



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 February 15, 2022, via Zoom.

PRESENT

Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, Fred Chase, Matthew Rushton, Erik Moore, Dr. Kevin Perry, William Wood, Shawn George 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 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

a. January 18, 2022

Councilor Chase motioned to approve the January 18, 2022 meeting minutes, 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 – Abstained. The motion passed 8-0-1.

b. February 1, 2022

Councilor George motioned to approve the February 1, 2022 meeting minutes, 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 9-0.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Rushton read the letter being sent to Mr. Quinn and Ms. Troy for their dedication to the Arts for Youth Program into the record.

Council President Rushton noted that the Council will be returning to the Town Council chambers for in person meetings on 4/1/22 but will continue the Zoom platform so residents can participant via Zoom if they so choose.

C. PROCLAMATIONS – None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Council President Rushton noted that citizens comments can be up to three minutes, must be in a respectful manner and should not case aspersions on an individual councilor or the council as a whole.



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Michael MacDermott, 19 Harland Lane: Spoke about the importance of a new fire station and asked that the Town Council approve sending the loan order to the Finance Committee.

Pat Neary, Lakeside Drive: Would like the councilors to reach out to Senator Pacheco regarding the Better Bottle Bill and noted that the order being presented tonight makes no sense as marijuana is banned.

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Referenced the letter she sent to the council and added that she is not in favor of the ordinance being proposed.

Jeff Daniels, Maple Avenue: Expressed his view on marijuana and noted that there are many other ways to raise revenue.

Taylor Sullivan, 250 Norlon: Spoke about the law, how she reached out to the CCC and the ordinance should not be in front of the council as no licenses exist, there is a ban.

Jennifer Smith, Boxford Lane: Spoke about the ordinance and not in favor of it.

E. APPOINTMENTS – None

F. HEARINGS - None

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2022-012: Change of Manager – Cumberland Farms

Councilor George motioned to approve the Change of Manager for Cumberland Farms, 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

Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

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, March 14, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom.

b) Covid-19 Update

The Town Manager reported that the numbers of downward and the vaccination rate is unchanged. The mask mandate has been dropped from town offices.

c) FY2023 Budget

Town Manager Dutton noted that the budget meetings with the department heads will kick off on March 1, 2022.

d) 311 Feasibility

Town Manager Dutton noted that Councilor Chase asked him to relook at a call service for residents to report issues. Previously looked at 311 system and it was costly. Currently there is a link on the website to report problems such as potholes. We have reached out to 311 vendors for pricing.

J. DISCUSSIONS - None

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

At their meeting held on 1/24/22 the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval. The Finance Committee voted 4-2 to approve on 1/12/22.



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Councilor George made a motion to send Order O-FY22-038 to advertising, which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Moore noted that the original plan was lower and he just wanted more information regarding the track. In favor of the proposal just wants it to be successful. Councilor Wood noted that he is supportive of the track but it's important to ask questions.

Councilor Colombotos made a motion to add a line item for \$75k to match funds for a new Town Hall Roof, which was duly seconded. After some discussion, Councilor Colombotos withdrew his motion.

Roll-call vote was taken on the motion to send to advertising, 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 9-0.

b) Order O-FY22-046: Annual Town Website Content Clean-up (Moore)

At their meeting held on 1/24/22 the Budget and Finance Committee voted 3-0 to recommend approval. The Finance Committee voted 6-0 to approve on 1/12/22.

Councilor Moore made an amendment to change the date from “May 2, 2022” to “July 15, 2022”, which was duly seconded.

Roll-call vote was taken on the Amendment 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 9-0.

Councilor Moore made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-046 as amended, 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 9-0.

M. OLD BUSINESS – None

N. NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY22-047: Loan Order – Fire Stations (Town Manager)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was the first reading for a new fire station. There will be a public hearing and then put on the ballot to let the voters decide. Ask that it be forwarded to B&F and FinCom.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-047 to Budget and Finance 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 – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

b) Order O-FY22-048: Acceptance of Grant COA (Town Manager)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is a gift from the Fire Department to the Council on Aging for the purposes of contributing towards replacing the tent which was destroyed in the Nor'easter.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-048 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.

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



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Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

c) Order O-FY22-049: Transfer Order Non-Union (Town Manager)

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is a salary adjustment to non-union personnel.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-049 to Budget and Finance 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 – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

d) Ordinance D-FY22-019: Acceptance of Local Tax Option - Retail Marijuana Tax (Wood)

Councilor Wood noted that he chose the rate of 3% for this and he is interested in hearing what FinCom recommends. He also noted that this does not change the zoning.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY22-019 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – No; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – No; Gallagher – No; George – No. The motion passed 5-4-0.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dr. Hunt: Noted that the Town Hall roof was in dire straights and Town Manager should do weekly report on it and also noted that the Town Clerk did not receive 2023 budget information.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor George: No Comments

Councilor Gallagher: Reminded residents that his quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, February 19th from 9am to 11am at Bridgewater Bagel.

Councilor Chase: No comments

Councilor Perry: No comments

Councilor Sousa: Noted that the sidewalks on Broad Street were not clean after 4 days from the snowstorm. Wants them to be completed sooner.

Councilor Moore: Excited to hear the Town Manager's push for matrix system. Also asked that the email regarding the bottle bill law be resent.

Councilor Wood: Reminded residents and councilors about the Bristol Plymouth special election on March 5th. In support of the Bristol Plymouth school.

Councilor Colombotos: Disappointed with the vote on the roof for Town Hall.

Councilor Rushton: No comments

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor Chase motioned to enter executive session at 8:06 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 – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.



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R. ADJOURN

Minutes submitted by: Debra Ward

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, March 1, 2022 to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a Roll Call vote.

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 a horizontal line.

Debra A. Ward
Town Council Clerk