



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 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 7:34 pm, on November 1, 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 Associate Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- No Councilors were absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

President Gallagher held a moment of silence for all veterans who have passed since the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- October 18, 2016

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None came forward

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2016-042: Common Victualler's License - Change of Food Service Hours: The Nip, LLC, dba the Nip
Mr. Dutton explained the food service would like to extend their service hours to 1:00 a.m.

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

Discussion: At President Gallagher's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed this was only for the food service. There is no change to the alcohol license.

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

- Petition P-2016-044: Farmers Series Pouring Permit – Expansion of Hours Request
Mr. Dutton explained the applicant is here to explain should there be any questions.

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

Discussion: None

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

PRESENTATIONS

- Update on Town Census/Dog Licensing and Early Voting

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt provided the Council on the updated process for dog licensing. Mrs. Hunt explained the license fee will be included on the census form which will come out sometime after Thanksgiving.

Mrs. Hunt also informed the public that the Music Alley 5K run raised \$4,000. They will be taking out papers to make Music Alley 503C.

Town Clerk Hunt spoke about early voting, stating they have been using the Council Chambers for early voting. To date about 17% of registered voters have voted though the expectation is the heaviest days will be Thursday and Friday. The Clerk's office will consider staying open until 5:00 p.m. on Friday, but she needs to check with her



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

team. Mrs. Hunt held a demonstration on the new voting booths she would like to purchase as a Capital Item. She thanked all the early voting volunteers, particularly Jolie Sprague Martin and Christine Nemes. Finally, Town Clerk Hunt spoke about the election, which will be on 11/8/16 at Mitchell Middle School, noting there will be overflow parking. She explained where (in the building) each precinct will conduct their voting. Councilors briefly asked questions. Relative to the proposed new booths, Mrs. Hunt expressed a need for enough to provide 160 spots.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: The winter parking ban goes into effect tonight. People can't park overnight on any street for the winter. Long time Water/Sewer worker Jud Kane passed away over the weekend. Bidding for the Senior Center renovations has closed. The bids came in higher than expected, so Mr. Dutton will be looking at the bids to ensure we have an adequate appropriation. There have been meetings with Claremont Company, who is looking to continue a development process on the balance of their property. Currently having discussion about the level of commercial development versus residential. Regarding the intersection of High and Broad Street, State Representative D'Emilia reports the House side has been engrossed and the Senate side has sent it to Senate Counsel. Negotiations continue for two community benefit agreements, for two medical marijuana facilities up on Elm Street. Ron Ladue and Andrew Delonno have been working on an inexpensive plan to seal coat the Municipal Parking lot and restripe it. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the Mayflower Municipal Health Group noting several communities have decided to leave and Mr. Dutton has engaged a consultant to analyze the best options for Bridgewater. Whether we leave or stay there is no intent to change the plan design. In terms of planning for OPEB Liability, which is a Town Manager goal, we have looked at it extensively and the Finance Director is still researching. He has recommended we look at our unfunded sick liability. The Curve Street 40B development has filed their comprehensive permit application with ZBA. The ZBA typically has 30 days to open the hearing. They will be doing the hearing in mid-December. The application is for 150 houses at the bottom of Curve Street. The ZBA has applied for technical assistance on this. The Town Clerk swore in new Fire Chief on Friday afternoon at a small ceremony, which was a nice event. An EOC drill was held two weeks ago, MEMA and FEMA participated and it went well. The Highway Department roof is in the process of being replaced. Fortunately, it will be covered by insurance. The town has received the discharge permit from DPA/EPA and is looking at a \$30MM price tag. We will continue to look at the permit and will appeal, however we do not plan to win the appeal. This is fairly common step to take. The Water/Sewer board voted to increase water rates. It is necessary to build their undesignated fund balance and build the High Street water treatment facility.

Councilor Questions:

At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton spoke about the timeframe for Municipal Parking Lot stating he would like to do it before winter. Mr. Wood suggested possibly having the Fire Station parking spots red as a designation.

DISCUSSIONS

Town Manager Next Steps on Vacant Town Building

Mr. Colombotos explained this item comes out of a meeting he had with Andrew Delonno. Mr. Delonno's recommendation is to use the Memorial Building for town records. Town Hall will need to be renovated. Federal & State Historic tax credits could be available if it was on the national registration. Memorial Building also requires work (i.e., HVAC.). Mr. Dutton responded; before we embark on work on the Memorial Building, he wants to be sure the Town Council has a consensus. The intent was not to sell the Memorial Building, but there is no parking, and it's not properly handicapped accessible. The Academy Building was never designed to hold a large amount of records. He would like to collect all the paper records, consolidate them in one place and dedicate a library archivist to sort through them, and then digitize. It is anticipated to be a 3-5 year work process. Mr. Dutton would like to use the first floor of the Memorial Building as display space and possibly meeting space. Prior to moving employees out of Town Hall, the Town Clerk was able to do an enormous purge of documents. Councilor Colombotos agrees that seems to be the intent not to sell the Memorial Building, but thinks there is a need to fast track this. Councilors expressed their opinions on the Memorial Building. Councilor Perry asked if there is funding for the HVAC. Mr. Dutton responded yes,



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

there was money as part of the Academy Building Loan and there are some Green Communities funds available. There is a process that we have to go through before renovation can begin.

Mr. Dutton answered a variety of questions, including elaborating on the Historic Designation noting; it is important on different levels. Mr. Delonno thinks it will qualify but there is a process to go through for that. If Mr. Dutton gets sense from the Town Council that, they want to go in that direction he can go to the CPC. Additionally, if that is what the Town Council is interested in doing, we should ask a consultant to come in and present the pros and cons.

Councilor Losche asked that an update be given on what's been done since the order passed in 2013. Councilor Fitzgibbons is hopeful the Community & Economic Development Committee's work filters to Town Manager's office, so they can present recommendations. To answer Mr. Fitzgibbons comment, Councilor Perry stated he believed that would be a goal of the Committee for one of the December meetings. He asked Mr. Dutton to maybe have presentation at subcommittee. President Gallagher stated he would hate to see the Town Hall in any other hands than the Town. He suggested it could be used as mixed use or maybe something cultural. Councilor Wood is also of the opinion of not selling off town buildings and likes the idea for the Memorial Building.

Regarding the status of Fire Station, Mr. Dutton explained it is too small and antiquated. The roof was replaced but it is not a long-term solution. The Fire Chief has put together a small group of people to study the feasibility of building a new facility. The new Chief has expanded the scope to moving the Headquarter to Fire Station 2 and building another satellite somewhere, which may be more cost effective. A new Fire Station will be a multi-year path. Capital Planning will have to juggle new sewer plant, Mitchell School and Fire Station. The town is looking at potential locations for a Fire Station.

Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about Moth Balling Buildings, stating he is not planning to shut things down in either the Memorial Building or Town Hall. They will keep the heat on very low as we don't want to get mold and will be installing heat alarms to be notified if heat drops below a certain level. Additionally, they will probably turn water off in Town Hall.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Rules & Procedures: Councilor Losche stated the committee is wrapping up the Charter changes and will be hosting a Public Hearing here on 11/15. There will be one last Rules & Procedures meeting 11/7 at 7:30. The committee is looking forward to wrapping the process up.
- Public Safety – Committee Chair Perry stated the committee met and voted in favor of Street Closure Policy.
- Community & Economic Development Committee: Councilor Colombotos announced they will hold a public input session Monday 11/7 at 7:30 p.m.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-2016-006: Revocation of General Bylaws and Adoption of Ordinances
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mr. Wood for hard work over last several years. Councilor Wood thanked everyone involved, including the many citizens who came and looked at the different bylaws. He thinks it is a really well put together document.
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 to approve passed 9-0.
- Order O-2016-024: Adoption of a Temporary Street Closure Policy
Councilor Perry noted the Public Safety Committee met last week and voted 2-0 in favor of order as written after getting input from the Police Chief and Town Manager.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright – YEA. The motion to approve passed 9-0.

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

Mr. Dutton reported the Finance Committee voted to approve the measure.

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

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.

- Transfer T-2016-012: CPC Transfer – Refurbish WWI Monument

Mr. Dutton reported the Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the measure.

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos requested the full application be provided in the packets for the future.

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 passed 9-0.

- Petition P-2016-045: Request for Temporary Road Closure – Bridgewater Business Association for Christmas on the Common

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

Discussion: At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton explained both northbound and southbound traffic will be diverted and explained the diversions.

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

- Resolution R-2016-008: FY18 Budget Resolution

Mr. Wood briefly explained the major changes, noting expense lines we reduced retirement assessment and added a line to assume an increase in healthcare expenses.

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

Motion: A motion to amend as indicated was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

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

A voice vote was taken and the main motion to approve, as amended, passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2016-026: Adoption of a Residential Factor

Mr. Dutton explained this is a matter which the Council considers each year to set the tax rate.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton further explained this is an annual event. Ultimately the Town Council will hold a hearing and vote a factor of 1 which means everything is taxed at the same rate.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to have the Council Clerk advertise hearing on 12/6/16.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

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

A voice vote was taken and the motion to refer to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees passed 9-0.

- Order O-2016-027: Acceptance of Changes to the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter

This measure will be taken up at the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS -

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Congratulated Chief Levy.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 1, 2016

- Councilor Colombotos: Community & Economic Development Committee will hold a Public Meeting at 7:30 p.m. on 11/7/16.
- Councilor Haley: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Acknowledge Jud Kane's service to the town. He was a long time friend who always did what was right for the town. He will be greatly missed by the town and by Mr. Fitzgibbons.
- Councilor Losche: None
- Councilor Wood: Congratulated the Fire Chief. Thanked water department for fixing the water main break in his neighborhood. Mr. Wood noted there is an awful lot of paper and it might be time to have a substantial discussion for the Town Council going paperless.
- Councilor Perry: Congratulated Chief Levy on his swearing in. Thanked Town Clerk and staff for all their hard work on early voting.
- Councilor Sousa: None
- Councilor Gallagher: One week from today will have a new President. Will be voting on many items on the ballot. Mr. Gallagher commented it's great that 17% of the voters have already come out. People should take time to look at the candidates and who they are as well as the ballot questions. Friday 11/11 will be Veterans Day and the Tri-Town Parade will be held in West Bridgewater. Mr. Gallagher also congratulated Chief Levy and expressed sympathy to the Kane family.

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 9:13 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 15, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (7-0) (Councilors Colombotos and Losche not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk