



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

President Fitzgibbons asked all non-town residents to watch from the overflow room down the hall. President Fitzgibbons read the proclamation previously passed establishing Bridgewater as a Town of Civility and Respect.

President Fitzgibbons read Section XXXVI of the Council Rules and Procedures on Spectator Decorum.

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 December 19, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Francis Sousa, Dennis Gallagher, Peter Colombotos, and Shawn George. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Vacancy – District 4

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Robert Coolan
- John Donovan
- John Rafferty
- John Needs
- Arthur Carlson Senior

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- December 5, 2017

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Fitzgibbons announced Councilor Perry has removed himself from the Council as he has moved. Pursuant to Ordinance D-2013-001; there will be an open application period for citizens from District 4 from 12/19/17 – 12/12/18. Citizens interested in volunteering should send a letter of interest and background information to the Council Clerk and Town Clerk. We will review then have people in.

PROCLAMATIONS

- Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro

President Fitzgibbons read a Proclamation for Rebecca Fleisch Cordeiro for her assistance with the Annual Town Report.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Matt Putnam, 135 Pleasant Street: Mr. Putnam read comments on behalf of Ed Ivaldi, speaking about the “pro” marijuana supporters who have only begun generating support in the last month. He further spoke about supporting the values of Bridgewater and the marijuana industry.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten restated comments shared via email stating the town has now been invaded by the marijuana industry. Mr. Baumgarten doesn’t feel anybody is going to go out of business if the ban isn’t voted. It’s a vote for the masses and a vote for the soul. He doesn’t feel we should be supporting marijuana in any town. Mr. Baumgarten asked the Council to stand on the side of good fitness and vote a full ban.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Michael Ippolito, 52 South Street: Mr. Ippolito is a school teacher. He spoke about CBD which is cultivated at Theory Wellness. Mr. Ippolito has a medical card. Theory Wellness has a product that is better than anything else he has tried. He asked the Council to please consider this is a medicine and can heal. Finally, he spoke on behalf of Theory Wellness.
- Jean Delmonte, 37 Fieldstone Circle: Mrs. Delmonte has been in Bridgewater for 45 years and feels it's important the citizens voices are heard even if it's to say we do not want pot here. There are a lot of impressionable young people in town and allowing it sends a mixed message. She believes this is like when the tobacco industry began and asked the Council to opt out of recreational marijuana.
- Derek Januskis, 116 Green Street: Mr. Januskis spoke about Compassionate Care. He referenced his father's medical issue and spoke about the facilities and their regulations. Mr. Januskis spoke about marijuana that's available now which is unregulated and far more dangerous.

President Fitzgibbons reminded all of spectator decorum, noting no demonstrations of approval or disapproval may be made by spectators. He therefore asked anyone wearing a sticker to remove it.

- Bill Aikens, Oak Meadow Place: Mr. Aikens is the father of a young child who was born with marijuana in their system. Mr. Aikens spoke briefly about the difference between CBD and THC. He then read several items off a menu from a Theory Wellness, stating he questions how legitimate this is as a medical facility. Seems more like a recreational facility.
- Evan Maras, Ledgewood Drive: Mr. Maras stated we're not debating whether medical marijuana is allowable. His family has lived in Bridgewater his whole life. Mr. Maras spoke about the strong sense of community and the condition of downtown stating the marijuana will only worsen the condition. Mr. Maras is strongly against it and hopes the Council will respect the citizens who have come out.
- Marc Bloom, 180 Main Street: Mr. Bloom thanked the Council. He spoke about Theory Wellness and the services they offer, stating without the medicine he would have been unable to walk up the stairs. Mr. Bloom spoke about THC levels; comparing them to the proof of alcohol.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: We are not debating medical marijuana. What we're talking about is recreational marijuana; they are two totally different subjects. Ms. Hanson supports a total ban reminding all that the majority of the town voted not to legalize it. The town will not fold by not having it and she is not sure why it's connected to medical. Ms. Hanson implored the Council to vote a total recreational ban.
- Pat Neary, Lakeside Drive: Ms. Neary hopes the Council votes to do the right thing tonight, which would be a town without recreational marijuana. She is not objecting to the medical facility.
- Elizabeth Girard, Oak Street: Ms. Girard has been in Bridgewater for 13 years. Recreational marijuana is already here. Ms. Girard spoke about Theory Wellness and stated the town could use the money. It provides jobs for people.
- Peter Sotera, 31 Fieldstone Circle: Mr. Sotera was one of the first councilors 45 years ago. Every precinct Councilor is there to represent their precinct.
- Natalie Justice, 10 Brown Avenue: Ms. Justice stands by the notion that recreational cultivation is not something we want. She is not against medical marijuana. Ms. Justice thanked the Bridgewater Cares group.
- Mr. Moore, 285 Whitman Street: Mr. Moore doesn't have a horse in the race. He does recognize marijuana is the future. We need a place like Theory Wellness to regulate what's being sold. There's a lot of misconception around what recreational marijuana will do to the town. Mr. Moore spoke about findings in other towns in other states where recreational marijuana is sold; noting the funds received would go to the betterment of the town.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Brian Alves, Goodwin Street: Mr. Alves is displeased about the stop signs. There is no scientific study that shows a toxic level of marijuana. Mr. Alves spoke about a town in Colorado and the revenues they receive.
- Taylor Sullivan, Norlan Park: Ms. Sullivan clarified that this isn't about medical marijuana. She feels we will not revitalize the town by selling drugs. Thanked Bridgewater Cares members and thanked the Town Council for all the work they put into this. She reminded all that we're talking about a hallucinogenic drug that people use to get high. Ms. Sullivan doesn't want cultivation.
- Alcinda Moore, 9 Meadow Lane: Ms. Moore is a Registered Nurse and smokes pot recreationally. Pot and drugs are already being sold in town. You do not get addicted to pot and do not overdose from pot. Ms. Moore doesn't agree with not making it legal. She believes anyone who uses recreational agrees they do not want children to have it.
- Michelle Perray, Crapo Street: Ms. Perray is not opposed to people smoking marijuana. She has lost people to drugs and alcohol, but feels this is closer to a liquor store.

President Fitzgibbons thanked everyone for their comments and for coming out, but asked for upcoming speakers to have new information to share.

- Liz Casey, 269 Hayward Street: However you feel about the issue, recreational marijuana is legal. A business who is already allowed to grow, who invests in the town, seems it would have a detrimental effect. There's a lot of revenue the town won't be getting by banning.
- Julie Durgin 52 South Street: Ms. Durgin supports an amendment. She has several friends who use marijuana. She suggests people who want to ban become more educated on how it helps people.
- Kathleen Brunaccini, 70 Brookstone Drive: Ms. Brunaccini has seen people die being high on marijuana. She doesn't want her grandchildren to have access to recreational marijuana.
- Victor Delmonte, Fieldstone Circle: Mr. Delmonte is not against medical marijuana. He does not want to put the medical marijuana companies out of business. There are drug and alcohol problems at the university already. Mr. Delmonte stated recreational marijuana serves no purpose and urged the Council to ban the recreational sale of marijuana.
- Amy Sumner, Old Cedar Village: Ms. Sumner expected to hear the town will lose a lot of revenue. The revenue estimates she has heard is a few hundred thousand. Ms. Sumner spoke about the financials and economics of what allowing medical marijuana in the town can do.
- Hanna Littlefield, Auburn Street: Ms. Littlefield is employed by Theory Wellness. The cultivation of recreational marijuana will not harm the town. Working at theory Wellness allows her to live here in Bridgewater. If they aren't allowed to cultivate, there is a danger her job will be lost. They create a safe and enjoyable work environment.

President Fitzgibbons stated at this point comments on points that have already been well made will not be allowed; and he provided examples.

- Jennifer Smith, 225 Boxwood Lane: Thanked members of Bridgewater Cares and thanked Councilors Gallagher and Sousa. Ms. Smith outlined the expectations of Councilors.
- Father Bill Devine, St. Thomas Aquinas: Father Bill's concern is that the Council may be confused enough to consider a moratorium or a ballot vote. He feels the majority has spoken.
- Roger Homer, 75 Boxwood Lane: Mr. Homer pointed out that anyone under 21 has to buy marijuana illegally even if recreational marijuana is legal.
- Carol Brushani, Wynwood Circle: Referenced NY Times article which finds a sharp increase in the use of marijuana in Colorado children.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Jeff Hayward, 79 Grange Park: Spoke about Vape Shops noting they are selling to underaged kids. If we bring in and legalize recreational pot kids will get it.
- Angie Fernandes, Meadow Lane: Ms. Fernandez works for Theory Wellness. She pointed out kids already have access to alcohol and medicines kept in the home.
- Vernon Domingo, Saddle Drive: Reminded the Council that whatever the vote; there are political repercussions come the next vote.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to allow Mr. Werther of Theory Wellness to speak. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood

Discussion: Councilor George stated he is very much in favor of business owners to speak.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

- Stephen Werther, Scituate: Owner of Alternative Compassionate Services. They have been in town three years and respects Bridgewater Cares opinion, but the state has legalized the business. He wants to see revenues and jobs come to town and encouraged The Council to consider an amendment

Motion: A motion to allow Mr. Pollock to speak was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

Brandon Pollock, Theory Wellness: Mr. Pollock pointed out the ban is titled "Prohibiting Recreational Marijuana. Mr. Pollock spoke about the effects on their business if cultivation is eliminated and cited examples from cities in other states. He explained; there is no difference in the cultivation between medical and recreational. They have collected 533 letters who do not want to see cultivation banned and is asking the Council to amend the ordinance to allow cultivation for recreational.

Motion: A motion to allow Mr. Friedman to speak was made by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

- Nick Friedman, CFO and Co-Founder of Theory Wellness: Mr. Friedman started the business to help his father get off opioids. Mr. Friedman understands the proposed ban will deal a fatal blow to their company. They will be forced to tell employees they cannot afford to keep them. They would not be able to maintain the business and offer help. Mr. Friedman encouraged the council to consider several points and stated they are not trying to open a retail store.

Motion: A motion was made to allow Mr. Savignano to speak by Councilor George. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

- Robert Savignano, Savignano Electric on Elm Street: Mr. Savignano grew up in Needham where they are a dry town. They had an alcohol distribution business there and there was no ill effect.

Seeing no further business owners who do not live in town President Fitzgibbons invited two resident speakers who were in favor and two who were opposed to speak.

- William Scannell, 60 Boxwood Lane: Mr. Scannell spoke about his son and his struggle with drugs. Mr. Scannell stated; no matter what the Council votes, you should absolutely ban retail pot shops, but hopes the council will vote the full ban.
- Daniel Joseph, 5 Brian Road: Mr. Joseph has substance abuse disorder and is a patient, currently looking into Theory Wellness. He doesn't replace any drug use with marijuana.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Carol Brushani, Wynwood Circle: Mrs. Brushani stated we are not trying to take away anything medicinal. She referenced Colorado, stating we can learn a lot from that state. She also referenced Mr. Scannell's son. Marijuana does have an effect. They too have collected more than 800 signatures.
- Henry Kunkel, 265 Bridge Street: Mr. Kunkel grew up here and feels the war on drugs has failed. When he went to High School, kids were selling in the bathrooms; it was unregulated. It seems it's safer to allow the regulated.
- Rosemarie Schmitchel, 20 Hunters Drive: Ms. Schmitchel spoke about the business owners spoke earlier that don't live in town; asking, have they approached their own town and what was the response.
- Cameron Bruschani, 25 Wynwood Circle: People have said this is an adult conversation and not for the kids, but he feels it's all for the kids. Mr. Bruschani hopes the council will all make the right choice.
- Peter Sotera, 31 Fieldstone Circle: Mr. Sotera request the Council vote against marijuana.
- Erin O'Leary, Gloria Drive: Ms. O'Leary is rebutting earlier points about Theory Wellness. As her point was not a new one, she was ruled out of order.
- Bill Aikens, 5 Oak Meadow Place: Mr. Aikens rebutted points about threatening the survival of the medical marijuana companies.
- Taylor Sullivan, Norlan Park: Refuted the point made earlier that no other town has banned recreational marijuana cultivation, citing Milford who is waiting for approval from the Attorney General.
- Michael Ippolito, 52 South Street: Mr. Ippolito stated the youth that he works with are criminals who sell weed. The stuff that's being sold on the streets is deregulated and dangerous. Mr. Ippolito spoke again about the benefits of CBD. He hopes Bridgewater will not go in the direction of vilifying something without really understanding.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to allow any resident to speak for the full allotted three minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: Councilor Wood stated he would like to hear more comments.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-2 (Councilors George and Haley in the minority.)

- Erin O'Leary, Gloria Drive: Ms. O'Leary stated some people seem to be thinking banning the retail sale of marijuana will keep the kids safe. She feels the only way to keep them safe is to regulate it.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Ms. Hansen is not naïve and knows that people use it. She doesn't want Bridgewater to support the sale of it. The town will not fold because we don't allow recreational marijuana. Encouraged a ban on retail marijuana.
- Amy Sumner, Old Cedar Village: Referenced the young man who said this was a kid issue. As much as we say it's an adult issue, it affects the kids.
- Angie Fernandes, Waterford Village: Ms. Fernandes sees both sides of the issue as she was raised being educated that marijuana is bad. But from a parent's perspective she would prefer her seventeen-year-old pick up a joint than a beer.
- Audrey, Old Pleasant Street: There's a stigma around cannabis. She thinks it would be detrimental to ban it when it could bring revenue.
- Evan Maras, Ledgewood Drive: Mr. Maris is not fearful of a drug being infiltrated into the town. He is concerned about the reputation of the town. If they have easier access to it, you'll have more youth doing it. The best interest for our town is to not have this stigma attached to Bridgewater's name.
- Michael Ippolito, 52 South Street: As far as the Bridgewater reputation goes, he encourages the Council to vote in a way that understands this will not always be a schedule 1 narcotic. He referenced the New England Medical Journal and again spoke about the benefits.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Debbie Smith, Boxwood Lane: Ms. Smith asked; do we want to be a front runner for a federally illegal drug? Is that what we want for Bridgewater.
- Daniel Joseph, 5 Brian Road: Mr. Joseph reiterated; he has substance abuse disorder. He doesn't stigmatize people.
- Father Bill Devine, St. Thomas Aquinas: Father Bill hopes the Councilors all have the courage to vote the ban. He listed the groups of people who have spoken and asked them to consider their points.
- Laura MacLinden, Plymouth Street: Ms. MacLinden pointed out the License Renewals on the agenda this evening. She doesn't understand the hypocrisy of the encouragement of alcohol establishments, but not marijuana. It makes more sense to her that we regulate what is being used. She believes if we allowed retail shops, it would put a significant dent in the illegal use.
- Anthony Zanfrelli, 1 Millstone Drive: Stated extensive studies have shown the harmful effects of marijuana. If you look at studies of towns that allow retail marijuana, you'll see they spend more money than they take in. This town has spoken clearly that they want a ban.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to hear two more comments, and then move to item G: License Transactions. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: Councilors briefly expressed their support or opposition to the motion.

A Roll Call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Losche – NAY; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – NAY; Fitzgibbons – NAY; Sousa – NAY; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – NAY; George – NAY. The motion failed 2-6.

- Christine McMasters, 680 Vernon Street: 12 years ago, the founder of Learn to Cope, Joanne Peterson spoke about the opioid crisis. Ms. McMasters wants everyone to be aware that not everything we are told is always the truth.
- Donna Johnson, 244 South Street: Ms. Johnson was not going to attend this evening to protect her privacy as she has Multiple Sclerosis. Ms. Johnson read the letter she wrote to the Council (included in materials). She would like the Council to consider the two bans separately. She uses medical marijuana for pain and wants to go to Theory Wellness in Bridgewater. Spoke about Theory Wellness and the facility.
- Carol Brushani, Wynwood Circle: Ms. Brushani would like to see marijuana sold medicinally regulated in Bridgewater. Ms. Brushani is wondering why Ms. Johnson would even think that medical marijuana wouldn't be sold.
- Michael Ippolito, 52 South Street: Mr. Ippolito stated; Theory (Wellness) is the best at what they do. We should be proud to have them here. As other recreational shops open, they will suffer.
- Evan Maras, Ledgewood Drive: Mr. Maras wishes his grandmother who had arthritis could have gone to a Theory Wellness for medical marijuana. The government isn't here to subsidize a business. We can't subsidize a business because they say they'll go belly up.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to take agenda item L: Legislation for Action out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-2 (Councilors Fitzgibbons and Sousa in the minority).

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (Taken Out of Order)

- Ordinance D-FY18-003: Zoning Ordinance – Rezone Lots on Easy Street to Residential A/B
President Fitzgibbons read the voting history.

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos explained; this ordinance fixes a past mistake.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

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

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

- Ordinance D-FY18-005: Zoning Ordinance – Prohibiting the Retail Sale of Recreational Marijuana
President Fitzgibbons outlined the history of the ordinance.

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher stated he would like to see the Council take a vote on the ordinance as written. He reminded all that the town voted “no” last year. Having recreational marijuana is not good for the town. Councilor Colombotos supports a ban on retail marijuana, however does not support including cultivation. Mr. Colombotos read from Mrs. Johnson’s letter (included in materials).

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to amend by reinserting the language we took out, after the word Bridgewater, “with the exception of marijuana cultivators, marijuana product manufacturers and marijuana testing facilities, as also defined in G.L., c 94G, §1. This prohibition shall not apply to the sale, distribution or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes licensed under Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012.” The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos explained his opinion that the benefits outweigh the costs. Councilor Wood pointed out we have a host agreement with the Medical Marijuana businesses. Mr. Wood spoke about the possible ramifications to the medical marijuana facilities once retail stores open. Mr. Wood also spoke about regulations in place. Bridgewater has a history of not doing well by the businesses. The revenue generated is not small. Discussion continued as councilors expressed their opinions on the amendment. President Fitzgibbons asked; if the amendment passes, does the legislation need to be referred back to the Planning Board? Attorney Rawlins responded, if you vote this amendment, you would not need to refer back to the Planning Board. President Fitzgibbons briefly clarified his comments to the Enterprise. The reported asked Mr. Fitzgibbons what the advantages/disadvantages were. However, he feels his position is pretty clear, and he was not offering support to another side.

Seeing no further discussion on the amendment, President Fitzgibbons called for a roll call vote, with results recorded as follows:

Losche – NAY; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – NAY; Sousa – NAY; Gallagher – NAY; Colombotos – YEA; George - NAY. The motion to amend failed 3-5.

Discussion (on main motion cont’d): Councilor Wood stated he was asked if he would like to live near a marijuana shop. He wouldn’t mind living near a well regulated medical marijuana shop who didn’t sell to kids. Anyone who has a kid knows it’s here. Councilor George asked Attorney Rawlins if it is correct, that if this ordinance fails, it can’t be considered again for 2 years? Attorney Rawlins responded; that is correct. Councilor Haley stated he will not support the measure. Councilor Colombotos noted; whatever we do on this ordinance he hopes we understand there is still an opioid crisis.

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

George – YEA; Colombotos – NAY; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – NAY; VACANCY; Wood – NAY; Losche - YEA. The motion failed 5-3.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to reconsider. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Mr. Colombotos would like the legislation to pass with the amendment.

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

Losche – YEA; Wood – NAY; VACANCY; Haley – NAY; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion passed 6-2.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to amend as previously stated: by reinserting the language we took out, after the word Bridgewater, “with the exception of marijuana cultivators, marijuana product manufacturers and marijuana testing facilities, as also defined in G.L., c 94G, §1. This prohibition shall not apply to



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

the sale, distribution or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes licensed under Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012.” The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Discussion continued regarding the general ordinance submitted under New Business. Attorney Rawlins advised, the general ordinance would not be allowable under 94G. If the zoning fails, the general bylaw doesn’t stand alone. Councilor Gallagher asked; if this ordinance fails can we put forward a ballot question? Attorney Rawlins responded; not if it’s the same question. Councilor Losche clarified that if the Council wished to refine this another zoning ordinance can be done in the future? Attorney Rawlins responded that is correct; if you want to further restrict this it can be done through another ordinance.

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

George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – NAY; Sousa – NAY; Fitzgibbons – NAY; Haley – YEA; VACANCY; Wood – YEA; Losche - YEA. The motion passed 5-3.

After reviewing the motions with the Clerk, it was noted that no main motion to approve had been made after the motion to reconsider passed and prior to the motion to amend.

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Colombotos. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Colombotos to amend by reinserting the language we took out, after the word Bridgewater, “with the exception of marijuana cultivators, marijuana product manufacturers and marijuana testing facilities, as also defined in G.L., c 94G, §1. This prohibition shall not apply to the sale, distribution or cultivation of marijuana for medical purposes licensed under Chapter 369 of the Acts of 2012.”. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

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

Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; VACANCY; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; George - YEA. The motion to amend passed 8-0.

A roll call vote was taken on the main motion to approve, as amended, with results recorded as follows:

George – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Sousa – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – NAY; VACANCY; Wood – NAY; Losche - YEA. The motion to approve, as amended passed 6-2.

**10:46 p.m., President Fitzgibbons called a recess.*

**10:52 p.m., President Fitzgibbons called the meeting back to order.*

Return to regular order of business: G: Licensing

APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS (Return to regular order of business).

- Petition P-2017-038: Annual License Renewals – Common Victualler’s Licenses

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

Discussion:

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0. (Councilor Sousa not present)

- Petition P-2017-039: Annual License Renewals – Alcohol and All Related

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

Discussion: None



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

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

- Petition P-2017-040: Change of Hours – Greyhound Tavern

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

Discussion: None

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

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Due to the late hour, Mr. Dutton forfeited his report, but offered to answer questions.

- Councilor Wood noted; since the hearing for Skips there seems to have been no forward movement. Councilor George reminded all that the Council was clear; if he had issues he has to come to us.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if there was anything pressing the Town Manager wished to provide an update on. Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the McElwain RFP.

DISCUSSIONS - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (Continued)

- Ordinance D-FY18-012: Amend General Ordinances – Vacant and Abandoned Properties

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

Discussion: At Councilor Sousa's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed the property owners will be notified.

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

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

- Resolution R-FY18-003: Bridgewater's FY2019 Budget Policy Guidelines

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

Discussion: None.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to amend and replace with the version provided by the Finance Director (included in materials).

Discussion: Councilor Wood explained the Budget & Finance Committee recommended replacing the language with version provided by Finance Director. Councilor Colombotos suggested perhaps postponing so all would have a chance to read the document. Councilor Wood assured Mr. Colombotos they are all reasonable changes.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-0.

A voice vote was taken and the main motion to approve, as amended passed 7-1 (Councilor Colombotos in the minority.)

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY18-002: Zoning Ordinance – Temporary Moratorium on the Sale and Distribution of Marijuana (*Postponed from 12/5/17*)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to table this measure indefinitely. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

Discussion:

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-2 (Councilors Wood and Haley in the minority).

- Ordinance D-FY18-008: Zoning Ordinance – Elm Street Retail Overlay Usage (*Councilor Wood*)(*Postponed from 12/5/17*)

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to refer to Community & Economic Development Committee and Planning Board for a Joint Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos asked if this still makes sense. Councilor Wood responded; yes, it does.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

NEW BUSINESS



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Ordinance D-FY18-011: Zoning Ordinance – Amend Elm Street Overlay District
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Losche to refer to Community & Economic Development Committee and Planning Board for a Joint Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed 8-0.
- Ordinance D-FY18-013: General Ordinance – Prohibition on Marijuana Establishments
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to refer to the Rules & Procedures Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion: Attorney Rawlins advised this measure won't hurt as long as it contains the same exceptions as the Zoning Ordinance.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY18-018: Affix Town Clerk Salary
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Haley to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor George.
Discussion:
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY18-019: Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification – Bridgewater Police Association
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.
Discussion: Mr. Dutton stated the Town was able to negotiate a one-year contract and explained the highlights of the contract.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Resolution R-FY18-004: Performance Appraisal – Town Council Clerk
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to refer to the Strategic Planning Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
Discussion: Councilor Colombotos asked if the Council Clerk had ever received a raise. It was confirmed that she had.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor George to allow Mr. Pollock from Theory Wellness to speak. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

- Brandon Pollock, Theory Wellness: Mr. Pollock knows this is a very controversial issue. He wants to make themselves available to answer any questions and does not want to stir up any negativity in the town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor George: Wished all a safe and happy holiday. It's nice to see a lot of people in the room. Hopefully people will stay involved.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked President Fitzgibbons for running a good meeting. Mr. Colombotos stated he is sincere in his desire to address the opioid crisis.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked all who came out tonight. We made a decision as we have to do as elected officials. Mr. Gallagher is comfortable with how we handled it and the outcome.
- Councilor Sousa: Thanked everyone. This has been a long, drawn out process, but noted; the people who stopped him during the recess seemed pleased. He wished all Happy Holidays.
- Councilor Haley: Wished all Happy Holidays. Regarding the council vacancy; maybe we can fill the seat this time. He is hoping to see more well attended meetings and expressed his opinion that this is a great form of government.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 19, 2017

- Councilor Wood: Stated he has never tried marijuana. Things are adaptable, we need to see what our neighbors, and the state will do (about retail marijuana). Mr. Wood loved all the comments this evening.
- Councilor Losche: Wished all Happy Holidays. Councilor Losche stated; this is her first bout of being an elected official and she enjoys the process. For all the people who were here tonight she implores them to get involved.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked all the councilors this evening. Mr. Fitzgibbons thinks they are all trying to do the best thing for the town and he appreciates the passion. He thanked the audience for being so respectful. Mr. Fitzgibbons announced he plans to run again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor George. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 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, January 23, 2018, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a voice vote (5-0) (1 Councilor Vacancy, Councilors Sousa and George absent, and Councilor Wood not present for vote).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk