



**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
AUGUST 2, 2022, MEETING MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Fred Chase called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 12, 2022, in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

Fred Chase, Erik Moore, Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, Dennis Gallagher, Dr, Kevin Perry, Shawn George and Matthew Rushton. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlings were also present.

**ABSENT**

William Wood

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

a) May 24, 2022

Because of councilor absences at the May 24, 2022 meeting and absent tonight, the meeting minutes could not be voted on. Will be on the September 13, 2022 meeting agenda for approval.

b) June 7, 2022

*Councilor George made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from the 6/7/22 meeting, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

c) July 12, 2022

*Councilor George made a motion to approve the Council Minutes from the 7/12/22 meeting, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Abstained; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 7-0-1.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

A moment of silent prayer was held for Mr. Raymond L. Perry and William F. O'Donnell, two veterans who recently passed away.

Council President Chase noted that there were 3 residents turning 100 years old and they are: Alice White (8/6/22); Emily Stone (9/24/22) and Lillian Dupree (9/27/22).

Council President Chase also noted that one because of the absences of councilors for meeting, a certain dates meeting minutes could not be approved yet. Asked that the councilors be mindful and alert the Councilor Clerk if they are not attending a meeting. Also noted that subcommittees need to meet on a regular basis and that the President can make changes to committees if necessary.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

a) Firefighter Robert J. Mancinelli, Jr. Retirement

Council President Chase noted that Captain Mancinelli, Jr. has retired from the Fire Department and a proclamation has been drafted for the Councilors to sign. Councilor Chase congratulated Captain Mancinelli, Jr. and wished him well in his retirement.

**CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

Marilee Hunt: was notified and read a letter regarding the 5 Charter changes that were submitted to the State and what is needed if the town election were to happen on 11/8. Wants an emergency meeting prior to 8/12/22.

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Spoke regarding raw milk and the email she sent to the councilors.

Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: zoning was a huge amount of work put into it.

**APPOINTMENTS** – None

**HEARINGS**

- a) **7:05p.m.** Order O-FY22-057: Order of Taking (*Town Manager*)  
*At their meeting held 6/30/22, the Community Economic and Development Committee voted unanimously to recommend. This measure has been duly advertised for public hearing in the Enterprise, on the Town's website. This measure may be finally considered this evening upon conclusion of the hearing.*

Councilor Chase opened the Public Hearing at 7:26pm.

Councilor Chase asked if there were any questions from the public – none.

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in favor – none.

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in opposition – none.

Council Chase asked if any of the Councilors Had any questions – none.

Councilor Chase closed the Public Hearing at 7:29pm.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-057, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Abstained; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Abstained; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 6-0-2.

- b) **7:08p.m.** Petition P-2023-001: Granting of the Transfer of a Class II Used Auto Dealers License – Fritz Auto Body, 567 Main Street  
*This hearing has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website and abutter's letter sent. This measure may be considered this evening upon conclusion of the hearing.*

Councilor Chase opened the Public Hearing at 7:29pm.

Councilor George made a motion to continue the public hearing until 9/13/22 at 7:10pm. The motion was duly seconded.

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- a) Petition P-2023-003: The Granting of a Temporary Road Closure – Fellowship Masonic Lodge 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (*Town Manager*)  
The Petitioner has withdrawn this request.

**PRESENTATIONS**

## C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

### a) Mitchell School Building Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the project is close to the end. Possible delay in wood floor for gym but it will not delay opening day. Furniture, ceiling tiles, electrical all taking place. Will open on Time.

Councilor George asked if the school will open without the gym being completed. Town Manager Dutton noted it would.

Councilor Perry asked if there was any plan in place if the school is not ready. Town Manager Dutton noted that he was not sure but would find out.

### b) Website Cleanup

Town Manager Dutton noted that Josh McGraw has done a great job with updating the webpages for the committees. Resource links have been added and will be populating more to the websites.

Councilor Moore thanked everyone for the work that has been done to update the website.

### c) Drought and Water Issues

Town Manager Dutton noted that on Friday an outside water ban was issued. Water towers are low. Vegetable gardens can be watered by hand. Warnings and fines will be handed out. 10 wells running, have not rested since 6/26, need to reduce the demand on our water towers.

Councilor Gallagher asked what would be needed to lift or modify the ban. Town Manager Dutton noted that the wells need to be able to rest and State needs to scale back.

Councilor Moore asked what happens with all the wells running. Town Manager Dutton noted that the water can be discolored and bring up minerals and could risk damage to the wells.

### d) Update on Charter Amendments

Town Manager Dutton noted that there are 2 legislative actions sitting on the Governor's desk for signature and as Town Clerk Hunt noted a special meeting will need to be scheduled prior to 8/12/22 if an 11/8/22 election was to be held.

Councilor Gallagher asked how the town is notified when legislation is approved. Town Manager Dutton noted that we have to keep track of it.

Councilor George asked what the odds are of receiving notification from the State prior to 8/12/22. Town Manager Dutton noted that we should know if the governor signed them by then and cannot act unless they are signed.

### e) Bristol Plymouth Technical School Debt Impact

Town Manager Dutton noted that votes in the Bristol-Plymouth district voted to move forward with building a new school. \$170M will be paid by each town. Debt is based on the percentage of students attending. Declining debt model, will have to have a debt exclusion question.

Councilor Perry asked what fiscal year it would start in. Town Manager Dutton noted that a small hit would happen in FY24 and a bigger hit in FY25.

## D. DISCUSSIONS

### a) Potential Sale of Raw Milk in Bridgewater (*Chase*)

Councilor Chase presented an overview of the timeline for the sale of raw milk. Feels he has had his say and has given research information regarding raw milk. Would like councilors to express their own comments.

Councilor Gallagher noted that he appreciates the work that was done regarding raw milk and that any farm can apply through the State. No action needs to be taken.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) Rules and Procedures: Councilor Chase noted that the Rules and Procedures committee met on 7/28/22 to discuss Ordinance D-FY22-025 and voted 2-0 to keep the ordinance in committee.

F. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY22-076: Shared Streets Grant (*Town Manager*)  
*Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 8/2/22 Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 7/20/22 meeting.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that this would be with BSU for sidewalk replacement.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget and Finance committee met prior to the Town Council meeting and voted 2-0 to recommend.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-076, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- b) Order O-FY22-077: Community Compact Fiber Grant (*Town Manager*)  
*Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 8/2/22 Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 7/20/22 meeting.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was for fiber connection between the town and the district.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget and Finance committee met prior to the Town Council meeting and voted 2-0 to recommend.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-077, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- c) Petition P-2023-002: 2022 State Primary Election Warrant (*Town Manager*)

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-002, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- d) Resolution R-FY22-012: A Resolution Adopting the Town of Bridgewater, MA Hazard Mitigation Plan 2022 (*Town Manager*)  
*This Resolution was not referred to any committee. 14 days have elapsed, therefore it may be finally considered this evening.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Mitigation Plan is 630 pages of information and it needs to be adopted to get the grant.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Resolution R-F22-012, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- e) Ordinance D-FY22-021: Zoning Ordinance: Codification of Zoning Bylaws to Ordinances  
*At a joint hearing between the Community and Economic Development Committee and the Planning Board on May 11, 2022, the Planning Board voted unanimously to adopt the Zoning, with recommendations to fix three typo corrections.*

Community and Economic Development Director Jennifer DeBoisbriand gave a presentation showing the process timeline, recodification and changes and the proposed new sections.

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Department of Revenue is holding State funds and will be dispersed when this is adopted.

Councilor Chase thanked everyone for their hard work. This is intended to take zoning bylaws and make them more consistent and in compliance with state law.

*Councilor Gallagher made a motion to send Ordinance D-FY22-01 to advertising, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

G. OLD BUSINESS - None

H. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY23-007: Amendments to the Lease of Buildings Between the Town of Bridgewater, and Bridgewater/Raynham Regional School District Committee (*George*)

Councilor George noted that this is a simple modification to Bridgewater Buildings. Establish an ad-hoc committee with the Town Manager, 1 Town Councilor and Town Attorney and then bring back to the council.

*Councilor Perry made a motion to appoint Councilor George as designee for the Town Council to the Ad-hoc committee, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

- b) Order O-FY23-008: Transfer Order – Capital Leasing Obligations (*Town Manager*)

Town Manager Dutton noted that these are for the outstanding capital lease purchases.

*Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-008 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Asked is the public could see the zoning and where.

Mike Dolan, 20 Cheryl Drive: noted that \$850k was taken out of savings to fund the track.

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor George: Noted issues with the water and how wells could affect the usage.

Councilor Gallagher: Encouraged residents to conserve water.

Councilor Rushton: Congratulated Captain Mancinelli, Jr. on his retirement.

Councilor Colombotos: No comments.

Councilor Moore: Thanked all for the work on the zoning.

Councilor Perry: Had covid at the last meeting; congratulated Captain Mancinelli, Jr. on his retirement and congratulated the 3 ladies turning 100.

Councilor Sousa: Reminded residents that hand held hose can only be used for vegetable gardens.

Councilor Chase: Thanked everyone for their attendance and noted that there may be a need for an emergency meeting in the next week or two.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation where discussing the matter in open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

*Councilor George made a motion to enter into Executive Session, which was duly seconded.*

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Absent; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0-0.

L. ADJOURNMENT

**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, September 13, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes.**

**A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

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**Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk**