



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2021 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 November 16, 2021, via Zoom.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Erik Moore

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

- **November 2, 2021**

Councilor Gallagher motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 2, 2021, which was duly seconded.

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

Gallagher – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea.

The motion passed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT – None

C. PROCLAMATIONS – None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

E. APPOINTMENTS - None

F. HEARINGS - None

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS- None

H. PRESENTATIONS - None

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and on schedule with paving and curbing beginning on the South Street side. Target completion date of July 2022.

Discussion: Councilor Rushton requested the Town Manager to schedule a walkthrough for the Councilors.

- **Covid-19 Update**

The Town Manager reported that there are currently 29 active cases, 19 adults and 10 children of Covid-19 within the Town of Bridgewater. 58% of residents are fully vaccinated and 64% have one shot.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher asked if all was being done to advertise the booster shot in town. Town Manager Dutton will find out what is being done to notify the residents.

- **Mobil Station – Environmental Status**

The Town Manager gave an update on the due diligence process that is underway. Phase 1 has begun, and all records associated with the property have been collected and no indication of any hazardous material found.

J. DISCUSSIONS – None

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Rushton noted that conceptual and cost documents have been received for the Fire Station project and asked that a presentation be scheduled for the next Town Council meeting.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Resolution R-FY22-002: FY23 Budget Resolution

Councilor George motioned to approve R-FY22-002 which was duly seconded.

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

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

b) Order O-FY22-021: Acceptance of MRS Grant

Councilor George motioned to approve O-FY22-021 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

c) Order O-FY22-022: Acceptance of DMH Grant

Councilor George motioned to approve O-FY22-022 which was duly seconded.

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

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

d) Order O-FY22-023: Acceptance of Grant for COA

Councilor George motioned to approve O-FY22-023 which was duly seconded.

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



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

M. OLD BUSINESS – None

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY22-024: Acceptance of Wild and Scenic Taunton River Stewardship Council Grant

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-024 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 – Absent; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

b) Order O-FY22-025: Tax Classification Residential Factor

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-025 to the Budget and Finance Committee, Finance Committee and to send to advertising. The motion 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

c) Order FY22-026: BAA Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-026 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 – Absent; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

d) Order O-FY22-027: BAA Collective Bargaining Contract Appropriation Transfer

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-027 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Nay. The motion passed.

e) Order O-FY22-028: USW Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-028 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 – Absent; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

f) Order O-FY22-029: USW Collective Bargaining Contract Appropriation Transfer

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-029 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 – Absent; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

g) Order O-FY22-030: Capital Plan Order

Discussion: Councilor Rushton requested a column be added to the spreadsheet to show what town department boilers and other items are being replaced in.

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-030 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee and to send to advertising. The motion 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

h) Order O-FY22-031: rescind Curve Street Loan Order

Councilor George recommended that O-FY22-031 not be sent to committee and be put on the next agenda.

i) Order O-FY22-032: Bridgewater Police Association Contract Ratification

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-032 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 – Absent; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor George – thanked the Veterans Council for a great Veterans Day parade.

Councilor Gallagher – happy to see the design and estimate costs of the fire station, fire department needs and deserves a new station.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
November 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry – thanked all for the Veterans Day parade and thanked the veterans for their service and sacrifices.

Councilor Chase – commented on the Veterans Day parade and a senior center event honoring the veterans, both great programs.

Councilor Wood – asked that if any high school students needed volunteer hours, they will be setting up the holiday decorations in the common the day after Thanksgiving and they can reach out to him if they want to earn the volunteer hours.

Councilor Rushton – thanked Josh McGraw for all of his help while not having a Council Clerk. Noted that there will be a Workshop for Charter Review changes scheduled for Monday, November 22nd at 7pm.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George motioned to adjourn which was duly seconded.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. Minutes submitted by Debra Ward 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, December 6, 2021, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward