



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
December 6, 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 7:02pm, on December 7, 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

- **November 16, 2021**

Councilor Chase motioned to approve the meeting minutes from November 16, 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

- **Marilee Hunt – Speaking as Town Clerk** – Mrs. Hunt provided updates on the precincting process that the town is currently going through.

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

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

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 7:21 p.m.



Councilor Wood motioned to approve O-FY22-025 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.

- Order O-FY22-030: Capital Plan Fall 2022

This hearing will be continued at the next scheduled Town Council meeting.

Councilor Wood motioned to continue O-FY22-026 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.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

H. PRESENTATIONS

- **New Bridgewater Fire Station Presentation**

Brian Humes gave a presentation on the proposed new fire station which included the site evaluation, schematic design, and the cost estimate. After the site evaluation was complete, 1185 Pleasant Street scored the highest of those being considered. The cost estimate was comprised of four components: hard costs (building), soft costs (furniture, fixtures, etc.), owner's project contingency, and station # 2 maintenance/improvements. The total cost estimate for the new station is \$20,956,964 with an additional \$2,000,000 for station #2 improvements. The project is currently in schematic design with a budget of \$23,000,000 recommended to begin.

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as scheduled and as planned. The next GMES meeting is scheduled for 12/13/2021.

- **Covid-19 Update**

The Town Manager reported that there are currently 94 active cases of Covid-19 within the Town of Bridgewater. There are no hospitalizations reported.

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- Councilor Moore updated the committee with the latest Rules and Procedures Committee work.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY22-026: BAA Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification

Councilor Wood motioned to approve Order O-FY22-026 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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b) Order O-FY22-027: BAA Collective Contract Appropriation Transfer

Councilor Wood motioned to approve O-FY22-027 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.

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

Councilor Wood motioned to approve Order O-FY22-028 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.

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

Councilor Chase motioned to approve O-FY22-029 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.

e) Order O-FY22-031: Rescind Curve Street Loan Order

Councilor George motioned to approve O-FY22-031 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.

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

Councilor George motioned to approve O-FY22-032 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) Ordinance D-FY21-011: Amend Article II Section 2-1 of Town Charter

Councilor George motioned to amend D-FY21-011 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.



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Councilor George motioned to continue D-FY21-011 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.

h) Ordinance D-FY22-015: Amend Article VII Sec. 7-4

Councilor George motioned to continue D-FY22-015 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.

i) Resolution R-FY22-001: Acknowledgement of the Acceptance of Catch Basin Cleaning at Marilyn’s Landing Land Reclamation Project

Councilor George motioned to approve R-FY22-001 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.

M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Ordinance D-FY22-016: Amend Article I Sec. 1-9 “Definitions” of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter by Special Act Legislation

Councilor George motioned to continue D-FY22-016 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.

b) Ordinance D-FY22-017: Amend Article VII Sec. 7-3(a) “Signature Requirements” of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter by Special Act Legislation

Councilor George motioned to continue D-FY22-017 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.



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c) Ordinance D-FY22-018: Amend Article X Section 10-7 time of Taking Effect

Councilor Wood motioned to continue D-FY22-018 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.

d) Ratification of the Town Manager’s Contract

Councilor George motioned to continue Ratification of the Town Manager’s Contract 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 – Nay. The motion passed.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor George – wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Gallagher – did not share any comments.

Councilor Perry – shared comments on the “Christmas on the Common” event and thanked the BBA.

Councilor Chase – did not share any comments.

Councilor Sousa – did not share any comments.

Councilor Moore – did not share any comments

Councilor Wood – shared comments on the “Christmas on the Common” event, the parade, and thanked the volunteers for the event.

Councilor Colombotos – did not share any comments.

Councilor Rushton – did not share any comments.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 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 21, 2021, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (7-0) (Dr. Perry and Councilor Wood not present)

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward