Commission has had with the rehabilitation of the Memorial Building, specifically to the interior of the building.

APPOINTMENTS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

- Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect – Anti-Racism Pledge
Sam Baumgarten thanked the Council for reading the BCCR Proclamation. Mr. Baumgarten spoke about the work of BCCR and two other new groups in town: DICE and Stand Up for Justice. He stated BCCR comes to present requests to the Council this evening. Mr. Baumgarten requested people sign the pledge available on the BCCR website, either as individuals or as a declaration. Sherley Phillips then asked the Council if there should be a committee established by the Council for oversight in the areas of inclusion, diversity and equity. Mr. Baumgarten pointed out Malden has taken steps towards this. Steve Black requested a session with people of color who would like to speak about their experiences in Bridgewater. He referenced Needham who has done something similar. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked BCCR and requested the documentation referenced.

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*)
They are awaiting written confirmation from Colombia Gas that the gas has been turned off. Architect is working on 90% drawings. The 100% construction drawings are scheduled for October, then we go out to bid. The project continues to be on budget. Mitchell School Building Committee meets 7/13/20. More information is available at www.bridgewaterproject.com.
- FY21 Revenue vs. Budget (*Standing Item*)
Revised budget to actual receipts for revenue were roughly on target but are down from FY20 levels. Continuing to monitor tax bills days outstanding. The next quarterly will be critical. At Mr. Fitzgibbons request, Mr. Dutton stated he spoke to the State Representative last week and there is still no FY21 budget from the State.
- CARES Act and FEMA Funding
There has not been another submission since the one sent at the end of last month. We are looking for Plymouth County CARES Act Funding for \$115,000 and FEMA Funding for \$287,000 to cover expenses incurred for the state of emergency.
President George followed up on Tony's comment that he would look into the Cares Act reimbursement for golf course. Mr. Dutton responded he will follow up, but CARES doesn't reimburse for lost revenue on any level.
- Broad Street Project Update
The applicant has submitted required items for Planning Board review. Mr. Dutton believes it will be on an August meeting. The submission is for the four-building project and includes the vacant lot to be used for parking.
- Power Failure at Academy Building
Mr. Dutton provided an update on the power failure experienced back in February. The generator generated a trouble code. The IT Director was able to restart the generator. South Shore Generator has replaced some parts and it's working. We have also signed on for an annual parts and service agreement.
Councilor Sousa asked what parts had to be replaced? Mr. Dutton responded he can find out, though he thinks they did replace the batteries.
- Capital Plan – Sidewalk Improvement
Mr. Dutton spoke about the Street Scan analysis and noted there were a number of capital items planned you're your consideration which were put on hold due to COVID. He noted they have put in a Complete Streets Grant application to make improvements to the crossings and sidewalks on Main and Broad.



- **Central Fire Station Search Update**
There is a consultant on board. Will be meeting with some of the committee members this week. It will be a relatively short process (4-5 months) to come up with site feasibility and proposed site and program for building or buildings and schematic design. Councilor Gallagher asked if the Council will have any role in the decision. Mr. Dutton explained the committee will make a recommendation, but it will ultimately be the Council's decision on the site and how to fund it based on recommendations. Mr. Wood asked if the corner of Hale and Plymouth Street is being seriously considered. Mr. Dutton responded there are many sites being considered, which is why a consultant is being engaged.
- **Parking Lot Striping – Commercial Property Owners**
Mr. Dutton stated if there are commercial businesses in need of restriping, Councilors can reach out to him to have the enforcement officer reach out to the business. Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about what enforcement is available. Mr. Colombotos understands want to be friendly to businesses, but they should still be held to a standard.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Training**
Mr. Dutton spoke about the hiring process noting it's a blind process based on qualifications. The process can be lengthy, but is always thorough. He then spoke about annual harassment and diversity training for all employees. The Police Department is required to go through more, which is a choice we make to have an accredited Police Department. Councilor Wood spoke about diversity training he's been through and asked if committees have that type of training available to them and can we look into what would be available to them on an annual basis similar to Ethics training. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the Town Manager can you remove someone from a committee if they do something egregious? Mr. Dutton responded he doesn't really have that power but can remove committee members who miss too many meetings. Mr. Fitzgibbons asked if you found out an employee were being derogatory do you have more leeway? Mr. Dutton responded; absolutely.
- **Items for Next Meeting:**
Mr. Dutton briefly thanked Councilor Gallagher for guiding through the pandemic.
President George requested an update on responses to the survey to businesses and what is the Town doing?
He would also like to resume Committees Presentations

DISCUSSIONS - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- **Order O-FY20-062: Acceptance of a Gift - Bridgewater State University**
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilors thanked the University for their continued support.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- **Order O-FY20-063 Acceptance of a Donation - Central Square**
President George 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; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- **Resolution R-FY20-010: A Resolution Supporting COVID-19 State Funding for School Districts**
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons explained his position and reasoning for the Resolution.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:



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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY21-008: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriation for Highway Barn

Councilor Gallagher briefly explained the reason for the order and asked Mr. Dutton to clarify the funding.

Motion: Councilor Gallagher 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; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion

- Order O-FY21-009: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriation for School Funding

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:

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

President George stated he will call a special meeting for 7/28/20 at 7:00 p.m., which will allow enough time for advertising and committees to review. Mr. George implored the committees to take this up as quickly as possible. He asked the Council Clerk to schedule the hearing for 7/28.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons echoed the Town Manager’s comments about Councilor Gallagher. These are difficult times. He thanked both Mr. Gallagher and Mr. George for running great meetings. Finally, Mr. Fitzgibbons thanked BCCR and their three speakers.
- Councilor Colombotos: No comments
- Councilor Sousa: No comments
- Councilor Rushton: Thanked all Councilors for electing him Vice President. He congratulated and welcomed back Councilor Wood. Mr. Rushton thanked Mr. Gallagher for his service as President and thanked Mark Linde for his service.
- Councilor Wood: Complimented all on managing through the crisis. He thanked Mark Linde for his service. Councilor Wood then spoke about his time away from the Council and his focus going forward. He then spoke about the election and citizen input about his candidacy from outside the district. Mr. Wood then spoke about the election history for district 6.
- Councilor Chase: Thanked Mr. Linde for his service over the last few months.
- Councilor Losche: Echoed Mr. Chase’s comments.
- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated Councilor George and Councilor Rushton. He thanked all for the opportunity to serve as President and welcomed back Mr. Wood. He congratulated Mr. George and Mr. Colombotos and thanked Mr. Linde for stepping up to fill the vacancy noting District 6 was served well. Hoped all had great stay at home 4th of July. Mr. Gallagher congratulated the 4th of July decorations winner and congratulated the Town Manager’s office for Phase 3 opening.
- Councilor George: Thanked the voters of Precinct 3 and thanked the Town Council for Presidency. He also thanked his family for giving him the flexibility to give back. Mr. George is looking to continue Mr. Gallagher’s work to keep moving to a better Bridgewater. He thanked Mr. Linde. Finally, Mr. George asked Councilors to send three committees that they’d like to serve on.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.



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ADJOURNMENT

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

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 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, August 4, 2020, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (9-0)

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk