



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. February 15, 2022

Councilor George motioned to approve the February 15, 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

C. PROCLAMATIONS – None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Samuel Baumgarten – Short Street: shared comments regarding the solar discussion on the agenda.

Carlton Hunt – Austin St: shared comments regarding the solar discussion on the agenda.

Nicole Holmes – Old Farm Road: shared comments regarding the solar discussion on the agenda.

E. APPOINTMENTS

a. Board of Registrars – Republican Town Committee Appointment: Peter Linhares 3-year Term 2022-2025

Councilor George motioned to approve the Board of Registrars appointment of Peter Linhares 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. Board of Registrars – Republican Town Committee Appointment: Christina Porter, 1-year Term 2022-2023



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George motioned to approve the Board of Registrars appointment of Christina Porter 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.

- c. Board of Registrars – Democratic Town Committee Reappointment: Dr. Francis Jeffries, 3-year Term 2022-2025

Councilor George motioned to approve the Board of Registrars reappointment of Dr. Francis Jeffries 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. Parks and Recreation Superintendent – James Small

Councilor George motioned to approve the Parks and Recreation appointment of James Small as Superintendent 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.

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2022-013: Granting of the Transfer of a class II used

President Rushton opened the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Councilor George made comments regarding the articles of organization.

Councilor Colombotos asked if the fees would be paid prior to the license being issued, the Town Manager confirmed this is the process.

President Rushton closed the public hearing at 7:19 p.m.

Councilor George motioned to approve P-2022-013, 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 the senior center and library.



c) FY2023 Budget

Town Manager Dutton noted that the budget is underway, and the internal process has officially kicked off. Each individual department will be submitting mission statements and developing performance indicators to form a more robust budgeting process.

d) Drinking Water Update

Town Manager Dutton spoke on the PFAS notices that had recently been sent out and posted to the website. Testing and sampling has begun and the Town is working with MA DEP and an engineering firm for solutions on treating the water.

J. DISCUSSIONS

Large-scale Commercial Solar in Residential Districts

Councilor Chase discussed recodification to residential zoning to make changes to the table of uses that allow for commercial solar. Councilor Chase referred to recent litigation the town faced along with other national incidents involving commercial solar farms.

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic planning committee update

Councilor Moore gave the council a brief update and discussed expanding the strategic planning committee's purview.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY22-040: Transfer Order – Contractual Settlement BPA

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-040, which was duly seconded.

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-FY22-041: Transfer Order – Contractual Buyouts

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-041, 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.

c) Order O-FY22-042: Acceptance of Fire Safety Equipment Grant

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-042, 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) Order O-FY22-043: Acceptance of Grant COA-MCOA

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-043, which was duly seconded.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

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.

e) Order O-FY22-45: Acceptance of Grant COA-BPD

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-045, 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-FY22-050 (Town Manager)

This order will stay in council.

b) Order O-FY22-051: Transfer Order Town Hall Roof Repair (Town Manager)

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-051 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.

c) Order O-FY22-052: Transfer Order Sewer PS Wetwell Repair (Town Manager)

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-052 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.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

Carlton Hunt – Austin St: shared additional comments on the solar discussion.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor George: congratulated the Bridgewater-Raynham swim team and commented on the Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Councilor Gallagher: congratulated the Bridgewater-Raynham swim team and commented on the Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Councilor Chase: commented on the Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Councilor Perry: commented on the Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Councilor Sousa: No comments.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
March 1, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Moore: commented on the new Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Councilor Wood: No Comment

Councilor Colombotos: No Comments.

Councilor Rushton: commented on the new Bristol-Plymouth Technical School special vote.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURN

Councilor George motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Town Council at 8:37 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.

Minutes submitted by: Joshua McGraw

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 15, 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