Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Special Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 2, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the Special Meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:04 pm, on May 2, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Shawn George, Peter Colombotos, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry (arriving at 7:35 p.m.) and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed since the last meeting

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *None*

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Bridgewater TRIAD presents Elder Law Program – Medicaid Asset Protection Program, Tuesday May 16, 2017 at 12:45 p.m.
- Housing Production Plan 2017 Update Meeting 6/1 at 6:30 p.m. here in Council Chambers
- The Council President announced the Reorganization of the Town Council will take place this evening.

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt came forward and conducted the swearing in of the reelected and newly elected councilors Colombotos, Wood and George. She then called for nominations for the seat of Town Council President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to nominate Councilor Fitzgibbons to President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Colombotos.

No other nominations were put forward.

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

George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – ABSENT; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt then called for nominations for the seat of Town Council Vice President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to nominate Councilor Haley to Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher

No other nominations were put forward.

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

Sousa – YEA; Perry – ABSENT; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

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

1. Councilor Losche
2. Councilor Wood
3. Councilor Perry
4. Vice President Haley
5. President Fitzgibbons
6. Councilor Sousa
7. Councilor Gallagher
8. Councilor Colombotos
9. Councilor George

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PROCLAMATIONS - *None*

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Marilee Hunt, Austin Street: Ms. Hunt spoke about the Public Forum for Complete Streets. She stated no notification went out before 1:30 p.m. that afternoon. Ms. Hunt cares a lot about the streets in town and was unable to attend the meeting. There was no promotion of the event at all; then when they wanted to record the presentation there were unable to do so. Ms. Hunt strongly suggests that we ask the presenters to come again.

APPOINTMENTS *None*
HEARINGS - *None*
LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - *None*
PRESENTATIONS - *None*
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - *None*
DISCUSSIONS - *None*
SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - *None*
LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-2017-020: Special Election Warrant – June 10, 2017
  Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to suspend the rules. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
  Discussion: None
  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Gallagher. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
  Discussion: It was explained that this is a special election on a referendum to fund a feasibility study of the Mitchell School. At President Fitzgibbons' request, Mr. Dutton explained; it's a request to hold a special election on 6/10/17 for debt exclusion up to $800,000 for a feasibility study. Superintendent Swenson was asked to join the Town Manager at his table to answer questions. President Fitzgibbons asked the Town Manager to confirm this is a debt exclusion, not an override. Mr. Dutton confirmed and explained; a debt exclusion is not an override. The increase is only for a certain period of time. President Fitzgibbons confirmed with the Town Manager that it's within our discretion how we pay the debt off. Mr. Dutton explained; we pay for the feasibility study which will tell us what our options are for the Mitchell School. Then, we go back to the voters for a decision on what to do. The funding gets us through hiring an Owners Project Manager (OPM,) a design phase and a schematic drawings for the Building Committee to use in decision making. President Fitzgibbons asked if the Town Manager will also run a parallel process in case the (MSBA) money doesn't work out to our advantage. Mr. Dutton responded, though the process we will certainly go through a separate process to see if it makes sense for the town to go it alone. President Fitzgibbons asked; if we do not do the feasibility study, we foreclose the opportunity to have any MSBA funding. Mr. Dutton confirmed that's correct. Councilor Fitzgibbons then asked the Town Manager to confirm $800,000 is the maximum and is subject to a competitive bidding process. Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct. Finally, at Mr. Fitzgibbons' request, Mr. Dutton estimated if you spread this issue out over a bond issue, it averages out to about $.90 - $2.00/month to the average taxpayer depending on how it gets paid off. At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Swenson spoke to the scope of the study, stating we are currently in the eligibility phase and listed the required deliverables. Mr. Dutton noted the buildings are owned by Bridgewater (except for the High School). The School Building Committee is made up of really only Bridgewater residents. The discussion turned briefly to getting the correct information to the citizens.
  A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
  Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – ABSENT; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - *None*

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2017-021: Loan Order – Massachusetts School Building Association (MSBA) Feasibility Study
  Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the loan order.

**7:35: Councilor Perry entered the meeting.*

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

Discussion: There was a brief discussion about conditions on the bond market and the type of loan that may be pursued.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *No citizens came forward.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor George: Thanked his family and friends for their support. Mr. George is looking forward to working with the Council and Mr. Dutton. In terms of volunteers; we do a very good job of telling people we have opportunities but we have to ask them to get involved.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked Mrs. Wright for her service and congratulated Mr. George. He thanked the voters in district 5. Regarding the Complete Streets meeting; it was a really important meeting. Word should have been getting out a lot better. Mr. Colombotos would like to see the Planning Department get more help.
- Councilor Gallagher: Welcomed Mr. George and congratulated Councilors Wood and Colombotos. Congratulated President Fitzgibbons and Vice President Haley. Congratulated Councilor Wood for the speech at the Bryan McSheffey dedication. Mr. Gallagher spoke about the FY18 Budget vote next week stating; the Budget & Finance Committee met for three hours last night. Mr. Gallagher has left salary information with the Council Clerk on affixing the Town Clerk's salary
- Councilor Sousa: Congratulated Councilors George, Colombotos and Wood and thanked Mrs. Wright.
- Councilor Haley: Welcomed Councilor George and thanked all for the VP seat. Congratulated Councilors George Colombotos and Wood on the election.
- Councilor Perry: Welcomed Councilor George and thanked Mrs. Wright for her service.
- Councilor Wood: Thanked the voters who came out during the election. Thanked Councilor Wright for her service. Mr. Wood spoke about the Bryan McSheffrey dedication stating; Mr. McSheffrey and I went to many meetings; and nobody showed up. We need to find a way for all the subjects that we talk about to reach out to people
- Councilor Losche: Welcomed Councilor George.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Recognized the two school committee members in attendance. Mr. Fitzgibbons stated; we need to pass this vote on 6/10. If we don't it cuts off the whole path of MSBA funding, whether we go the MSBA route or not.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 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, May 23, 2017, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Voice Vote (6-0) (Councilors Losche, Colombotos and Perry not present.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk