



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 26, 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 7:33 pm, on April 26, 2016 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, William Wood, Peter Colombotos, Aisha Losche, Kevin Perry, Dennis Gallagher and Timothy Fitzgibbons. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Associate Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor John Norris

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence was held for all who have passed since the last meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- March 22, 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 7-0.

- April 5, 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 7-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Perry offered condolences and held a moment of silence for Alfred Halwix
- 2016 Elder Law Education Program, Tuesday, May 17th at the Senior Center. If interested, citizens should call the Senior Center
- President Perry read an announcement for Organic Gardening for Everyone.
- Congratulated the newly elected members who will be seated at the next meeting.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Luigi Primavera, 75 Concetta Drive: Mr. Primavera is Chairman of the Bridgewater Veteran's Council. Mr. Primavera gave a detailed description of the duties and activities of the Veterans Council. The Council is seeking additional members. Interested persons must be a member of the town and can be military veterans or non-veterans.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on behalf of the candidates.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to appoint Carlton Hunt and Tom Hall to the Energy Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS



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- Petition #P-2016-013: Transfer of Lodging House License to The Iron Fence Trust, LLC dba Iron Fence Inn, 46 Main Street
Mr. Dutton explained this is fairly simple and is just a transfer of the property and a change in the manager of record.
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 7-0.
- Petition #P-2016-015 - Transfer of Wine & Malt Package Store License, GO, 155 Broad Street
President Perry opened the hearing at 7:42 p.m.
Attorney Matthew Porter came forward; representing Mr. Patel. Mr. Porter explained; Mr. Patel will be the sole owner and the manager. He has several years in the business.
President Perry invited any questions from the public – None came forward.
President Perry asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – None came forward.
President Perry asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.
President Perry entertained any questions from councilors:
 - At Councilor Losche's request, the petitioner explained the delay in bringing this license before the Council. Mr. Porter explained the delay was on the part of the seller.
 - Councilor Wright confirmed this is a transfer of license; not a new license.President Perry closed the hearing at 7:44 p.m.
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 7-0.
- Petition P-2016-017: Transfer of Common Victualler License, GO, 155 Broad Street
Mr. Dutton gave a brief explanation noting; this grants a Common Victualler's license for the location.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- Bridgewater Veterans Council
The Veteran's Council presented under Citizens Comments. Councilors Fitzgibbons and Perry thanked them for their presentation and service.
- FY2017 Budget Update
Mr. Dutton stated we have about \$2MM more in revenue this year. However, educational expenses are up about \$1MM. We have contractual obligations to meet which are about \$500,000, and a Healthcare line item which is about \$341,000 and a \$70,000 increase in retirement (which is not too bad). The bottom line is we have about \$70,000 to allocate across the general fund. Originally the school district voted a budget of 4.34% over last year (our assessment). After many discussions, they reduced their assessment to 3.5%. Bristol Plymouth is also a driver, that budget consistently comes in at a minimum amount, but there's an increase of about \$132,000, which is calculated on a per-kid basis. Mr. Dutton has been driving the process internally with the Department Heads to make sure everyone knows we are all in this together. Budget orders are being submitted tonight and that will be followed up with a budget message. Mr. Dutton emphasized; we have a great group of department heads.
Through this budget there will be no increase in staff, but have done everything we could not to lay people off.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: he and the Town Accountant taped a BTV presentation on the budget so people at



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home could understand a little about the process. He met with 2 professors from BSU who are trying to assist in getting a strategy on informing stores on the plastic bag ordinance. About two years ago we signed a power purchase agreement with Marina Energy. We are now the beneficiary of some lower electric rates. The Community and Economic Development Director, Highway, Water and Sewer and a number of others met with the proponents Duxboro Estates 40B proposal. There's a proposal to put 150 houses there. Once it gets to us; there will need to be numerous discussions with the developer before moving forward. Mr. Dutton had a meeting with Bridgewater Sand & Gravel regarding some proposals for their site. He would like to start accepting fill. It looks like it's a good thing for that business and Bridgewater. Finally, Mr. Dutton reported on a dangerous dog hearing he conducted on a dog bite that happened earlier this month. He will be making a decision soon. There has been an uptick in dog issues lately with the nicer weather. Mr. Dutton encouraged people to be aware of their dogs.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Losche asked what kind of help BSU can offer relative to the plastic bags if they're leaving for summer break. Mr. Dutton responded; they have a summer program. They have considered a public service announcement and possibly a door to door campaign. Councilor Losche followed up by asking if we have brought the businesses in for a sit down. Mr. Dutton responded; not yet.
- Councilor Colombotos asked about the Board of Health's new regulation they're considering. He noted there will be a hearing on 5/11 at the Library and asked what prompted this? Mr. Dutton responded he does not know of any incidences that spurred this. He encouraged all to let their voices be heard and attend the hearing. The proposed language will be on Board of Health webpage. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton explained the authority of the Board of Health's to pass regulations independent of the Town Council.
- Councilor Wood noted he wonders what problem we're trying to solve with this. Bridgewater came from a farming community.
- Councilor Write noted she has received a lot of feedback from people who feel this is just another way to charge fees.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons pointed out; under the Board of Health's authority, they could "theoretically" stop soda sales in excess of 32 oz.

DISCUSSIONS

- General Bylaw Update
Councilor Losche updated all noting; the committee is hoping to have Charter review completed by the end of year to include on the April 2017 ballot. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if the Council and Rules & Procedures committee will hold hearings. Councilor Losche responded in the affirmative. Councilor Wood spoke to the General Bylaws; thanking Councilor Losche for moving it along. He explained; the purpose of putting the legislation on as a first reading is to make it public domain to continue to receive feedback.
- Inspectional Services and Bylaw Ordinance Enforcement
Councilor Colombotos stated he wanted to have a preliminary discussion about permits issues. He would like a quick update on the process and delays and to hear if there has been any progress on a ticket book. Mr. Dutton stated, he asked the building official to attend tonight, but he was unable. They are working on getting people their permit within 30 days. He is being told they're pretty close to being current. In the office they've switched back to normal hours of operation and are in the process of developing an express permit process. They're trying to switch the perception so people know we want to help them. In terms of zoning enforcement; Mr. Dutton explained, overall ordinance enforcement is the responsibility of a lot of people. There was a meeting of staff at the end of last week to go over the process. The clerk is involved and the Magistrate in Brockton is also involved. The Animal Control Officer has been given the first book of citations. Regarding zoning enforcement; the Deputy Inspector position is still open. They have gone through a number of candidates, but none have worked out. They will be going back out for advertising.
Councilor Fitzgibbons asked what being current means. Mr. Dutton explained the wait shouldn't be more than 30 days.



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Councilor Wood asked if Mr. Dutton feels comfortable that the root cause of the delays has been found and remedied. Mr. Dutton responded; yes. Councilor Wood followed up by asking if a citizen calls now; can they get an idea of where they are in the process? Mr. Dutton stated he may need to get back to you on that. Councilor Colombotos asked if the Building Inspector has a ticket book. Mr. Dutton responded, yes. We had a training yesterday. There is nothing under our current bylaws that precludes us from citing someone by letter. President Perry suggested, maybe Mr. White can attend next meeting.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Strategic planning: Councilor Gallagher handed out a list of goals drafted for the Town Manager. He stated; to date nothing has been presented. This will be in an order or resolution for the next meeting. He will also be contacting the BSU Strategic Planning Committee to meet with committee. Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if it's okay to put on website. Councilor Gallagher agreed. Councilor Losche stated this is a stop gap to get through 2016 and then we will do something more formal.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Transfer T-2016-003: CPC Transfer – Music Alley
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: Councilor Wood stated the Budget & Finance Committee already discussed and recommended passage of this measure. The Finance Committee met last night and there was good discussion and they also recommended passage.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Perry – YEA; Norris – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-2016-006: Revocation of General Bylaws and Adoption of Ordinances
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer this measure to Rules & Procedures. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.
- Order O-2016-009: Acceptance of a Gift – Bridgewater State University for Music Alley
Mr. Dutton explained this is a gift from BSU to help accomplish Music Alley.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wright to refer to the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.
- FY2017 Budget Orders
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer agenda items “(c) and (d)” to the Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
Discussion: PC – question about revolving funds – seems that building inspector is limited, if it's been reduced, why? MD – with the Finance Director's help decided it's not the best way to go. It's more confusing to staff to allocate the money. Better to simply budget for what's needed. WW – explained this is a working copy. There is still a lot of work to do.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.
 - Order O-2016-010: FY17 Annual Town Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
 - Order O-2016-011: FY17 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
 - Order O-2016-012: FY17 Water Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.



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- Order O-2016-013: FY17 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-2016-014: FY17 Olde Scotland Links Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.
- Order O-2016-015: Authorization of Revolving Funds
Referred to Budget & Finance Committee and Finance Committee per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS -

- Jim Dolan, 20 Brookside Drive: Much of the information the Town Manager was speaking about is difficult for people to find on the website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Thanked the Veterans Council for coming in this evening and for their service. Welcomed new members to the Council and thanked Mr. Norris for his service. The budget process is a challenge, and thanked all who put the effort in.
- Councilor Colombotos: Congratulated Mr. Haley, Mr. Sousa and Dr. Perry and thanked Mr. Norris. He commended Mr. Norris on the Plastic Bag Ordinance. Mr. Colombotos stated the Board of Health regulation is upsetting a lot of people here. This town was a farming community. There's a hearing 5/11/16 at 6:00 in the Library. He encouraged all to attend.
- Councilor Wood: Thanked Councilor Norris for his service. Thanked the Veterans for staying the whole meeting. The B-R Robotics team is on way to world championship. Thanked school department as a whole for working collaboratively to find a common ground with the budget.
- Councilor Losche: Nothing
- Councilor Norris: Absent.
- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated Mr. Sousa and Mr. Haley and thanked all who voted. Congratulated President Perry. He thanked Councilor Norris for his service and thanked the Veterans Council for attending.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Congratulated Mr. Sousa, Mr. Haley, and Dr. Perry and thanked Mr. Norris for his service. Mr. Fitzgibbons is looking forward to the budget season.
- Councilor Perry: Echoed all comments. Welcomed Mr. Haley and Mr. Sousa and thanked Mr. Norris. Thanked those who re-elected him. Thanked the Veterans Council for coming in this evening. Thanked Firefighter Carol Birdhouse who recently retired. Finally, he thanked Joe Munise who was an assistant scout master who is relocating.
- **EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *No Executive Session was held.*
- **ADJOURNMENT**
Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Losche. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 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, may 10, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (6-0) (Councilor Wright absent, Councilors Haley & Sousa abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk