Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 5, 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 April 5, 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 Town Attorney Mark Gildea 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 –

- ***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

- BBA is having their annual meet and greet tomorrow evening at 5:30 p.m.
- Annual Town Report is in packets for review. If Councilors have any questions, comments or edits let him know.
- 2016 Tax Amnesty Program – details will be on website.
- Annual Nunckatessett Greenway rally will take place on April 14th.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Keith Buohl, 10 Fieldcrest Drive: Thanked all for their service to town. Mr. Buohl went to the last budget meeting. He had requested the Town Manager get some information out via social media regarding exclusion versus override. Mr. Buohl spoke about the BTV situation with Comcast. Mr. Buohl feels we need to push to get this addressed, legally if necessary. Mr. Buohl would like to know how the budget process will work with the Council and the school and meetings, etc.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition #P-2016-011: Annual Entertainment License, The Bridge Center, 470 Pine Street

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

  Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained; The Bridge Center will be holding live events with music. These are mainly events on Wednesdays.

  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.
- Petition #P-2016-012: Annual Entertainment License, Music Alley

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

  Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained; this comes in anticipation of some work to be done right next to Town Hall. This is the request to hold summer concert series on Thursday's during the summer. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mrs. Hunt for pursuing.

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

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PRESENTATIONS -

- Skip's Liquors
  Yogi Patel came forward and thanked all for working with him. All approvals are in place and will apply for a building permit next week. They are targeting July to open the store.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: his office is currently working on the budget. There are some huge obstacles to overcome. Mr. Dutton taped an informational session about the budget today to be aired on BTV. He is hopeful it will help people understand the process. A 40B eligibility application was received last week for a project to be located off Curve Street for 150 single family homes. Mass Housing just notified us that they've received it and will be scheduling a site visit (possibly 4/14 or 4/15). Mass Housing will make a determination; then the applicant will submit to the ZBA. Mr. Dutton provided a brief update on the Academy Building, noting he will schedule another tour for the Council. Mr. Dutton Andrew DeIonno and Lisa Sullivan along with BSU went to the University of Connecticut to get some ideas on redevelopment of our own downtown areas. The Transportation Committee met and discussed reenergizing a couple of traffic signals. The High and Broad Street project is expected to wrap up by June 1st. They also discussed possibly relocating a crosswalk by the Academy Building and possibly voting a universal speed in Bridgewater, but have decided against it because of the varying types of roads. Mr. Dutton addressed the concern about Comcast and noted; the problem does not originate from BTV. The problem seems to exist between the Police Department and Brockton facility. Finally, Mr. Dutton acknowledged the Retirement of George Rogers. His official retirement is probably a month away, but his day to day responsibilities wrapped up last week.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Wood requested an update on Oak Street. Mr. Dutton responded he has not heard from State Engineer yet.
Councilor Losche asked if there should be a committee of citizens to deal with Comcast. Mr. Dutton responded he was going to ask for three volunteers; preferably people who know about cable television. Councilor Losche asked who citizens should contact regarding abandoned housing in her district. Mr. Dutton responded; anyone who has issues should e-mail townmanager@bridgewaterma.org. They can also notify the Building Office too.
Councilor Wright asked about closed captioning for meetings in the new building. Mr. Dutton responded we will have devices in the new building.

DISCUSSIONS

- FY2017 Budget
  Mr. Dutton referenced 2 handouts the budget timeline and the Sources and Uses document. Mr. Dutton briefly explained each. He noted total town debt is just over $1MM. The Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District assessment came in at $26MM. There is a lot of work to do. They have done a lot of work with the departments already, but have much more to do. Mr. Dutton's focus continues to be to budget accordingly for building maintenance, continue to try and increase the highway department, and make sure we are successfully giving ourselves a web presence.
- Town Manager Goals & Objectives
  Councilor Gallagher stated the Strategic Planning Committee has held a couple of meetings. They have been discussing a couple of avenues to pursue in sticking with the Town Manager's annual review. We want to begin with the resolution that was put forward in May 2013. Have all take a look at the goals and objectives. Mr. Gallagher would like each councilor to look it over and see if these are still pertinent or not. He would like the councilors to get back to committee what goals and objectives we want to see.
  Councilor Fitzgibbons suggested Mr. Gallagher reach out to former Councilor Whitaker. Mr. Fitzgibbons believes we felt this was a little too prescriptive and wordy and should have been more high level. He also asked the councilors to think about whether it makes sense to have a calendar year goals/evaluation or should it follow the budget year?

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community & Economic Development Committee: The committee met last night on the Demolition Delay Ordinance. There are a lot of concerns around it. They will meet with sponsor and Town Planner. They will be meeting Monday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m., in Police Department meeting room.
- Strategic Planning: The committee continues to meet. They are focusing on bringing something to Town Council relative to Town Manager goals. They continue to refine the mission.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION -

- Petition P-2016-014: Annual Town Election Warrant
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
  Discussion: None
  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.
- Order O-2016-004: Affix Town Clerk Salary
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.
  Discussion: Councilor Gallagher brought this forward because he feels the Town Clerk's salary was set quite low initially. Based on the comparatives that Mr. Gallagher collected, the salary was very low. The Finance Committee discussed this for an hour. They made a recommendation of a range.
  Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Gallagher to amend as follows: "that beginning in the fiscal year 2017, the salary of the Town Clerk shall e increased to $52,000 annually", and strike the remainder of the sentence. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.
  Discussion: Councilor Wood explained striking out the remainder of the sentence sets it until someone changes it again. At Councilor Colombotos' request, Councilor Gallagher stated based on his research, the average was about $63K.
  A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 7-0.
  Discussion (on main motion cont'd): Councilor Fitzgibbons has always been an advocate of setting the salary for a job in town for the responsibilities of the job. Will be supporting this, but throughout the town, we need to look at what's the right amount to be paid here.
  A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
  Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Norris – ABSENT; Perry – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.
- Order O-2016-005: Acceptance of a Gift – Bridgewater Preserve/Calthrop Property
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
  Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained; this is a gift being offered to the town by the owner of the Bridgewater Preserve. The Open Space was to be either; retained by a homeowners association, put in holding or granted to the town. It is the recommendation to accept the gift.
  Councilor Wood stated he has asked a couple of tax questions and there is really no change for property taxes for the homeowners. Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Demco Farms and the owner for the gift. Councilor Colombotos stated his opinion that this is not a generous gift. He would have preferred to see some funds along with the land. Councilor Gallagher agreed with Mr. Colombotos.
  A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
  Wright – YEA; Colombotos – NAY; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Perry – YEA; Norris – ABSENT; Gallagher – NAY; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 5-2.
- Order O-2016-006: Acceptance of a Gift – Senior Center
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
  Discussion: None

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to amend as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 7-0.
Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Norris – ABSENT; Perry – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-2016-008: Olde Scotland Links Golf Equipment Lease
  Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
  Discussion: Councilor Wood noted the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend 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

- Ordinance D-2016-005: Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Demolition Delay Ordinance
  Motion: A motion to postpone to the first meeting in May was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.
  Discussion: None
  A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS - None

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: No comments.
- Councilor Colombotos: Elaborated on his comments about the Bridgewater Preserve gift. He explained; before they can sell the units, they need to get rid of the open space. He hopes we can find a way to manage the property.
- Councilor Wood: One of the benefits is we beefed up the Parks & Recreation department.
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche is excited to hear all the music happening in Bridgewater. She reminded everyone that 4/12 is equal pay day. For citizens wishing to report abandoned housing – report it directly to the Town Manager. She also has concerns about managing the land, but hopes the Parks & Recreation can handle it.
- Councilor Norris: Absent
- Councilor Gallagher: Regarding the acceptance of the gift; he has similar concerns to Councilor Colombotos. Typically this comes with a monetary donation to begin the process of managing the land.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Congratulated Chief Rogers on his services to the town and wishes him well on his new endeavors.
- Councilor Perry: Thanked Chief Rogers for his years of service. Bridgewater Badgers held awards banquet; he congratulated all the Badgers players. Dr. Perry offered condolences to family of Dr. David Edwards, a dentist here in Bridgewater.

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 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 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 by a voice vote (7-0) (1 Councilor vacancy, Councilor Norris absent).
A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk