



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
January 18, 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 18, 2022, via Zoom.

PRESENT

Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, 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

Shawn George

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for 3 veterans who recently passed away, John DiLoreto, Charles Halajian and Ronald Wagman and for former Town Councilor Tim Fitzgibbons father, Robert Fitzgibbons.

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

a. January 4, 2022

Councilor Wood motioned to approve the meeting minutes from January 4, 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 – Absent. The motion passed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

C. PROCLAMATIONS – None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Pat Neary, Lakeside Drive: Would like the councilors to gather input, do their homework and work with the residents

E. APPOINTMENTS - None

F. HEARINGS

a. **Order O-FY22-033: Loan Order – For Upgrade of Wastewater Treatment Facility (Town Manager)**

Council President Rushton opened the Public Hearing at 7:06 p.m.

Town Manager Dutton noted that no vote can be taken and gave a brief update on specific benchmarks and why more funding is needed.

Ms. Helen Gordon (OPM) gave a brief presentation on the original cost estimate done in 2019 based on 2017 ENR of 10737 and what the cost estimate is now based on 2021 ENR of 12647.

Councilor Rushton asked if there were any questions from the public:

Dr. Hunt, Austin Street: Inquired what Phase 1 and Phase 2 are and asked if we are looking at alternative energy. Town Manager Dutton noted that Phase 1 is nitrogen removal and Phase 2 is phosphate removal.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Gordon noted that they did not look at other options, tight site but a VFDO is included as part of the project.

Councilor Rushton asked if anyone wished to speak in favor – None

Councilor Rushton asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition – None

Councilor Rushton entertained questions from Councilors:

Councilor Wood asked how the rates would impact the residents and when they would see it. Finance

Director Anthony Sulmonte noted that there would be a significant increase for Phase 1 and a slight increase for Phase 2. Town Manager Dutton noted that we do not go out to bond until the project is finished and we will seek assistance to offset the costs.

Councilor Gallagher asked why so long getting the numbers and when was Environmental Partners brought on board. Ms. Gordon noted that they were brought on board in 2020 and it is a 3 year process. Councilor Gallagher further asked who the ratepayers were. Town Manager Dutton noted that it was those that are tied into the sewer.

Councilor Rushton noted that he was opposed to delaying the project and asked Ms. Gordon if she thought material costs would go down. Ms. Gordon noted that she does not see material costs going down anytime soon.

Councilor Rushton closed the hearing at 8:11 p.m.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to continue the Public Hearing until the February 1, 2022 meeting, which was duly seconded.

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

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

b. Order O-FY22-012: Zoning Map Amendment 168-180 Broad Street (Gallagher)

Council President Rushton opened the Public Hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Councilor Gallagher noted that approving this order would allow the developers of Perkins Foundry land to move forward.

Community & Economic Development Director Jennifer Deboisbriand noted that the Planning Board voted unanimously to recommend this order.

Applicant Steve Meltzer noted that this property currently has split zoning and approving the change to CBD would allow them to move to the next step.

Councilor Rushton asked if there were any questions from the public – None

Councilor Rushton asked if anyone wished to speak in favor:

Dr. Hunt, Austin Street – In favor of the project.

Councilor Rushton asked if anyone wish to speak in opposition: None

Councilor Rushton then opened up questions from the Town Council.

Councilor Wood asked if this would be entirely mixed use and no set back restrictions. Ms. Deboisbriand noted yes.

Councilor Rushton closed the Public Hearing at 8:22 p.m.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-012, 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 – Absent. The motion passed.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

H. PRESENTATIONS - None

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Mitchell School Update

Work continues as planned and on schedule. Target completion date of July 2022. Next Mitchell School meeting will be on Tuesday, February 7, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

b) Covid-19 Update

The Town Manager reported that there are currently between 100 and 120 active cases (no hospitalizations) of Covid-19 within the Town of Bridgewater. 62% of residents are fully vaccinated and 70% have one shot.

J. DISCUSSIONS – None

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Councilor Wood noted that the Budget & Finance committee did not meet tonight so no action can be taken on Order O-FY22-034, O-FY22-035, O-FY22-036, O-FY22-037 and O-FY22-038. The Budget & Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 24th at 6:00 pm.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY22-034: Acceptance of Non Recurring Revenue to Capital (Town Manager)

No action taken. Will be on the February 1, 2022 agenda.

b) Order O-FY22-035: Contractual Buyouts (Town Manager)

No action taken. Will be on the February 1, 2022 agenda.

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

No action taken. Will be on the February 1, 2022 agenda.

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

No action taken. Will be on the February 1, 2022 agenda.

e) Order O-FY22-038: Capital Plan Fall 2022 (Town Manager)

No action taken. Will be on the February 1, 2022 agenda.

M. OLD BUSINESS – None

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY22-039: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Dew Drop Lane (Chase)

Councilor Chase noted that all requirements have been observed and recommended that this Order be referred to Planning and the Laying Out of the Way approved.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the laying of the way, 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 – Absent. The motion passed.

Councilor Chase made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-039 to the Planning Board, 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 – Absent. The motion passed.

b) Order O-FY22-040: Transfer Order – Contractual Settlement BPA (Town Manager)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was the first year for the contractual contract.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
January 18, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer O-FY22-040 to Budget & Financing and Finance 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 – Absent. The motion passed.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Perry: extended his condolences to Tim Fitzgibbons and his family on the passing of his dad, Robert Fitzgibbons.

Councilor Moore – also extended his condolences to Tim Fitzgibbons and his family and also to the family of Jason Saccocia.

Councilor Rushton – informed the community about the post office distributing free at home covid tests.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Chase motioned to enter executive session at 8:41 p.m.

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 – Absent. The motion passed.

Councilor Chase motioned to adjourn at 9:16 p.m.

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 – Absent. The motion passed.

R. ADJOURN

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, February 15, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra A. Ward

Town Council Clerk