



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Kevin Perry called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:30 pm, on March 22, 2016 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, William Wood, Peter Colombotos, Aisha Losche, Kevin Perry, Dennis Gallagher and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor John Norris
- Councilor Sandra Wright

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 23, 2016

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

- Mr. Donald Wood
- Mr. Robert Morse
- Mr. Joseph Rindini
- Mr. Kenneth Thrasher

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – No citizens came forward.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2016-010: Transfer of Common Victualler's License – Lou Lou's Café
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the license transfer.

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

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: Mr. Dutton met with a citizen who had concerns about the Administrative Code and the Transfer Station moving to the DPW. They continue to roll out financial software. It's quite complex in what it can do. Tony Sulmonte is currently working to ensure the accuracy of the information being entered. One of the BSU Professors has reached out to collaborate on the Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance; which is a very healthy thing. The Post Commander for VFW 2125 has signed the lease. There was an issue with capacity over the weekend, but we will get clarity on that via an engineer. Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the Academy Building and also noted he has met with the BIA about the fountain. The BIA has been wonderful in working towards an upgrade for the fountain. Mr. Dutton has had discussions with the School District about their space needs. They are looking to alleviate some space



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

constraints. Ideally, they are trying to get the 8th graders out of the High School and back into a more appropriate educational setting.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Losche asked for an update on the GO Gas Station. Mr. Dutton explained; the new owner has the transfer application and has committed to filling it out, but it hasn't been returned yet. In the interim we have closed down their alcohol component, as that's an important piece.
- Councilor Wood asked for an update on Skips Liquors. Mr. Dutton will check to see if they've submitted their permit information. Regarding the Academy Building, Mr. Wood asked if Comcast will be able to broadcast there live. Mr. Dutton explained the intranet around town is essentially non-functioning. We've asked Comcast to take the head end out of the Police Department and put it into this (BTV) building. The Academy Building will be on the fiber network. In the worst case, we can hold the meetings there and have them recorded and aired, they also can live stream. Finally, Councilor Wood asked for verification of the effective date of the Plastic Bag Ordinance. The Council Clerk confirmed September 5th as the effective date.
- Councilor Colombotos asked about the cost of upgrades to the website. Mr. Dutton responded initially it will be \$29,000, then a yearly maintenance fee. They'll do a complete rebuild every two years. It looks like a really good system. The company is called Civic Plus. Councilor Colombotos then asked for an update on an Ordinance for delinquent commercial properties. Mr. Dutton responded; Andrew Delonno has begun to draft something specific. Mr. Colombotos then asked about the Recreational Needs Study. Mr. Dutton responded; Andrew was collecting final comments. Councilor Colombotos then asked if there had been any word from the state on 40R district. Mr. Dutton has received some comments from state and Andrew was looking to address some of their comments. Finally, Councilor Colombotos asked if CEDC should get involved with decision making relative to the town buildings once town employees have been moved to the Academy Building. Mr. Dutton responded he would be happy to begin those discussions. We should definitely have a discussion for the Town Hall. There is currently no town-related plan for the Town Hall; however there is a plan for the Memorial Building. He would like to try and make the lower level of the Memorial Building usable for storage.
- President Perry asked if there had been any follow up discussion on Rainbow's End. Mr. Dutton explained; it's important to make sure that it's closed and that it's signed properly. Finally, Councilor Perry asked for an update on Oak Street. Mr. Dutton responded; we the engineer a return call.

DISCUSSIONS

- **FY2017 Budget**
Mr. Dutton walked through the Town Accountant's "Sources & Uses" report (included in materials). Mr. Dutton explained information as it is directed in the FY2017 Budget Resolution. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about Chapter 90 funds, building maintenance, local receipts, cherry sheet estimates, and ambulance receipts. Councilor Wood asked if Lucini still pays excise tax. Mr. Dutton will check on it but clarified Lucini is moving to Elm Street.
Plymouth County Assessment is \$3.1MM for FY17 and FY18 increase will be about 3.5%.
Mr. Dutton explained there should be no new initiatives for staff except for 3 new laborers in Highway/Roadways Department, 1 addition in the Finance Dept and a part time IT person.
Regarding Sick Leave Buyback, Mr. Dutton stated; there will be several issues – Mayflower Municipal will be increasing their rates 15%. For us that means just shy of a \$400,000 increase. Sick Leave Buy Back – Mr. Dutton has asked dept heads to identify who is aging out/retiring so we can get some calculations. When employees look to retirement, there is no incentive/disincentive to tell us. Through contract negotiations, we've eliminated most all the sick time buy back clauses for most all contracts.
The Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District assessment is going to be a huge issue. A good part of it is due to out of district placements – there is a 41% increase in the budget for out of district placements. We are also dealing with a 65 student increase on the Bridgewater side and a 26 student increase on the Raynham side since the October census. The total operating budget for Bridgewater is a little over \$1mm over last year's assessment.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

The takeaways from Mr. Dutton's meeting with the Town Accountant are; this is going to be a challenging year. We don't have the projected revenues in FY17 to meet the FY17 maintenance budget. The expense drivers are really Health Insurance and Bridgewater Raynham School District.

Mr. Dutton then addressed the Capital Exclusion Vote explaining the different voter exclusions:

1. Vote an override – which is not what he is proposing.
2. Debt exclusion – requires voter approval and is for a specific debt. .
3. Capital Expenditure Exclusion; which is a one-time increase in your tax bill to cover the cost of a particular capital item.

Both 2 and 3 differ significantly from an override.

Mr. Dutton has asked the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee to hold off on approving the measure to give Mr. Dutton time to do some educating.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Colombotos asked if the town will have to pay out sick time to the outgoing Fire Chief. Mr. Dutton responded no, he gave up sick buyback in contract negotiations. Councilor Colombotos followed up by asking what the typical payout. Mr. Dutton responded it varies, but provided an example of a \$100,000 payout on one person last year, but noted; that's the extreme. Councilor Colombotos asked why the increase in out of district placements for Bridgewater-Raynham. Mr. Dutton responded the school didn't really have a good answer at this point.

Councilor Fitzgibbons stated the school really needs to come up with a good answer. He also clarified with regard to out of district placements; it's usually based on the severity of the child. Councilor Wood asked if the state could take on some of the burden.

At Councilor Gallagher's request, Mr. Dutton reminded the public that, last year, the Governor allowed financing the snow and ice deficit over three years, so even though this winter wasn't too bad, there is still debt to be paid.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair, Wood stated the committee met to consider all items referred to Budget & Finance. Some items were still being considered in Finance Committee and will appear when they reach a disposition.
- Rules & Procedures: Councilor Losche stated the committee is looking to conclude review of bylaws by the end of April. She will put it on the agenda as a topic for discussion. They will also do that with Charter Review Recommendations.
- Community & Economic Development Committee: Councilor Colombotos stated the committee met last night to consider two zoning ordinances. There were a lot of questions around parking requirements and overlay. The Town Planner wasn't able to be at the meeting; therefore they continued the hearing to 5/2/16 at 7:00 at the Police Department.
- Strategic Planning: Councilor Gallagher explained the committee is meeting a week from tonight. They met last week and are looking to come to terms on a Mission Statement.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-2016-001: Zoning Ordinance – Downtown Zoning
This measure was postponed until after the hearing is concluded.
- Ordinance D-2016-002: Zoning Ordinance Open Space Conservation
This measure was postponed until after the hearing is concluded.

NEW BUSINESS

- Transfer T-2016-003: CPC Transfer – The Music Alley

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



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Discussion: Mr. Dutton briefly explained; the Town Clerk has initiated an effort to improve the space between Town Hall and the building next door. The idea is to put down some pavers and maybe hold music events. They have applied to the CPC for funding. Councilor Colombotos pointed out they have also secured funding from other places.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Absent
- Councilor Colombotos: Nothing
- Councilor Wood: The B-R Robotics Team made it to elimination rounds and was eliminated, but may be going on to the district regional championship.
- Councilor Losche: None
- Councilor Norris: Absent
- Councilor Gallagher: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: None
- Councilor Perry: Thanked and congratulated Chief Rogers for his years of service to the Fire Department and wished Interim Fire Chief Levy the best.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 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, April 26, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (7-0) (1 Councilor vacancy, Councilor Norris absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk