



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 July 9, 2019 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa (arriving at 7:37 p.m.), 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 who have passed including:

- John Castaldo

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 25, 2019

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

PROCLAMATIONS

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

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

Discussion: Mr. Dutton thanked those who serve in these seats and encouraged citizens to continue to apply for committees.

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

- Annual Re-Appointments
 1. Patrick Driscoll - Affordable Housing Trust
 2. William Callahan - Affordable Housing Trust
 3. David Anderson – Agricultural Commission
 4. Scott Rubin - Board of Assessors
 5. Joseph Gillis – Cable Advisory Committee
 6. Michael Flaherty – Citizens Advisory Committee
 7. Marilyn MacDonald - Conservation Commission
 8. Harry Bailey - Conservation Commission
 9. Henry Goldsmith – Disabilities Commission
 10. Anna Nakouzi – Disabilities Commission
 11. David Frim - Elder Affairs Commission
 12. Sandra Alley - Elder Affairs Commission
 13. Nicholas Bagas - Elder Affairs Commission
 14. Bridget Boyle - Elder Affairs Commission
 15. Lorraine Carrozza - Housing Authority
 16. Gina Guasconi – Parks & Recreation Commission
 17. James Campbell – Parks & Recreation Commission
 18. Kevin Mandeville - Open Space Committee



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19. Lorraine Carrozza – SAVE Committee

- Appointments

1. Carlton Hunt – Community Preservation Committee

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

Discussion: Mr. Dutton thanked Dr. Hunt for volunteering. Councilor Colombotos asked if this is the town-wide seat appointed by the Town Manager? Mr. Dutton responded; yes.

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

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item G: License Transactions out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS (*Taken out of order.*)

- Petition P-2019-011: Three (3) One-Day Entertainment Licenses – The Bridge Center

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 9-0.

Return to regular order of business (F: Hearings).

HEARINGS

- **7:35 p.m.:** Order O-FY19-073: Transfer Order - Drain Replacement - Hayward Street
President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:36 p.m.

**7:36 p.m.; Councilor Wood recused himself and stepped away.*

Councilor Gallagher read the legislative history.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

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:

- No Councilor questions.

Mr. Dutton explained the transfer request.

President Gallagher noted Budget & Finance and Finance Committee both voted to approve this.

- Councilor Chase asked if the nature of the failure was due to issues Mr. Dutton previously illustrated to the Council. Mr. Dutton explained; this is mostly failure of materials, but also due to those issues presented previously.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:40 p.m.

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

Discussion: None

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

Sousa – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – RECUSED; George – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Losche – YEA; Colombotos - YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0-1

PRESENTATIONS

- Town Debt Update – Anthony Sulmonte, Finance Director

Finance Director, Anthony Sulmonte came forward and presented information on where the town is with debt.

He explained; “municipal borrowing”, Inside Debt Limit calculation and Equalized Property Values. Mr. Sulmonte spoke about how much the town can borrow inside the debt limit. It was noted; in a recession the equalized values will drop, therefore the limit will drop.

Mr. Sulmonte stated his opinion that any additional borrowing should be done through a debt exclusion. He then



spoke about bonding agencies' formula. Total general fund debt services as a percent to the general fund operating budget should stay between 8% - 15%.

Mr. Sulmonte then displayed graphics showing the projected debt and the impact on the taxpayers. A graphic was also shown on cost calculation for all four projects based on the assessed value of a person's home at \$459,000.

- Councilor Wood asked about the average home value calculation? Mr. Sulmonte responded; that is a number calculated by DOR.
- Councilor Rushton asked if IT could build a calculator on the website. Mr. Dutton stated he would look into that.
- Councilor Losche asked if there is a mechanism where citizens can pay more for particular items? Mr. Dutton responded; when people want to pay more for particular items (generally capital items), the way to do that is to go to the ballot and vote for that debt exclusion.
- Councilor George asked what the interest rate is for projections over a 20-year period and if it can go down over time with refinancing opportunities? Mr. Sulmonte responded; we go over that with bond counsel and use 3.5%.
- 80 Spring Street – Sandra Wright & Hope for Heroes – *This item was postponed.*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included:

- Update on Broad Street Properties: Mr. Dutton reached out to the owner(s) of many of those properties for upkeep and has not heard back yet. The town has been advised that plans and application for planning board for the will be submitted as quickly as they can move. Councilor George confirmed for the record, the property owner has not submitted any plans as yet. Mr. Dutton confirmed that is correct.
- Consultants
President Gallagher asked that a timeline be added to some of these. Additionally, he'd like to add: when the project was approved, when an RFQ went out and the timeframe for conclusion and results.
Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if it will be sent to us? President Gallagher confirmed. Mr. Dutton stated; once it's in a format that's easily viewed, he will put it on the website.
- Items for Next Time:
 - Councilor Wood stated his opinion that it is still difficult to find things on the website. When you send a link to someone it's not very descriptive. Can the technology folks make meaningful titles? He asked for an update on where we are going with the website.
 - Councilor Chase requested an update on the status of Rainbow's End.

DISCUSSIONS

- Standing Discussion Item:
 - 1) Mitchell School Update
The committee met last night and voted on their final submission to the MSBA. It will be delivered tomorrow. The hope of committee is the Council will entertain a first reading of appropriation/borrowing legislation at the 8/6 meeting. Then the Council can hold the hearing and take a final vote at one of the September meetings. The Committee is targeting 10/19 for potential election date, but that is not set; it is up to the Council to set the ballot date. Mr. Dutton recapped; the Mitchell School committee has proposed demolition and construction of a new school. The cost is estimated at \$80MM and reimbursement would be a little more than 40%. He suggested it may make sense to have the School Building Committee Chair come in and do a presentation at a future meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance:
Committee Chair Wood stated the Committee met last night. He noted; they continued item "c" in committee. Item "d" was voted 3-0 in support and "e – g" were also voted in support 3-0.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION



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- Ordinance D-FY19-003: Zoning Ordinance - Amend Table of Uses - Cultivation, Manufacturing and Testing - Recreational Marijuana
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: Councilor Colombotos urged passage of this ordinance before we lose control of what goes where. He then summarized the table of uses.
Motion: A motion to amend was made by Councilor Losche to change “Recreational Marijuana” to “Adult Use Marijuana”. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: Attorney Rawlins confirmed there were no issues with the proposed amendment. It was also confirmed that this has no bearing on medical marijuana.
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 9-0.
Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons noted the email from Mrs. Hansen urging support of this, but noting she is not happy about it.
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 to approve, as amended passed 9-0.
- Order O-FY19-056: Chapter 61B - Intent not to Exercise Right to Purchase Land
President Gallagher read the committee referrals and dispositions.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: At Councilor George’s request, Mr. Dutton explained the location of the land is to the west of Bedford Street.
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 9-0.
- Order O-FY19-057: Directing the Town Manager to Create a Special Reserve Fund
Motion: A motion to refer back to Budget & Finance Committee was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted it hasn’t been released from committee.
- Order O-FY19-058: Transfer Order - Other One-Time Unforeseen Expenses
President Gallagher noted; Budget & Finance committee voted to recommend 3-0.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: President Gallagher stated; he supported this transfer in committee but has some issues and outlined them. He expressed concern that a potential bidder was there doing the presenting. He did note that there was a timeline provided last evening. Councilor Wood stated; he wasn’t sure until last evening that he was going to support this, but the hope is that with the data it will help the town draw businesses. Councilor Losche asked if the list of competitors can be provided.
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 9-0.
- Order O-FY19-074: Transfer Order - Employment Contractual Obligation
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
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 9-0.
- Order O-FY19-075: Transfer Order - Cultural Council Grant Match
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: Councilor Colombotos stated; this represents a good investment with a 50/50 match with the state.
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; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-007: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY20

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos asked about the \$378K to pay off this building or is it a scheduled bond payment. Mr. Dutton responded; that is the portion that's allocated out of the CPC for this year.

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 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-008: Transfer Order - Capital Water Special Purpose Transfer

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

Discussion:

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 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-009: Transfer Order - Capital Sewer Special Purpose Transfer

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos asked if these are the purchases forecasted under the Capital Plan? Mr. Dutton responded; yes.

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 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY20-001: General Ordinance - Stormwater Ordinance

Motion: A motion to refer to Community & Economic Development Committee was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-011: Contract Ratification - United Steel Workers

Motion: A motion to refer items b), c) and d) to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-FY20-012: Contract Ratification - Firefighters Association

Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.

- Order O-FY20-013: Contract Ratification - Bridgewater Administrative Association

Referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked the Community & Economic Development Committee for getting the zoning to a place where we could vote 9-0.
- Councilor Colombotos: Explained; The original name (for Community & Economic Development Committee) was Economic Development. He put forward the amendment to include "Community"; explaining the thinking that it was meant to serve the community.



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- Councilor Losche: Thanked the Bridgewater 4th of July Committee and expressed appreciation for all the volunteers.
- Councilor Rushton: Echoed Councilor Losche's comments. He then mentioned the work of the School Building Committee for reaching a major milestone.
- Councilor George: The 4th of July Committee did a great job. The parade and fireworks were great. The work for the School Building Committee is entering the next phase. There will be many things that people will need to take into consideration. He encourages all to make informed decision.
- Councilor Wood: Throughout the year we spend a lot of time on the budget process, but the 4th of July celebration makes Mr. Wood feel like it's still a small town. He spoke about the arts festival and fireworks. Mr. Wood announced; because of the budget process Mr. Wood has invited the district to participate in a number of workshops. He thanked all for working through the details of the Special Permit process.
- Councilor Chase: Thanked all involved in the Comprehensive Master Plan process.
- Councilor Sousa: Thanked all the committees for their hard work on the zoning ordinance.
- Councilor Gallagher: The 4th of July committee did a great job and reminded all; it's never too late to donate. Mr. Gallagher spoke about an event for the Mandela Fellows and meeting one fellow in particular who is a television host in South Africa. Finally, Mr. Gallagher spoke about attending the presentation of a check from the University noting the relationship is very important.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *None*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor George. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 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 6, 2019, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (6-0) (Councilors Sousa and Losche absent, Councilor Colombotos not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk