



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 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 7:32 pm, on December 20, 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 (arriving at 7:55 p.m.) 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:

- Francis Moore

President Gallagher welcomed the Boy Scouts who were in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- November 15, 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.

- December 6, 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 - None

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Mike Mainvielle, 25 Curve Street: Mr. Mainville would like to understand the goals set for the Town Council and Town Manager for 2016 and were those goals met. Several Councilors offered brief suggestions and answers to Mr. Mainville's questions.

APPOINTMENTS –

- Disabilities Commission – Henry Goldsmith

Mr. Dutton spoke on Mr. Goldsmith's behalf noting he spends a lot of time volunteering at the Senior Center and fully recommends him.

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

Discussion: None

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

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

Discussion: Councilor Perry explained he believed there were citizens present interested in this item.

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

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION (*Taken Out of Order*)

- Order O-2016-030: Granting of an Easement – Off Conant Street



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

President Gallagher referred to the Town Manager who explained the legislation is ready for a council vote this evening. The property is off Conant Street. An affirmative vote of this measure will grant the perpetual easement to the property owner.

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 unanimously.

President Gallagher returned to the regular order of business.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2016-056: Annual License Renewal – Common Victualler

Mr. Dutton explained Uncle Shwarma's Food Truck is requesting an increase in hours on Saturday until 1:00 a.m. The Police Chief objects and has submitted a letter (included in materials). At this time, Mr. Dutton supports the Chief's objection. However, he would not be opposed to allowing him to stay open until 11:00 p.m. It will help ensure there will not be a congregation of people when the bars close.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if Mr. Dutton has discussed his proposal with the Police Chief. Mr. Dutton responded he has let Chief Delmonte know he would propose 11:00 p.m., but has had no response as yet.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to amend the Order to reflect current hours of Uncle Shwarma. Mr. Fitzgibbons proposes to leave the hours as is. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

Discussion: Councilor Wright would like to see a little more history. President Gallagher agrees 1:00 a.m. is too much and asked if 11:00p.m. is consistent with others. He would like on agenda for next meeting to consider going up one hour.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 8-1 (Councilor Colombotos in the minority).

Discussion (on main motion): Mr. Dutton explained there are no other changes that aren't supported by the departments.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to approve as amended, passed unanimously.

- Petition P-2016-057: Annual License Renewal – All Alcohol

Mr. Dutton explained the breakdown of licensees.

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

Discussion: Councilor Losche clarified that the license for Skips won't be issued. Mr. Dutton responded; there is no building at this point, so we can't hand out the license.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to amend and strike Skips Liquors from the list. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Councilor Wood would like to have the owner come back and explain. There's been a significant delay for almost two years. Mr. Wood would like to take this up at the next meeting. President Gallagher thinks it's a risk to not approve it this evening. Councilor Colombotos stated his position that it's really sending a bad message. President Gallagher stated he would like to have him come to the next meeting to address the Council. Mr. Dutton reminded the Council that in order to revoke, or suspend a license a hearing must be held. The renewal process is not the place to do that.

A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend failed 2-7 (Councilors Wood and Wright in the minority).

Discussion (on main motion): Councilor Colombotos asked if there was a surplus of restaurant/all-alcohol licenses. Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct.

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

PRESENTATIONS -



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

- **FY15 Audit – Roselli, Clark & Associates (8:00)**

Tony Roselli, of Roselli, Clark & Associates introduced himself and his colleague Paul Gargano and presented the results of the FY15 Audit (presentation included in materials). Mr. Roselli explained the FY15 audit was delayed due to the many transitions, but FY16 is being done in January. The new Finance Director is here, but wasn't here for the FY15 audit. Mr. Roselli briefly explained the history of why an audit is done and the difference between a "clean" and "qualified" opinion. He noted the financial opinion was "clean", but the internal controls were "qualified". The town has approximately \$4MM in reserves which falls into the Tier 2 Reserve Ratio. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the 10% target is still reasonable? Mr. Roselli responded 10% is something he would recommend. The target should be attainable and sustainable. Mr. Roselli then explained the use of Free Cash. Mr. Roselli spoke about the Town's accomplishments, then provided additional information on areas of concern: municipal data breaches and tax titles.

Mr. Paul Gargano came forward and presented the final findings and recommendations. He spoke about material weaknesses found. At the conclusion of the presentation, Councilor Colombotos requested a more detailed account of CPC funds for the next audit.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: There will be a number of contracts before the Council in January in addition to a Community Benefit Contract. There has been one public meeting for Department of Marine Fisheries discussing the High Street Dam as they are looking at decommissioning the dam, which is privately owned. Senior Center renovations should begin in the New Year and should cost approximately \$97,000. Representatives from Claremont have requested time on the Council's agenda to discuss their ideas of what they would like to do with the rest of their property. Mr. Dutton then spoke, in response to the citizen question earlier in the meeting, about the goals the Council did generate for 2016, noting they were really more task oriented. Mr. Dutton will be proposing a more robust Strategic Plan now that we seem to have the people in place and reminded all that we also have a Master Plan.

Councilor Questions:

- At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton explained the sewer work around town is a continuation of the sewer re-lining work begun six-eight months ago.
- At Councilor Perry's request, Mr. Dutton explained they expect to hear from the MSBA regarding the school roof funding this week.
- Councilors Colombotos and Haley expressed continued concern about trash and debris left on streets. Mr. Colombotos asked about the progress in hiring a new Building Inspector. Mr. Dutton responded, they are bringing two candidates back for the Inspector position; however, Mr. Moore is willing to stay a little longer. Finally, Mr. Colombotos asked for the Recreational Needs Assessment Plan.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Rules & Procedures:** Councilor Losche explained the committee continues to go through the Charter and will continue to re-edit. However, it will most likely not be on the April 17 ballot.
- **Community & Economic Development Committee:** Councilor Colombotos stated the committee submitted their report to the Town Council by the 15th. They have endorsed the Town Manager's recommendations on Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Ordinance D-2016-004: Wireless Communications Facilities License Ordinance**

The Town Manager briefly explained the ordinance.

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

Discussion: It was noted that the amendments needed to be accepted.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to accept the proposed amendment. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016

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

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

- Order O-2016-029: Procure Services – Strategic Planning

This measure was not taken up, as it has not been released from Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS - None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Karen Peabody, 5 Curve Street – Ms. Peabody is part of a community group regarding the 40B off Curve Street. Mr. Dutton explained; when you go through a 40B process, it goes through the ZBA. 40B provides a mechanism for a developer to get a lot more density than is allowed under regular zoning. He further noted he would be happy to have a conversation to explain the process and encourage the group to attend the ZBA hearings, noting he does not anticipate it will be a short process.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Thanked everyone for coming. Thanked Mr. Goldsmith for volunteering. Thanked the Auditors for coming in and wished all a Merry Christmas.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked people for coming out. Encouraged people to come out and attend.
- Councilor Haley: Happy New Year.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked fellow councilors for a very good year. Looking forward to accomplishing more next year. Welcomed and thanked Troop 31.
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche is happy to see so many people here. She invited people to attend Rules & Procedures meetings.
- Councilor Wood: Really nice to see a large audience tonight.
- Councilor Perry: Happy Holiday and New Years. Heard Christmas on the Common was a huge success.
- Councilor Sousa: Happy Holidays
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked Troop 31. Thanked the citizens who came out tonight to speak. Thanked all the colleagues on the council and the Town Manager and employees for a great year and wished everyone a happy holiday.

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 9-0.

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, January 10, 2017, to approve the aforementioned minutes by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Wright not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 20, 2016