



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 October 5, 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

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

- **September 21, 2021**

Councilor George motioned to approve the meeting minutes from September 21, 2021, which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – 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

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

H. PRESENTATIONS

- **Re-precincting Final Presentation**

The Town Clerk, Marilee Kenney Hunt, gave a presentation on her recommendation for the re-precincting of the Town of Bridgewater. The final recommendation was for 9 precincts with 9 at-large councilors. The presentation covered the study and recommendation of the design, the additional costs to implement, and the process to complete the re-precincting.



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- **Plymouth County Commissioners**

Sandra Wright spoke on the CARES ACT and the recent distribution of \$641,429.40 to the Town of Bridgewater, bringing the total distributions to \$2,034,572.62 and phase 7 has been approved for additional distributions to the Town of Bridgewater.

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

The project is on schedule at this time, contractors are currently working on the interior stairs, utilities, slab, and ceiling. Work on Wally Kruger way will begin next week, and the contractor is building emergency access for the senior center. The projected completion date of July 2022 remains.

- **Covid-19 Update**

There are currently 15 reported cases, 56% are vaccinated with 61% having had the first dose

J. DISCUSSIONS

- **Ad-Hoc Council Clerk Selection**

Councilor Chase shared details on the council clerk selection process up to the most recent candidate offers. The ad-hoc committee continues to interview for the council clerk position after the two most recent offers were declined by the selected candidates. Councilor Chase and President Rushton spoke on the most difficult obstacles of the process.

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- **Ordinance O-FY22-011: Transfer Order - Sick Leave Contractual Buyout**

Councilor Wood motioned to approve O-FY22-011 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.

- **Ordinance O-FY22-012: Transfer Order - Old High School Buyout Agreement with the Town of Raynham**

Councilor Wood motioned to approve O-FY22-012 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.

- **Ordinance O-FY22-013: Transfer Order - AFSCME Contractual Settlement**

Councilor Gallagher motioned to approve O-FY22-013 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.



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M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

- **Order O-FY22-014 - The Adoption of the Plymouth County OPEB Trust Program (PCOT)**

Councilor Gallagher motioned to refer O-FY22-014 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance 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; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY22-015 -Transfer Order - General Fund Free Cash Allocation to Trust Funds**

Councilor Wood motioned to refer O-FY22-015 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee 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.

- **Ordinance D-FY22-012 Zoning Ordinance - Zoning Map Amendment - 168-180 Broad Street**

Councilor Wood motioned to refer D-FY22-012 to the CEDC and Planning Board 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.

- **Resolution R-FY22-001 - Acknowledgement of the Acceptance of Catch Basin Cleaning at Marilyn's Landing Land Reclamation Project**

Councilor Perry motioned to refer R-FY22-001 to the CEDC 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.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Each Councilor was given the opportunity to speak and share comments with the Town Council.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION



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Councilor Perry motioned to enter executive session 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.

R. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw