



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Edward Haley called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on October 9, 2018 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:35 p.m.), William Wood, Dennis Gallagher, Edward Haley, Fred Chase, Shawn George, Aisha Losche, 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 Courtney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- September 25, 2018

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 (Councilor Colombotos not present).

**President Haley noted the meeting was being aired live and recorded.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS - *None*

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Sam Baumgarten, Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten spoke about events coming up with the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility & Respect to promote civil discourse on a number of topics and encouraged all to attend.

APPOINTMENTS

- Cultural Council – Justin McCauley

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.

HEARINGS -

- **7:35 p.m. (Continued from 9/25/18):** Order O-FY19-015: Transfer Order – Capital Transfer – LED Light Conversion Project

President Haley opened the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Dutton provided an explanation of the transfer, noting; the savings we will see over the next year or two will more than cover the cost.

President Haley invited any questions from the public –

- Carlton Hunt – encouraged the council to vote for this measure. Spoke about the benefits of the LED lights.

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – none came forward.

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - none came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Wood asked if the Charter limits the Council's ability to pass a transfer since Finance Committee has not provided a disposition. Attorney Rawlins responded; the Charter is very clear that any financial decision has to have gone through the Finance Committee. Mr. Dutton advised; the hearing can be closed, and the Council can postpone the vote on the actual order to the next meeting.

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



Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion: None

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

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to postpone Order O-FY19-015. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: None

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

- **7:38 p.m. (Continued from 9/25/18):** Order O-FY19-018: Transfer Order – Appropriation for Street Assessment
 President Haley opened the hearing at 7:41 p.m.

Mr. Dutton briefly explained this will fund a street scan which is a detailed street and sidewalk assessment. It is a follow up to the Town Council’s request for a more comprehensive street and sidewalk assessment.

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

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Haley asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Haley entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Colombotos asked if there were any other sources of funding (grants, etc.)? Mr. Dutton responded; the project is Chapter 90 eligible but that would take away from road maintenance. Most of this is a one-time expense.

President Haley closed the hearing at 7:43 p.m.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

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

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to postpone Order O-FY19-018. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

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

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: Mr. Dutton gave an update on the Utility Billing module of Munis noting it’s a rather large conversion. The Town Manager’s office is scheduling meetings with Financial Advisors to do presentations to bond rating agencies to better our bond rating. The immediate benefit is that we’ll get a better interest rate. Mr. Dutton met with Fire Chief and staff today who shared his vision for 21st Century Fire Department. Town Offices will be closed to the Public Tuesday October 16th for safety training which includes Academy Building and Library Staff. Offices will be fully open on Wednesday 10/17. The Clerk’s office will be open until 8:00 p.m. Mr. Dutton advised he will be seeking an appropriation for a Traffic Engineer to provide options on Downtown Revitalization and recommendations on the roadways and sidewalks. The Fire Department received a \$140,000 grant to fund capital items. Mr. Dutton explained; the Charter needs to be sent to the State Archives before the proposed Charter revisions can move forward. Mr. Dutton highlighted the need for committee members on the Conservation Commission. Finally, Mr. Dutton spoke about the passing of Victor Levaggi, the Town’s Forestry Foreman, who was a loyal volunteer for 22 years. A moment of silence was held in his memory.

Questions:



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- At Councilor George's request, Mr. Dutton provided a brief update on responses to a Q&A session from Senator Pacheco and State Representative D'Emilia.
- At Councilor Sousa's request, Mr. Dutton provided an update on Elm Street, noting everything is on schedule. The Finance Director is finalizing spreadsheets and work is scheduled to start in spring.
- Councilor Wood asked if Skips Liquors had submitted paperwork to change the name? Mr. Dutton responded "no".
- At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton provided an update on Town Hall and moving the Central Fire Station; noting they are putting prices together and will be asking for an appropriation to sort, scan and box the items there. If that's too costly, then at the least boxing and storing. Regarding the Central Fire Station; they haven't been site specific yet, but it will start with a small amount of money to do a feasibility study. That area is an "opportunity" zone, so the best use is not a municipal fire station.
- At Councilor Chase's request, Mr. Dutton provided an update on the equipment removal in the Spring Street garage.

DISCUSSIONS

- Update Job Description & Goals – Town Council Clerk
Councilor Losche shared the Council Clerk job description and the performance appraisal form with the Council explaining the committee wanted to bring it before all Councilors. Discussion briefly followed as questions were asked about the position; hours and salary and who will deliver the evaluation. The Council Clerk confirmed the position currently is budgeted for 24 hours/week. Councilor Losche advised that it probably makes sense for the Council President to deliver the review. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mrs. Losche stated she'll speak about the Town Manager review under committee reports.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair Wood stated all items in Budget & Finance were recommended. They discussed the fact that Finance Committee isn't meeting on regular basis and we need to encourage the Finance Committee to meet.
- Rules & Procedures: Committee Chair Losche noted there are a couple of items coming out of committee that are on the agenda.
- Strategic Planning: Committee Chair Losche answered Councilor Colombotos' previous question about the Town Manager's review stating the committee is also doing this type of consideration for the Town Manager, however, the date has passed for 2018 and the committee is discussing how we want to move forward.
- Public Safety: Committee Chair Fitzgibbons stated the committee had a very good conversation around needs and costs of various public safety departments. The committee will meet one more time then have a full report ready for FY20.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Resolution R-FY18-004: Town Council Clerk Performance Appraisal
Motion: A motion to postpone was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: Councilor Losche explained this measure was not intended to be on the agenda this evening. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 9-0.
- Petition P-2018-018: State Election Warrant
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Sousa – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Haley – YEA; Chase – YEA; George - YEA; Losche – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY18-013: General Ordinance - Prohibition on Marijuana Establishments



Councilor Losche briefly explained, the committee simplified the original language and ensured it reflects the zoning ordinance which passed last year.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to approve for advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Chase.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to amend as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

Discussion (on amendment): Councilor Gallagher stated; when this was brought forward in December it was to mirror the original Zoning Ordinance and expressed his opinion that this is a compromise and meets the objective. A voice vote was taken, and the motion to amend as presented passed 9-0.

Discussion (on main motion to advertise): Discussion followed briefly. Councilor Wood expressed his opinion that he does not believe Bridgewater should ban retail recreational marijuana based on the revenue that could have been brought to the Town, he does not see this measure adding anything. Councilor Gallagher expressed his opposing position stating; he believes the Town Manager and team are doing everything they can to ensure Bridgewater will reap some type of financial profit from what we do have. Councilor Colombotos stated he will support sending to advertising.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion to send to advertising as amended passed 7-2. (Councilors Wood and Sousa in the dissent.)

- Ordinance D-FY19-002: General Ordinance - Amend Administrative Code - Temporary Repair to Private Ways
Mr. Dutton offered a brief explanation of the ordinance.

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

Discussion: None.

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

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-026: Transfer Order - Sewer Enterprise Capital Special Purpose – RBC

Mr. Dutton briefly explained this is to replace the remaining Rotating Biological Contractors.

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

Discussion: None.

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

- Order O-FY19-027: Transfer Order – Community Preservation Transfer – McElwain School Redevelopment

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the order and noted the CPC unanimously approved the request.

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

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt was hoping to hear more about the zoning review and Master Plan update. He provided a brief update on the Way finding and Branding Ad Hoc committee.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: No comments.
- Councilor Losche: Spoke about Autumnfest, thanking everyone for a great day. Mrs. Losche spoke about participating in BYSA giving day.
- Councilor George: No comments.
- Councilor Chase: Reminded all that there is one week left for voter registration and urged all who are not registered to take action.
- Councilor Gallagher: No comments.
- Councilor Wood: No comments.



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- Councilor Colombotos: No comments.
- Councilor Sousa: Stated early voting registration could use volunteers.
- Councilor Haley: Reminded all that when parking at the Academy Building spots are just as legally designated as anyplace else and people should respect the fire lane and handicapped spots.

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 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 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, October 23, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (6-0) (Councilors Haley and Chase absent. Councilor Colombotos not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk