



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:31 pm, on October 18, 2016 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, 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:

- No councilors were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Mr. Raymond Breton
- Mr. Charles Gaides

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- September 20, 2016

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons noted he would abstain as he was not present on September 20th.

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

- October 4, 2016

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

Discussion: Councilor Wright noted she would abstain as she was not present on October 4th.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher read an announcement from the Town Clerk with information about Early Voting which starts 10/24 – 11/4 and will be held in the Academy Building, Council Chambers which is fully handicapped accessible. The general election takes place Tuesday, November 8, 2016. The location will be the Middle School (Old High School)
- There will be a 5K to benefit Music Alley on Sunday, 10/23 at 9:30 a.m. The event will be held at the Great Hill Trails, at Bridgewater State University.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.*

APPOINTMENTS –

- Elder Affairs Commission

Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of the appointees noting the Citizens Advisory Committee recommended them unanimously.

- Diane M. Roza
- Gloria M. Lemieux
- Victor Delmonte (reappointment)

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked them all for volunteering.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

- Board of Registrars – Joseph Gillis, Jr.

Mr. Dutton briefly spoke on behalf of Mr. Gillis.



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

Discussion: Mr. Gillis came forward noting he was recently appointed to the Cable Advisory Committee and reminded all that they still need members. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mr. Gillis for his volunteerism.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

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: Legislation to name the High and Broad Street light has moved out of the House and Senator Pacheco is in the process of moving it through the Senate. Community & Economic Development has submitted a Massworks grant for \$625,000 for improvements to the intersection of Elm Street and Pleasant. They are also working on Complete Streets Grant. The FY15 Audit is completed. We will have Roselli in to do a presentation to staff, Budget & Finance Committee and the Town Council. Angela Chandler has come on for the next three months as Interim Treasurer/Collector. The new Fire Chief's official swearing in will be Friday, October 28th at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about Chief Levy's need for a new ambulance. Mr. Dutton may need to come to the Council to get it accelerated prior to Capital Plan. Mr. Dutton spoke about the Sewer Department's receipt of the discharge permit, noting it requires more of an upgrade than anticipated. We will be making a decision on how to move forward, but it's likely that we will appeal it. One of the sewer engineers has indicated a cost of \$30MM for the upgrade. We may not win the appeal, but it will buy some time. The Elder Affairs building RFP for renovations went out two weeks ago. Mr. Dutton has heard the cost may be significantly more than originally calculated. Mr. Dutton provided an update on the Mitchell School Roof. He has put together a small group of residents to give him some advice on the Mitchell School. The engineer who produced the report came down to explain the details to the group. The Superintendent has filed all the paperwork to the MSBA, who provide grants to offset the costs. The decision date is sometime in December, then the board votes in January. If accepted, the MSBA and the town do an in-depth feasibility study. The school building authority does not decide what the town will do. If accepted into the MSBA process, we would be looking at roughly a 55% reimbursement. Mr. Dutton then spoke about Mayflower Municipal Group. He explained; two of the larger towns have announced that they will be leaving and there are another 4-5 that are also leaving. They are assessing the options and have reached out to MIIA and asked a consultant to come in and help outline the options. There is a possibility Mr. Dutton will be recommending to the council a change. The fountain is nearing completion and Mr. Dutton will schedule the grand opening of the Academy Building for 12/4 which will coincide with Christmas on the Common.

Council Questions:

- Councilor Wood requested the Town Clerk's office come in to talk about the census/dog license.
- At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton clarified process on Mitchell School. He noted; if we are not accepted into the MSBA grant program, then we would regroup and make some recommendations to the Town Council on how to move forward. Councilor Colombotos asked if citizen committees control their own webpage on the new website. Mr. Dutton responded they are being granted permissions as they go through training. We are trying to have committee liaisons do the web site work.
- Councilor Perry asked what happens if the school committee has one direction they want to go in, and the town wants to go in a different direction, is it the town who decides? Mr. Dutton responded; it is a town building. In response to Councilor Perry's question about the timeline, Mr. Dutton stated there is no feasibility of getting any construction done before 2020. However the school is looking for space.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out the winter the school roof collapsed, was a very bad winter, with many school districts in the same situation, all applying to the MSBA program. Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct. The MSBA has 133 applications.

DISCUSSIONS

- Councilor Access to Academy Building



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President Gallagher would like access to the new Academy Building. He has been given access, but the doors do not remain unlocked. Mr. Gallagher stated several reasons why he would like to have his own toggle key, and suggested each member of the Council should have one. Mr. Dutton responded he has the same key as the President. If that key is lost, it can be easily disabled. However, there is no ability to disable the toggle key (which opens the building and leaves the door unlocked). There is a toggle key at the Fire Station which can be signed out and used for after hour's meetings. Mr. Dutton continued, stating the real issue is that there needs to be staff at the committees, who will be able to open the building, and take minutes. Mr. Dutton doesn't want to risk the building and the technology in it at this time. Discussion continued as councilors offered their opinions on whether they wish to have the toggle key and the discussion turned to security during times when meetings are being held and the building doors remain open.

- **Building Maintenance Plan**

Councilor Colombotos began the discussion stating he would feel more comfortable if we had a concise maintenance plan and has met with the Town Manager to discuss a Building Maintenance Plan. President Gallagher stated as Mr. Dutton builds the FY18 budget they will consider the feasibility hiring a full time maintenance person. Mr. Dutton explained; there is a short and long term plan. He believes there is a need to hire a dedicated person. We are pretty well set on hiring at least 1 full time person for the FY18 year, who will identify a work plan. Long term; the following year they would be able to finalize a plan that identifies the buildings, HVAC systems, and all the systems that would wear out over time. Mr. Dutton stated the person would be in the Structures and Grounds Department. Councilor Colombotos is pleased to hear what the about the long term plan.

- **Addressing Dangerous Crosswalks**

Councilor Colombotos began the discussion stating, this has come up in Community & Economic Development Committee meetings. The committee is wondering what we can do short term. Mr. Dutton responded; he has asked the Transportation Committee to look at some short-term solutions. The Highway Superintendent and Community & Economic Development Director and Town Engineer did tour of downtown. We are looking at reconfiguring some parking to add some parallel parking and reconfiguring the crosswalks slightly to create less blind spots and creating bump outs. Additionally, eliminating the parking space right next to crosswalk will make it much safer. They are also considering possibly narrowing the travel lane with striping, moving/removing some of the signage and increasing the lighting at crosswalks. The discussion continued briefly as Councilors noted areas of particular concern and general speed limits.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Rules & Procedures:** Councilor Losche reported that Rules & Procedures is nearing the end of their first round of edits. They should have document to Town Council by 10/24. The Committee has discussed shifting the composition of Finance Committee from a membership of nine to five and shifting Town Clerk from elected to appointed. Mrs. Losche encourages all to read it and provide feedback. It is the Committee's hope to have it on the ballot for April.
- **Community & Economic Development Committee:** Councilor Colombotos reported the Committee has met a few times to consider information relative to Resolution R-2016-004. They have reviewed the Municipal Building Study and Feasibility Study for the Academy Building, Memorial Building and Town Hall. They have also met with the Community & Economic Development Director. Mr. Delonno suggested the Memorial Building would be a good solution for document storage, but for future use, the building would need some improvements. The Committee is still reviewing plans for the McElwain School. Regarding Town Hall the focus seems to be to attract people to downtown. It has also been discussed that it would be a good idea to file for historic designation for Town Hall. The will be holding a committee meeting specifically to solicit public input.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2016-024: Adoption of a Temporary Street Closing Policy



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Mr. Dutton explained this is the first of many policies to come before the Council. The Bridgewater Business Association will be asking to close both sides of Central Square for Christmas on the Common. Mr. Dutton further noted, the Police and Fire Chiefs both seem to be comfortable with the request.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Perry to refer to the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-2016-025: Declaring the Golf Clubhouse Available for Lease

Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation of the measure.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to move the measure to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Councilor Wood commented regarding Section "G" of the current contract limits the food that can be brought in for events and provided a brief example.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

- Resolution R-2016-008: FY18 Budget Resolution

Councilor Wood thanked the Town Manager and Finance Director for the alternative document they sent, stating it will be considered in committee.

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – *No citizens came forward.*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Nothing
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Haley: He attended the Open House at Fire Station 2 and had a great time.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Offered a Happy Birthday to Al Warren.
- Councilor Losche: Reminded all that tomorrow is the last day to register to vote. Welcomed everyone to read the Charter.
- Councilor Wood: Went to the Plainville Slots Parlor to view it. He noted there is a bike path on Route 1, that just ends and hopes that as we go through our planning, it's a little more insightful.
- Councilor Perry: Wished all to have a safe and Happy Halloween
- Councilor Sousa: Nothing
- Councilor Gallagher: Nothing

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 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, November 1, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes by a voice vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk