Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:34 pm, on March 21, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright (arriving at 7:58 p.m.), Peter Colombotos, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed including:

- Robert W. Parmenter
- Roy M. Turner

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- February 28, 2017 (Meeting of the General Public
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
  Discussion: None
  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0 (Councilors Haley and Fitzgibbons abstained, Councilor Wright not present).
- February 28, 2017 (Regular Meeting)
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
  Discussion: None
  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0 (Councilors Haley and Fitzgibbons abstained, Councilor Wright not present).
- March 7, 2017
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
  Discussion: None
  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0 (Councilors Perry and Colombotos abstained, Councilor Wright not present).

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Nunckatessett Greenway Rally will be held April 13, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at Bridgewater State University, Burnell Hall, Room 132B
- Reminder about the State of the Town Address, 3/28/17 at 6:30 p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS

- 2017 Bridgewater Raynham/West Bridgewater Girls Gymnastics State Champions
  President Gallagher read a proclamation acknowledging the Bridgewater-Raynham/West Bridgewater Girls Gymnastics State Championship Team.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.*

APPOINTMENTS - *None*

HEARINGS - *None*

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2017-010: Sodexo Operations, LLC dba OXEDOS
  Mr. Dutton explained this is a new Common Victualler's License for Sodexo. It's for a food vehicle.

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: Councilor Wood asked about the meals tax. Mr. Dutton explained; they were only operating on the school campus.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

PRESENTATIONS - *None*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: Mass Dot MBTA is reviewing the FY18 budget. One of the proposals is to suspend the weekend commuter rail services. They are asking for public comment from local officials. The Auburn Street Solar Field went to Conservation Commission; who denied the applications. They have appealed the decision. Mr. Dutton spoke about the EPA/DEP waste water discharge. They have met a number of times to convince them the town needs much more time than the five years they've allowed. Taxpayers in the affected areas cannot afford that rate hike. The town has requested a time period of 15 years to comply. The town has received site eligibility from Claremont to Mass Housing. They are asking for 300 units. A copy of that application has been circulated to the departments. Generally, the town generates a letter outlining concerns. They're open to going through the local process, but have filed 40B as a safety net. Mr. Dutton noted the continued hearing on Duxboro is Wednesday 4/12/17 in the Council Chambers. Mr. Dutton has drafted an RFP on the McElwain School. He will be also drafting an RFP for the Town Hall. He will file legislation on 4/4 asking the Council to declare for lease or sale, the McElwain, Town Hall, Great Hill Cell Tower, and Spring Street Garage. Mr. Dutton taped informational sessions at BTV regarding the Mitchell School which outline exactly what happens during the eligibility phase. The Town and District are in the process of forming a School Building Committee. The town will vote to move to the next stage, which is the feasibility stage. Tentatively there will be a June special election date for the vote. Mr. Dutton provided a brief update on a state program being adopted internally COMBUYS which provides access to state contracts. Allows us to streamline purchasing. Finally, Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the budget process noting the finance team has finished internal budget meetings with Department Heads so we can present a preliminary budget.

Council Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked Mr. Dutton to elaborate on the situation at Skips Liquors. Mr. Dutton explained; the property owner holds the license. The building official has been in contact with the adjacent property and Skips Liquors to push a fix.
- At Councilor Sousa's request, Mr. Dutton explained the Town Planner position is now the Community & Economic Development Director. Councilor Sousa asked if we should be looking to have a Planner in addition to the Community & Economic Development Director? Mr. Dutton responded one of the budget priorities is to add staff in the Community & Economic Development department.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if Mr. Dutton has though any more of gutting the upstairs at Town Hall. Mr. Dutton responded; yes, most of the town records are in the Town Hall. We'll go through what's there and move the documents that need saving. Councilor Colombotos asked who'll do to the work? Mr. Dutton responded; it'll be a group of people
- Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the state will take into account the proposed newer developments (40B at Claremont and Curve Street) as we partner with them on the MSBA funding? Mr. Dutton responded; yes. One of the big changes at MSBA is, they really take control of the projections. Councilor Fitzgibbons recommended having a parallel funding track based on the feasibility.
- Councilor Wood asked; if we go through the feasibility study, will it provide possible alternatives to that one building? Councilor Fitzgibbons responded; the school district needs to look at the full education picture within the district. Councilor Wood then noted; the information on the food truck petition doesn't address where the food truck is going to be. Mr. Dutton clarified; it will be exclusively on the University campus.
- President Gallagher asked if there will be separate RFPs for McElwain and Town Hall. Mr. Dutton responded; the first step is to declare the properties available for sale or lease. He explained he will propose lease or sale of Town Hall. We'll receive proposals and the Town Council will decide what's best. Councilor Gallagher asked why even put sale in there? Mr. Dutton responded; he thinks it's helpful for the Council to see what's out there.

**7:58 p.m., Councilor Wright entered the meeting.*

DISCUSSIONS

- Review of Northeastern University Economic Development Self-Assessment Tool Next Steps
  Councilor Colombotos withdrew the discussion item until a later date to give fellow Councilors time to review the report.
- Update on Building Maintenance Plan
  Councilor Colombotos explained his concern about maintaining the condition of the buildings. Mr. Dutton explained they will propose taking free cash to have an outsider come in to do a maintenance plan for all the buildings. The top priority is to create a position that will oversee maintenance and grounds.
  At Councilor Wright's request, Mr. Dutton elaborated on the possible scope and explained that disposing of buildings (like McElwain) would provide a source of funding for Stabilization or Capital Stabilization. Mr. Dutton then discussed potential qualifications.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Rules & Procedures: Councilor Losche advised the Committee met today. They are still working on ordinances referred. They voted to recommend the Ad Hoc Committee Order back to the full Council with a proposed amendment.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-2017-003: Zoning Ordinance – Amend Land Space Requirements
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Perry. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
  Discussion: None
  A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
  Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 9-0.
- Order O-2017-010 – Creation of an Ad Hoc Committee to Advise the Town Council on Retail Marijuana Issues
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
  Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to amend by adding ", appointed by the Town Manager and ratified by the Town Council," after the word "formed". The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
  Discussion: Councilor Colombotos will be opposing this amendment as he feels the Council should make the appointments. A brief discussion followed; finally, Councilor Haley stated as long as there's a well-rounded group of people and good cross section of citizens, he's comfortable with the amendment.
  A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-1 (Councilor Colombotos in the minority)
  A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
  Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion, as amended, passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take no action on both items under Old Business. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Ordinance D-2017-001: Amend General Ordinances – Vacant and Abandoned Commercial Properties
  No action taken per motion above.
- Ordinance D-2017-002: Amend General Ordinances – Illegal Dumping
  No action taken per motion above.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-2017-005: Amend Administrative Code – Historical Commission Membership
  President Gallagher briefly reminded the Council of David Moore's request to change the make-up from three to five. This legislation will effect that change.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Rules & Procedures Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *None.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: No comments.
- Councilor Colombotos: No comments.
- Councilor Haley: Went to the Robotics Games, they were great. Mr. Haley spoke briefly about citizen complaints on the lack of audible commentary at the Council meeting and reminded all to speak into the microphone.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Spoke about the Robotics Games noting his kids really enjoyed them.
- Councilor Losche: No comments.
- Councilor Wood: Spoke about the Robotics Games held at Bridgewater-Raynham High School. The District and New England First did a great job. The B-R Robotics team won the banner for the event.
- Councilor Perry: Congratulated the Girls Gymnastics Team.
- Councilor Sousa: No comments.
- Councilor Gallagher: President Gallagher congratulated the Robotics Team and Girls Gymnastics Team. He reminded all that the State of the Town Address is one week from tonight, here in the Council Chambers and starts at 6:30 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.
Minutes submitted by: Ann Holmberg

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, April 4, 2017, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Perry not present for vote).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk