



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Shawn George called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m., on November 24, 2020 via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present via Zoom© were, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:03 p.m.), Matthew Rushton, Shawn George, William Wood, Fred Chase, Aisha Losche and Dennis Gallagher. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Frank Sousa

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Steven Vecere
- John K. O'Leary

President George announced: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no in person attendance permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Facebook Live.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 10, 2020

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- Announced the next Town Council meeting is Tuesday, 12/1/20 at 7:00 p.m., which is next week.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

- Board of Health – *William Prince*

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to appoint which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

- Housing Authority – *Stacy Driscoll*

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to appoint which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

- Elder Affairs (Associate Member) - *Karen Aicher*



Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to appoint which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

HEARINGS -

- **7:05 p.m.:** Petition P-2020-020: Pole Location – Plymouth Street and Mill Street

President George opened the hearing at 7:08 p.m.

President George asked if the Petitioner was present and wished to speak – *No petitioner was present.*

Mr. Dutton advised; the Council can vote if they're comfortable or postpone the hearing until a petitioner is present if they wish. He noted the Highway Superintendent had no issue with the placements.

President George invited any questions from the public – None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor -None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition -None

President George entertained any questions from councilors - None

President George closed the hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: Councilor Gallagher stated he didn't see any reason to postpone as everything seems to be in order.

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

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

- **7:08 p.m.:** Petition P-2020-021: Transfer of On-Premises All Alcohol License - from Tracy Thai Rit dba, The Chatta Box to LFHM, LLC, dba The Chatta Box

President George opened the hearing at 7:11 p.m.

Attorney Rob Pellegrini spoke on behalf of the petitioner and explained the proposed transfer noting there were no changes to the inside or outside of the business.

President George invited any questions from the public – None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None

President George entertained any questions from councilors - None

President George closed the hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

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

- **7:10 p.m.:** Petition P-2020-022: Pole Location – New Pole – Plymouth Street

President George opened the hearing at 7:14 p.m.

President George invited any questions from the public – None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None

President George asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None

President George entertained any questions from councilors - None

President George closed the hearing at 7:15 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None



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

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2020-023: New Common Victualler's License – LFHM, LLC, dba, The Chatta Box

Motion: Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: The Council wished the new owner luck with the business.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

- Charter Review Committee Update – *Ed Ivaldi, Chair*

Committee Chair, Ed Ivaldi introduced committee member, Tom Golden to speak about the citizen survey. Mr. Golden walked through the statistics on participation in the town wide survey and reviewed overall responses to the survey questions.

Mr. Ivaldi then spoke about the overall Charter Review Committee Plan status and spoke about surveys which were sent to key town personnel.

Mr. Ivaldi and Mr. Golden then answered various questions from Councilors regarding topics ranging from the number of responses to citizen survey to how the committee will use the data once it's all collected and compiled. There was a brief discussion regarding the question of elected vs. appointed Town Clerk and the recommendation from the former Charter Review Committee. The Town Attorney also answered questions as to the process for adopting changes and how it could be different this time around. President George suggested prioritizing recommendations rather than classifying them as controversial/non-controversial.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included:

- Mitchell School Update (Standing Item)

Mr. Dutton advised; the committee hasn't met in a while as they are waiting for bids. The next meeting will be 12/14/20 at 5:30 p.m. The committee will open the bids and most likely award the contract. More information can be found at www.bridgewaterproject.com

- COVID-19 Update

There are currently 19 community cases. The town has had several staff exposures and we know of one positive case among employees. The DOC has 10 cases, BSU has 16 in quarantine. While there has clearly been an uptick, Town Hall is open. He noted; some departments have limited employees due to exposure. Mr. Dutton then provided an update on the CARES Act reimbursement received. President George reminded Mr. Dutton that there will be four weeks left as of 12/1 to submit requests.

- Fire Building Committee Update

The Fire Station Building Committee met and adopted the space needs plan which allows the architect to continue developing a plan. They began a preliminary discussion of location. We will be creating a web page for the overall project.

- Update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Mr. Dutton spoke about the recruitment process for the Town being a blind process. Based on the process we have been asked to give advice to other municipalities. He acknowledged Kimberly Williams for her efforts.

- Training for Boards, Committees, Commissions – Cultural Awareness and Diversity

Mr. Dutton spoke about diversity training scheduled for Wednesday 12/2 which is open to all board and committee members. There has been a notice posted recruiting citizens for a Diversity & Inclusion Ad Hoc committee. He also anticipates accepting BSU's offer of their expertise but will stay aware that we are dealing



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with town issues, not university issues. At Councilor Losche's request, Mr. Dutton clarified how the ad hoc committee is different from legislation put forward previously.

- Items for Next Meeting – *No items were requested.*

DISCUSSIONS - *None*

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Review Committee: Committee Chair Losche gave a brief update on the Town Manager's review process. President George reminded the Council that a request to submit suggestions for the Town Manager's goals had been sent out.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Ordinance D-FY21-004: General Ordinance - Amend Section III "Council Meetings" of the Council Rules and Procedures
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-024: Waive Annual Licensing Fees – 2021
Councilor Gallagher gave a brief update on the Budget & Finance Committee's discussion and vote of 3-0 to recommend approval of this measure. Mr. Gallagher jointed the Finance Committee meeting and they had multiple questions and did not vote on the item last evening; therefore, the Council could not vote tonight.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to postpone to December 15th meeting which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Resolution R-FY21-002: Town Council Meeting Dates - 2021
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Sousa – ABSENT; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - *None*

NEW BUSINESS - *None*

CITIZEN COMMENTS - *None*

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked President George for another good Zoom meeting. Wished all a happy Thanksgiving
- Councilor Colombotos: No comments.
- Councilor Sousa: Absent
- Councilor Rushton: Thanked President Fred Clark and BSU who is providing COVID testing for Bridgewater-Raynham. Mr. Rushton wished all a Happy Thanksgiving.
- Councilor Wood: Spoke about a volunteer event at Stiles & Hart. He thanked the Highway Department for moving a lot of the big stuff. He also thanked Noonan for the dumpster.
- Councilor Chase: No comments.
- Councilor Losche: Wished all a Happy Thanksgiving. Ms. Losche reminded all that November is Native-American History month. Ms. Losche spoke about the Indigenous History Conference held by BSU.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked President George for a good meeting. Mr. Gallagher thanked the Charter Review Committee for their presentation.



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- Councilor George: Mr. George asked for a moment of silence for the Holt family. After the moment of silence, Mr. George echoed previous comments about Thanksgiving. He acknowledged people are getting tired and frustrated but reminded all that people are doing the best they can to guide us.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Losche made a motion to adjourn which was duly seconded.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 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, December 15, 2020 to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted by a roll call vote (9-0).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk