



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 6, 2017

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Timothy Fitzgibbons called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on June 6, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Francis Sousa, Peter Colombotos, and Shawn George. Town Manager Michael Dutton, Associate Town Attorney Jason Rawlins and Town Attorney Mark Gildea (arriving at 8:32 p.m.) were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Dennis Gallagher

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed since the last meeting. A special remembrance for those involved in D-Day was held.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- May 23, 2017

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Fitzgibbons spoke about the voting on June 10th for a debt exclusion. It is not an override. It's will come off the taxes as soon as it's paid.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2017-013: Common Victualler's License – Black Hat Brewery (*Taken out of order without objection*)

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Haley. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

*7:33 p.m., Councilor Colombotos entered the meeting.

*7:33 p.m., President Fitzgibbons called a brief recess.

*7:35 p.m., President Fitzgibbons called the meeting back to order.

HEARINGS -

- **7:35 p.m.: Order O-2017-021:** Loan Order Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Feasibility Study
President Fitzgibbons opened the hearing at 7:35 p.m.

President Fitzgibbons outlined the dispositions from required committees.

At President Fitzgibbons' request, Mr. Dutton explained this is a debt exclusion, not an override. It will fund hiring an OPM (Owners Project Manager), and an architect to get us to a point where we know what we need to do with the building and determine whether we move forward with the MSBA or go it alone.

President Fitzgibbons invited any questions from the public -

- Frances Jeffries, Shaw Road: Ms. Jeffries asked if the site itself will be included in the study or the building only. Mr. Dutton responded; all of the sites of the Bridgewater Schools are reviewed per the education



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plan established by the School District. Ms. Jeffries wants to be confident that they don't assume that the current site is the new building site. President Fitzgibbons stated, when we go into feasibility phase, everything is on the table. If that's not the right site, that will come out in the study. Mr. Dutton agreed with Mr. Fitzgibbons; everything is on the table and will be looked at.

President Fitzgibbons asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – No citizens came forward.

President Fitzgibbons asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - No citizens came forward.

President Fitzgibbons entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Wood asked if there is a possibility the state will reimburse. Mr. Dutton responded; yes, monies expended are subject to reimbursement.
- Councilor Perry read an email from a constituent and asked what the procedure is for choosing the firm. Mr. Dutton explained there are two procurements: One for the OPM and one for the designer. The Town goes out with MSBA's guidance and help to do the procurement for the OPM. Once that person is on board they do the procurement for the Designer.
- Councilor Haley asked if \$800,000 is the maximum. Mr. Dutton confirmed that is correct.
- President Fitzgibbons asked if we go ahead with the feasibility study but do not go with MSBA, are the funds still reimbursable? Mr. Dutton had asked MSBA back in December and they responded they hadn't had that situation, but yes they believed it would still be reimbursable. At President Fitzgibbons' request, Mr. Dutton explained; debt exclusion is an appropriation that you only pay for until the debt is paid for. An override is a permanent increase in taxes. He further explained, the (ballot) question is written out as required by law with the assistance of Bond Counsel. Anytime you do a borrowing you want to be very sure you do it very carefully to be sure the bond is sellable.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if Mr. Dutton could give an estimate on the impact per household? Mr. Dutton answered; if we do vote it; it would have a 20-30 year bond and would be between \$.80 - \$.90 cents/month or approximately \$10.80/year.

President Fitzgibbons closed the hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: WW – Bridgewater owns the buildings we're responsible for them. The feasibility study is critical to find out what we need to do. This is the first step to get things up and running. FS – the town is growing. If we don't get going on these schools space could become an issue.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. 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: he has appointed someone to fill the Town Manager vacancy on the Finance Committee. They expect to make an offer to a Treasurer/Collector candidate. The Highway Department is down to the bare minimum on staffing due to injuries and vacation. Will be announcing some rearrangement of responsibilities to reflect the Administrative Code's creation of the Building and Grounds department. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the High Street water tower noting we did qualify for SRS Funding. Once complete it should eliminate the rusty water on that side of town. There will be a rate increase on water and sewer. The Water and Sewer Departments will send out a letter to all customers. There have been a number of water main breaks, which is common in the spring. They have asked the engineers for a comprehensive list to be addressed. Renovations on the kitchen and restrooms at the Senior Center are almost complete. The sink is on site and the plumber will install. Mr.



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Dutton informed the Council that they had a BSU MPA candidate starting a summer internship today. Friends of Music Alley is looking for volunteers. The Mitchell School vote is June 10th. The district has finalized the School Building Committee. The only voting members on the committee are people who are not employees of the school district or the town. The Agricultural Commission has been meeting and trying to figure out how to best serve the town. They are looking at a process to go through for complaints. We will soon be in negotiations with Comcast. There are two members on the Cable Advisory Committee. Comcast is working to get the live broadcast back up and running. The Citizens Advisory Committee has had letters sent to volunteers who were holdovers or whose terms were expiring to gauge their interest in continuing on committees. The WWI Memorial has been substantially rehabilitated. Mr. Dutton will be going back to the CPC and Historic District Commission to review what is a revised design. The Planning Board is doing a more comprehensive review of their rules and procedures. Mr. Dutton spoke over the phone with a consultant who will carry out the strategic planning process. Finally Mr. Dutton advised he has almost completed a refined RFP for the McElwain School. Once it's complete he will release a copy to the council for comment. He would like to see a specialized marketing firm to maximize the benefit to the town.

Councilor Questions:

- At Councilor Losche's request, Councilor George provided an update on the Housing Production Plan Update meeting noting it was very good. Andrew Delonno did a good job answering questions. There's a lot of work to do when it comes to affordable housing. Councilor Losche requested an update from Andrew on where we are at? Mr. Dutton thought it would be a good idea to invite Andrew to a meeting.
- Councilor Wood suggested removing the shrubs on the right and left side of the WWI Monument. Mr. Dutton responded he would need to get committee and public input on that. Mr. Wood asked if we should set a deadline on this Skips Liquors. He would like to have the owner at next meeting. Regarding Comcast; he has heard the University negotiated great rates. He thinks there's a breach of local access is in the contract.
- Councilor George asked if we can set a real expectation that the Senior Center is done by the next meeting. Mr. Dutton thought that was possible. The new sink has arrived, but the grease trap is under sized for the size of the sink. The plumber is ordering a new grease trap. He fully expects the job to be completed by the next council meeting. Regarding the Highway Department, Mr. George thought one of the benefits to having a public works department was that we could share resources among the other departments. Mr. Dutton will do presentation.

DISCUSSIONS

- Information Postcard
Councilor Wood wanted to get some feedback on possibly putting together a post card and to send to all residents. It would include the nine councilors, email address and phone number, as well as business lines for police and fire. A brief discussion followed as councilors expressed their support for the idea.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Budget & Finance Committee met tonight, unfortunately, Finance Committee was unable to meet.
- Rules & Procedures: Councilor Losche advised the Rules and Procedures Committee will be meeting 6/12/17 at 7:00 p.m. to continue their discussion of the Charter Changes.
- Strategic Planning: Councilor Haley stated the Marijuana Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled to meet 6/8/17 at 5:00 p.m.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

Motion: A motion to postpone (all items under Legislation for Action) was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Councilors expressed a need for a fully functioning Finance Committee.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-2017-025: Rescind – Senior Center Trust
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-026: Rescind and Reduce – Sewer Reline Appropriation
Postponed per motion above.



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- Order O-2017-028: General Fund Year End Transfer Adjustments
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-029: Community Preservation Transfer: Year End Transfer Adjustments
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-030: Water & Sewer Transfer Adjustments
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-033: General Fund Transfer Contractual Bargaining Adjustments (CBA)
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-034: General Fund CBA Retroactive Settlement Transfer
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-035: Employee SLBB Liability Transfers
Postponed per motion above.
- Order O-2017-036: Acceptance of a Gift – Bridgewater Police Association for WWI Memorial
Postponed per motion above.

OLD BUSINESS

- Order O-2017-024: Capital Plan Items
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to send to advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: None
Vv: 8-0 pass
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to amend and correct any scrivener's errors. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.
Discussion: A brief discussion followed pointing out scriveners errors in the document.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to strike item #3. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained, the reason for the request was; there have been a number of calls and emails asking when we would have a mail drop and we wanted to do what we could to appease those who used the mail drop at Town Hall. However he understands Mr. Wood's point that there are many ways to pay bills to the Town. Councilor Colombotos noted he is a little wary of striking this. Mr. Dutton also noted; we are in the initial phases of evaluating how to stay open at least one night/week.
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2017-037: Town Council Acceptance of Open Space/Recreation Plan Update
President Fitzgibbons read the order and Mr. Dutton explained the order.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Perry to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

- Robert Wood, 60 Forrest Drive: Mr. Wood wants to see the orders for the meeting online. He also spoke about the new telephone pole on 104 noting, they haven't removed the old pole. Mr. Wood reminded the Council it is very important to act quickly with the volunteers.
- Bridget Boyle, Pathwood Lane – Ms. Boyle referred to the Town Manager's statement that just about everything is complete at Senior Center and asked if it includes the punch list? The sink is in but not connected and it covers the light switch. She thought there was a 90 day completion in the contract and asked if we will be compensated



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or reimbursed? Once this project is complete, when will there be some maintenance on the Senior Center? President Fitzgibbons asked Mr. Dutton for presentation/discussion for next meeting on the Senior Center.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Losche: Thanked the School Department and Fire Department for the tour tonight. Mrs. Losche encouraged all to attend the information session on 6/8 at 7:00 p.m. If citizens can't make it Thursday, there's a great video online.
- Councilor Wood: Recognize both his parents are in audience tonight. Mr. Wood congratulated all the Seniors who graduated and spoke about the upcoming vote.
- Councilor Perry: Memorial Day Parade, thanked all who participated. It was a great day. Congratulated all the kids who had music competitions. They all did a wonderful job.
- Councilor Haley: Reminded all how important the upcoming vote is.
- Councilor Sousa: Nothing
- Councilor Gallagher: Absent
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor George: Attended Housing Production Update meeting. Thanked Senator Pacheco's office for response to his email. Asked all to please take the time to vote Saturday. Mr. George spoke at length about social media posts related to the Mitchell School.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked Councilor Sousa for a great speech on Memorial Day. Mr. Fitzgibbons' first public service was on the School Council at the Williams School. At that time, Warren Kelson was the Principal at the time and fiercely advocated for music programs in those School Council meetings. He feels the music program today is a great testament to his efforts. Mr. Fitzgibbons went to BSU today to accept a donation. President Clark is very committed to working with the town. Regarding the vote on Saturday, Mr. Fitzgibbons reminded all that the vote Saturday is not for an override. It's a debt exclusion. It's about having options.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to move into Executive Session under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – ABSENT; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

Open Session adjourned at 9:08 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, June 27, 2017, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (7-0-1) (Councilor Perry absent, Councilor Gallagher abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk