



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Matthew Rushton called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm, on September 21, 2021.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for the 20th anniversary of 9/11/2001.

President Rushton announced: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no in person attendance permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Zoom or Facebook Live.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **August 3, 2021**

Councilor Chase motioned to approve the meeting minutes from August 3, 2021, which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

C. PROCLAMATIONS - None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None

E. APPOINTMENTS

- **Elder Affairs Commission Appointment – Douglas Dorr**

Councilor George motioned to approve the appoint of Douglas Dorr to the Elder Affairs Commission, which was duly seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

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

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



F. HEARINGS

- **Petition P-2021-016: 7-11 Transfer of Wine and Malt Beverages Package Store License**

President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:06

President Rushton invited any questions from the public: There were no questions from the public.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in favor: There were no citizens speaking in favor.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition: There were no citizens speaking in opposition.

President Rushton entertained any questions from councilors – There were no questions from councilors.

President Rushton closed the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

Councilor George motioned to approve P-2021-016, which was duly seconded.

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

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

- **Petition P-2021-011: Cumberland Farms of Massachusetts, Inc. dba Cumberland Farms for a Change of Beneficial Interest and Change of Officer**

President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:10 p.m.

President Rushton invited any questions from the public: There were no questions from the public.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in favor: There were no citizens speaking in favor.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition: There were no citizens speaking in opposition.

President Rushton entertained any questions from councilors: There were no questions from councilors.

President Rushton closed the hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Councilor George motioned to approve P-2021-016, which was duly seconded.

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

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

- **Petition P-2021-018: Petition for National Grid & Verizon New England Inc. Installation of Stub Pole 22-84 Main St**

President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:15

President Rushton invited any questions from the public:

Annmarie Sullivan – Main St: asked for clarification of the stub pole from the petitioner.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in favor: There were no citizens speaking in favor.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition:

Annmarie Sullivan – Main St: spoke in opposition of the stub pole.

President Rushton entertained any questions from councilors:

Several Councilors questioned the placement and necessity of the stub pole and asked that the petitioner gather more information before a vote is taken.



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Councilor Colombotos motioned to continue the hearing which was duly seconded.

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

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

Councilor George motioned to take Agenda Item “G” out of order, which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea, Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- **P-2021-017: The Granting of a One-Day Alcohol & One Day Entertainment Permit Black Hat Brew Works 9/9/2021, 9/12/2021, 9/16/2021, 10/3/2021**

Councilor Gallagher motioned to approve Petition P-2021-017 which was duly seconded.

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

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

H. PRESENTATIONS

- **Town Management Metrics**

Councilor Moore gave a presentation on town management metrics and how the benefits of implementing them for the Town of Bridgewater. Included in the presentation were detailed uses for the metrics and examples of other town’s usage of management metrics.

- **Census Update**

The Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt, proved an update on the recently released census data and its impact on the reprecinting process the town will have to undergo.

I. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and is on schedule. The exterior sheeting is going up along with more work on the plumbing and electric. The sprinkler system is also being installed and the project has lost no days due to injury. Site work has continued on the westerly site near the senior center.

- **Technology Update**

The Town Manager provided the councilors with information on the history of technology and the implementation and integration over the last 20 years. With the expansion of the IT Department, the town continues to improve and expand the available technology to the Town and its staff. The website continues to be upgraded and staff outside of the IT Department continues to be trained to assist with updates for the site. Cyber security is being strengthened throughout the town’s technology as well.

- **Capital Project Update**

Timelines for the capital projects were reviewed with the Town Council along with a discussion of upcoming projects.

- **Covid-19 Update**



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There are currently 8 reported cases of Covid-19. 54% of Bridgewater residents are fully vaccinated.

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Budget and Finance:** The Chairman of the Committee, Councilor Wood, shared the committee's disposition from the 9/7/2021 meeting regarding the legislation for action on the Town Council's 9/7/2021 agenda.
- **Council Clerk Selection Ad Hoc:** Councilor Chase gave an update on the progress being made with the council clerk selection process.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- **Ordinance D-FY21-005: General Ordinance: Amend Section XXV Committees of the Town Council Rules & Procedures**

Discussion: It was determined that the ordinance would need a new sponsor now that the original sponsor was no longer a member of the Town Council.

Councilor Wood motioned to amend Ordinance D-FY21-005 which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

Councilor Sousa motioned to send Ordinance D-FY21-005 to advertising which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY21-009: Acceptance of Mitigation Payment**

Discussion: None

Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-009 which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY22-010: Transfer for Downtown Charrette & Plan Agreement**

Discussion: The Budget and Finance Committee voted to hold Order O-FY22-010 in committee, they will review additional information pertaining to the Downtown Charrette & Plan Agreement once made available and refer to the council at a later date.



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Councilor Wood motioned to postpone Order O-FY22-010 until the first meeting in October, which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea, Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea. The motion passed.

M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

- **Ordinance D-FY22-002: Bridgewater Town Charter Amendment Correction of Typographical and Punctuation Errors**

Councilor George motioned to send Ordinance D-FY22-002 to the Rules and Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-003: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager “Temporary Absence”**

Councilor George motioned to send Ordinance D-FY22-003 to the Rules and Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea, Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-004: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials, Library Trustees**

Councilor George motioned to send Ordinance D-FY22-004 to the Rules and Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-005: Bridgewater Town Charter “Town” to “City” Amendment**

Councilor George motioned to send Ordinance D-FY22-005 through D-FY22-011 to the Rules and Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea, Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea. The motion passed.



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- **Ordinance D-FY22-006:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Term of Office
- **Ordinance D-FY22-007:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Election Eligibility
- **Ordinance D-FY22-008:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Annual Stipend
- **Ordinance D-FY22-009:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch, Recall Provision
- **Ordinance D-FY22-010:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Town Manager Term of Office
- **Ordinance D-FY22-011:** Bridgewater Town Charter Article V, Administrative Organizations, City Attorney, Term Limits

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- **Carlton Hunt – Austin Street:** shared comments on Councilor Moore's presentation.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Each Councilor was given the opportunity to speak and share comments with the Town Council with many councilors speaking on the 9/11 anniversary and memorial event.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Moore motioned to enter Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea.
The motion passed.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Sousa motioned to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:20 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw