



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
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 October 19, 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

- **October 5, 2021**

Councilor George motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 5, 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.

- **October 12, 2021**

Councilor George motioned to approve the meeting minutes from October 12, 2021 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

C. PROCLAMATIONS - None

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- **Pat Neary Lakeside Drive** – shared comments on Lakeside Drive ordinance.
- **Melissa Ramondetta Lakeside Drive** – shared comments on Lakeside Drive ordinance.
- **Carlton Hunt** - shared comments on the prior meeting minutes and eminent domain taking on Summer Street



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- **Bernice Morrissey Lakeside Drive** – shared comments on Lakeside Drive ordinance.
- **Janet Hanson Pleasant Street**– shared comments on Lakeside Drive ordinance.
- **Amanda and Adam Parks Bridal Road** – shared comments on Lakeside Drive ordinance.

E. APPOINTMENTS

- **Historical Commission Alternate member – Geoffrey A. Merriman**

Councilor George motioned to approve the appointment of Geoffrey A. Merriman 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.

F. HEARINGS

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

H. PRESENTATIONS

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**
The project remains on schedule and the unsuitable soil issue is being addressed, the change order is asking for \$200,000 for the correction of the issue.
- **Covid-19 Update**
The Town Manager reported that there are currently 23 active cases of Covid-19 within the Town of Bridgewater.
- **Status of Dwell-85**
The Town Manager clarified recent occurrences with Dwell-85 and answered questions from councilors.

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Ad-hoc committee:** Councilor Chase reported that the council clerk position has been accepted by a chosen candidate.
- **Rules and Procedures Committee:** Councilor Sousa reported on the recent meetings and requested additional assistance on the Charter Ordinance revisions from the Town Attorney.
- **Budget and Finance Committee:** Councilor Wood provided the dispositions from the committee's meeting on 10/19/21.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Ordinance – D-FY21-011: General Ordinance - Amend Article II Sec 2-1. Composition; Eligibility; Term of Office**

Councilor Wood motioned to continue Ordinance 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.

- b) Ordinance D-FY21-012: General Ordinance - Admin Code Change Part II CH. 1 Article II Section 2**



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Councilor George motioned to continue Ordinance 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.

c) Order O-FY22-014: The Adoption of the Plymouth County OPEB Trust Program (PCOT)

Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY22-014 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-FY22-015: General Fund Free Cash Allocation to Trust Funds

Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY22-015 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-FY22-013: Discontinuance of the Abandoned Portion of Lakeside Drive (Councilor Sousa)

Councilor Gallagher motioned to refer Ordinance D-FY22-013 to the Community and Economic Development Committee 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-FY22-014: Adoption of Precinct Map (Councilor Moore, Councilor Gallagher, Councilor Wood)

Councilor George motioned to send Ordinance D-FY22-014 to advertising 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) Resolution R-FY22-002: FY23 Budget Resolution (Councilor Wood)



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Councilor Wood motioned to send Resolution R-FY22-002 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee 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) Resolution R-FY22-003: Clear Title to the Town Common (Councilor Wood)

Councilor George motioned to send Resolution R-FY22-003 to the Community and Economic Development Committee 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-FY22-016: Capital Appropriation Memorial Building Project (Town Manager)

Councilor George motioned to send Order O-FY22-016 to the Budget and Finance and Finance Committee 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-FY22-017: Transfer Order OSLGC Pump (Town Manager)

Councilor Wood motioned to send Order O-FY22-017 to the Budget and Finance and Finance Committee 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) Order O-FY22-018: Plymouth American Rescue Plan Act Votes (Town Manager)

Councilor George motioned to send Order O-FY22-018 to the Budget and Finance and Finance Committee 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.

h) Order O-FY22-019: Eminent Domain Order of Taking for Summer Street Property



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Councilor George motioned to send Order O-FY22-019 to the Community and Economic Development Committee 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.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- **Bernice Morrissey** shared comments on the Lakeside Drive ordinance.
- **Ed Ivaldi Boxford Lane** - shared comments on the charter recommendations that were sent to the Town Council.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Chase shared his experience with the McElwain groundbreaking he attended on October 12, 2021 and commented on the Lakeside Drive concerns from the public.

Councilor Moore invited anyone from the public to discuss the Charter Changes with him.

Councilor Wood shared comments on the email received regarding the Bristol-Plymouth schools.

President Rushton shared comments on the charter changes and the Town Council hosting a workshop for the changes.

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilor George motioned to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m. 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.

R. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw