



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
January 4, 2022 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 January 4, 2022, via Zoom.

PRESENT

Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, Shawn George, Fred Chase, Matthew Rushton, Erik Moore, Dr. Kevin Perry, William Wood 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 all of the veterans and first responders who have passed.

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

• **December 21, 2021**

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

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. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS – None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Dr. Hunt, Austin Street: Congratulated Councilor Moore on his vision statement resolution.

Ed Ivaldi, Boxford: Thanked the councilors for their service and reminded them that their primary role was to service the residents. Would like to see the councilors get creative and engaged with the residents.

E. APPOINTMENTS - None

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2022-008: Annual Renewal – Taxicab License

Councilor George made a motion to approve P-2022-008, which was duly seconded.

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) Petition P-2022-009: Annual Renewal – Antique Dealer

Councilor George made a motion to approve P-2022-009, which was duly seconded.



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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.

c) Petition P-2022-010: Annual Renewal – Second Hand Gold/Pawn Shop

Councilor George made a motion to approve P-2022-010, which was duly seconded.

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) Petition P-2022-011: Annual Renewal – Common Victuallers (No Alcohol)

Councilor George made a motion to approve P-2022-011, which was duly seconded.

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 - None

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and on schedule. Target completion date of July 2022. Next Mitchell School meeting will be on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

Discussion: Councilor Rushton reminded the council of the tour scheduled for Saturday, January 8, 2022.

- **Covid-19 Update**

The Town Manager reported that there are currently 112 active cases (no hospitalizations) of Covid-19 within the Town of Bridgewater. 62% of residents are fully vaccinated and 68% have one shot. Town Manager Dutton is recommending masks at Town Hall. Employees will be required to wear masks and will be working split shifts to minimize the amount of employees in one office and to keep Town Hall open. The Town has ordered more test kits through the state.

Discussion: Councilor Moore asked if anything was learned with the way the 8,400 test kits were distributed. Town Manager Dutton noted that with future test kits, they will look at other avenues for distribution.

- **Community Comparisons Report**

Town Manager Dutton gave a presentation to the Council regarding how the Town of Bridgewater ranks compared to the 8 core group towns determined by DOR data and the 6 of the neighboring towns.

Discussion: Councilor Moore would like to see the benefit part of the spending. Councilor Wood would like a few more comparable towns added in the future. Councilor Rushton would like the presentation loaded onto the Town Website and Facebook page and include an explanation of stabilization and free cash.

J. DISCUSSIONS – None

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION



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a) Ordinance D-FY22-018: General Ordinance – Amend Article X Section 10-7 Time of Taking Effect (*Chase and Wood*)

Councilor Wood motioned to approve the amendments for D-FY22-018 which was duly seconded.

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.

Councilor Wood motioned to approve Ordinance D-FY22-018 with the amendments which was duly seconded.

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.

M. OLD BUSINESS – None

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY22-036: Acceptance of Donation – Local Resident (*Town Manager*)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this donation was from the Estate of Richard Hayes to the Fire Department.

Councilor George made a motion to refer O-FY22-036 to Budget & Financing and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

Roll-call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Colombotos – No; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

b) Order O-FY22-037: Acceptance of Donation – Chuckran's (*Town Manager*)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this donation from Chuckran's is for the purpose of purchasing reflective identification markers for the fire hydrants in town.

Councilor George made a motion to refer O-FY22-037 to Budget & Financing and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Rushton thanked Chuckran's for all that they do for the Town of Bridgewater.

Roll-call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Colombotos – No; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

c) Order FY22-038: Capital Plan Fall 2022 (*Town Manager*)

Town Manager Dutton noted that the previous Capital Plan was pulled because of school capital plan changes and this includes those changes.



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Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-038 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Moore asked what the purpose of the video system was. Town Manager Dutton noted that it was to capture auto accidents from tape. Councilor Rushton would like a Camera Policy put into place.

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) Resolution R-FY22-006: Resolution Establishing the Town Council’s Vision for Bridgewater (Moore)

Councilor George motioned to refer R-FY22-006 to the Strategic Planning Committee which was duly seconded.

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

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Suggested that the Town Council Clerk say 9 in favor instead of just 9-0.

Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: No towns that include prisons or universities were included. Would like to see that on the next presentation by the Town Manager.

Samuel Baumgarten, Short Street: Pleased track is in plan, thanked Councilor Moore for his vision statement and would like a public report of the DEI committee.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Gallagher: wished everyone a Happy New Year

Councilor Chase: wished everyone well and asked everyone to follow safe practices

Councilor Perry: wished everyone a Happy New Year and hope everyone had a happy holiday season.

Councilor Sousa – wished everyone a Happy New Year and to wear their masks

Councilor Colombotos – wished everyone a Happy New Year

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George motioned to adjourn which was duly seconded.

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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The meeting adjourned at 8:04 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, January 18, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote (8-0 Councilor George absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debra Ward". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Debra Ward
Town Council Clerk