



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Edward Haley called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:33 pm, on November 13, 2018 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Francis Sousa, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:34 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

**President Haley announced the meeting is being aired live and recorded.*

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed including:

- Carl H. MacDermott
- Thomas K. Hall
- President Haley held a moment of silence in memory of the recent mass shootings. He also read the proclamation declaring Bridgewater a town of Civility and Respect.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 23, 2018

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 7-0 (Councilors Haley and Chase recused due to meeting absence).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Haley announced the details for Christmas on the Common to be held December 2nd.

PROCLAMATIONS

- President Haley offered a proclamation recognizing Raymond Armstead and Ryan Saba for their act of bravery assisting occupants of a vehicle stuck on the train tracks in a snow storm.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten spoke on behalf of BCCR to thank the Council for requesting a moment of silence in recognition of the recent mass shootings and expressed appreciation of the council's support of civility and respect. Mr. Baumgarten then spoke about the BCCR committee meetings; topics and action items discussed.

APPOINTMENTS

- Historical Commission and Cultural Council – Stephen Rogan

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

Discussion: None

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

- Cultural Council – Christina Montana

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

Discussion: None

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

- Conservation Commission – Tiffany Souza

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



Discussion: None

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

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: The Governor signed a supplemental budget bill which grants us an additional \$142,000 for road maintenance. The Town also secured another \$50K for the work on Bridge Street. The total appropriation from Chapter 90 this year is \$903,239. The MBTA Commuter Rail Advisory Group asked if we would take a look at offering service later from Boston. He will take any feedback from Councilors. The Town received a Grant from Commonwealth for High Street Dam Bridge Planning Project for \$106,000. We are working with Nature Conservancy and several other agencies. We have submitted a pre-application to the Massachusetts Cultural Council's Cultural Facilities Fund looking for feasibility money to look at uses for the former Town Hall. We are also looking to list that building on the national historic register. It is on the state's list. There is a new van coming for Elder Services through Brockton Area Transit. There has been a great response to the call for volunteers. We still have another space on Conservation Commission, and vacancies on the Open Space committee, Water & Sewer Board and Board of Health. Mr. Dutton reminded all that the next meeting will be attended by State Representative D'Emilia to speak with Council and anyone who wishes to ask questions. Finally, Mr. Dutton spoke about Tom Hall and his service to the town.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked if Skip's paperwork been submitted for their name change? Mr. Dutton responded; we have received no paperwork requesting Sunday hours or name change. Then Mr. Dutton advised Mr. Patel submitted a request for modification to Planning Board, but the Plans were inaccurate. The Planning Board continued their hearing to 12/6 which is after the Council's 12/4 hearing.
- Councilor Gallagher asked for an update on the Spring Street Highway Barn and the Mobile Station. Mr. Dutton responded; we have not received the environmental study back as yet. Regarding the Mobile Station, Mr. Dutton explained, through the Town Attorney, we have been corresponding with the owner's attorney. They feel property is worth \$1.5MM. We require evidence of that. Councilor Fitzgibbons noted; if the owner contends it's worth \$1.5MM that's what they should be paying taxes on. Finally Councilor Gallagher asked for clarification on the options outlined regarding Zoning Ordinance D-FY18-008 asking if we may make a motion to reconsider? Attorney Rawlins advised relative to the motion to reconsider: the motion could have been made, but it has not been posted and would be an open meeting violation. Councilor Gallagher asked if it would be in order to bring it back at the 11/27 meeting? Attorney Rawlins responded; no, it would have had to be brought back this evening. Mr. Dutton added; the Town Attorney, Jennifer Burke and I had a meeting. The Town Attorney feels if we craft something that has a table of uses only and doesn't mimic what was contemplated in the Ordinance; it will be different enough to be a valid zoning ordinance. Something will be crafted to be presented to you either at the next meeting or first meeting in December.
- Councilor George asked if we get some sort of simple announcement to push that out to the public regarding State Representative D'Emilia's attendance at the 11/27 meeting. It would be a good opportunity for people to voice their concerns.

DISCUSSIONS

- New Councilor Orientation Checklist
Committee Chair Losche explained the Rules & Procedures committee has been crafting a New Councilor Orientation checklist. They wanted Councilors to look at it and provide feedback. Councilor Fitzgibbons suggested adding a note under the 1:1 meeting with the Town Manager that a single Councilor does not have the power (to direct the Town Manager). Directing the Town Manager is done by a vote of the Council.
- Number of Council Committees



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Councilor Losche explained Rules & Procedures committee is getting into the needs of our business. The Partnership Committee hasn't been active for some time. Do we want to reinstate or list it as inactive? Discussion followed briefly as councilors recalled the history of the committee. Discussion turned to the possibility of a committee for Downtown Revitalization. The committee discussed the possibility of creating a committee with a couple of members and an at-large councilor.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to create a Downtown Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: A brief discussion followed as Councilors generally expressed support for the committee and offered suggestions on the potential committee makeup. Councilors noted it should be a council of the committee who meet with the Town Manager, Town Planner with invitations to certain experts.

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

Councilor George asked if some action should be taken on the Partnership Committee. Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out it is up to the Council President to assign committees.

- Downtown Pedestrian, Bike and Traffic Patterns

Mr. Dutton provided an update; stating he is preparing to hire a traffic engineer. He showed slides on two recommendations provided by the Cecil Group. He then showed a third slide which was the preferred configuration; and was not an engineered plan. Mr. Dutton stated if this is the preferred configuration, we should get some engineered plans.

Discussion followed briefly as Councilors asked questions of the Town Manager and offered thoughts and suggestions on the downtown configuration. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton confirmed the funding supports vetting multiple plans. Councilor Colombotos finally noted his hope that there will be an assessment on how these changes could affect neighboring streets.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance Committee: Committee Chair Wood advised; the committee has met a couple of times. They will have the Budget Resolution on the next agenda for a first reading.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Resolution R-FY19-001: 2019 Town Council Meeting Dates

Motion: A motion 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.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-FY19-028: FY2019 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Revised Budget & Supplemental Transfer
Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation on each item.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer all items under New Business to the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

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

- Order O-FY19-029: FY2019 OSLGC Enterprise Fund Balance – 2019 Revised Budget
Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-FY19-030: FY2019 Tax Allocation – Adoption of a Residential Factor
Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-FY19-031: Transfer Order – Transportation Engineering Services
Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-FY19-032: Transfer Order – Digital Document Storage Project
Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-FY19-033: Transfer Order - Contractual Employee Sick Leave Buyback (SLBB)



Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.

- Order O-FY19-034: Rescind Prior Years Authorized & Unissued Loan Order Debt
Measure referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Linda Howard, Crescent Street: Ms. Howard spoke about crosswalks, especially near the schools noting; there's a crosswalk at the end of Crescent Street and South Street. The cars don't stop. She noticed the flashing signs in center of town and wondered if there was a possibility of getting that closer to a school. Mr. Dutton responded he can look into that and asked her to send an email.
- Taylor Sullivan, Norlan Park: Ms. Sullivan spoke about the vote (on Elm Street) noting Bridgewater Cares was upset. They hired an attorney to ask questions of. Ms. Sullivan explained some of the suggestions their attorney offered.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Spoke about subcommittees and having been removed from committees, expressing his dissatisfaction. He feels the Council President should be setting an example. He also spoke about a previous order which he sponsored having been stuck in committee.
- Councilor Colombotos: Expressed sympathy to Tom Hall's family and spoke highly on his behalf.
- Councilor Wood: Pointed out he is wearing ribbon made by the Robotics team in memory of Tom Hall.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked 8th grade students and Dory McLucas for hosting Veteran's Day event. He congratulated the High School marching band for winning first place in the Tri-Town Parade and thanked the Council President for reading the BCCR Proclamation. Finally, Councilor Gallagher wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilor Chase: Felt it was very encouraging this evening that we're continuing to staff committees and boards. The Town Manager has sought input on MBTA and he will be responding.
- Councilor George: Had a great time at Veteran's Day Parade. Regarding the crosswalks – the town also have a problem with people not following rules of road regarding school busses. He is hoping to take some proactive steps.
- Councilor Losche: Regarding the vote taken on the zoning ordinance. She reminded all that Councilor Fitzgibbons was clear about what the outcome could be. He also asked if we should postpone the vote, Councilor George asked pointed questions of the Town Attorney regarding the potential outcome. Councilors should have been fully prepared and informed. Finally, she wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Congratulated the Town Clerk and her staff for running a great election. Everything seemed to work smoothly. Mr. Fitzgibbons enjoyed marching at the Tri Town Parade with fellow Councilors. Regarding Christmas on the Common, he thanked the Police Department for making the traffic work for the event. Finally, Mr. Fitzgibbons spoke about Tom Hall stating this is a tragic loss for the Town.
- Councilor Haley: Responded to some of Councilor Sousa's comments. He stressed Mr. Sousa could have contacted him on his cell, rather than in a public forum. Regarding the comments about committee appointments again, he had wished Mr. Sousa had reached out to him personally.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to move into Executive Session under: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel and to adjourn from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Open session adjourned at 9:07 p.m.



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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, November 13, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Colombotos absent).
A TRUE COPY ATTEST:**

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk