



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President William Wood called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:33 pm, on April 28, 2015 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Kevin Perry, Peter Colombotos, Sheila Whitaker, William Wood, Scott Pitta, William Rivers, John Norris and Sandra Wright (arriving at 7:40 p.m.). Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT: No Councilor were absent

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Walter Doherty

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- April 7, 2015

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Wood wished Happy Birthday to Noreen Donardo who turned 100 years old on April 11th.
- Rabies Clinic Sunday, May 17th at the Highway Barn.
- The Senior Center will host a guest speaker on "Taking Control of Your Future" on May 11th.
- President Wood spoke about a car wash fund raiser for the Oak Street Bridge.
- Historic Murray Farms Celebration on Thursday, May 14th on North Street.

PROCLAMATIONS -

- John Meyers

President Wood read a proclamation recognizing John Meyers for his service to BTV and to the Town. He also read a proclamation from State Representative D'Emilia. Peter Murray of BTV spoke and presented Mr. Meyers with a plaque.

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Amber Santangelo, Tammy Court: Ms. Santangelo spoke in support of the Plastic Bag Ordinance. Ms. Santangelo cited several reasons and statistics in support of the proposed reduction.
- Keith Buohl, 10 Fieldcrest Drive: Mr. Buohl spoke about trending items on the Bridgewater Residents page of Facebook. Items of note were: a house on Lawrence Avenue in Prescient 6 that has burnt down and is still sitting in the same state. People on the Bridgewater Residents page are wondering why the steps in Vacant & Abandoned Buildings Ordinance aren't being followed. Mr. Buohl requested an update on Oak Street on the Town's Facebook page. People are asking what's being done about some of the short term fixes relative to pedestrian safety and would like another update on the High Street light project. Finally, Mr. Buohl asked if there will be an opportunity for public input related to the budget process.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

- Police Chief Delmonte – Assessment for Certification/Accreditation



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

Police Chief Delmonte came forward and spoke briefly about John Meyers, noting he is part of the fabric of this community and has made it a better place. Chief Delmonte formally announced the Bridgewater Police Department will undergo a 2-day accreditation certification and explained the accreditation process. He further noted this will simply codify what the Police Department has been doing all along. Chief Delmonte briefly answered questions and finally thanked Councilors Pitta and Whitaker for their service to the community.

**8:00 p.m., Councilor Norris left the room.*

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: Oak Street Bridge – the next step is to secure funding for the rest of the engineering. Mr. Dutton will work with Representative D'Emilia and Mass DOT regarding funding. Academy Building work gets underway this week. There will be designated parking on the South Street side of the building for contractor parking. Town Accountant, Mimi Spahr has decided to move on to a position closer to home. Her last day will be 5/15/15 and she has agreed to stay in touch. Mr. Dutton spoke about Ms. Spahr noting; during her tenure we have made great strides in the finance department, she has reorganized the way the finance department has worked and has been a pleasure to work with. Mr. Dutton will begin recruiting a new finance director and will be looking to find someone temporarily. Mr. Dutton has met with Charlie Kilmer and Ron Ladue to discuss how to move forward with some of the Downtown Revitalization initiative. Our new Director of Community & Economic Development (Andrew Delonno) has hit the ground running. He has some projects to close out and plenty of planning projects. He will be working towards a more streamlined Planning Board process. Greg Guimond has continued to draft several zoning amendments and has submitted his final recommendations to Mr. Dutton.

**8:07 p.m., Councilor Fitzgibbons left meeting.*

Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the Calthrop property noting it appears that it will be developed. He then explained; the President did not declare a four week period of disaster, rather, he declared a 72 hour period. Mr. Dutton met with OCPC & four other Towns regarding a residential aggregaency program for electrical supply. This is an initiative that could possibly save residents in electrical costs. Mr. Dutton is looking for additional help in the Building Office due to an increase in building projects. Finally, Mr. Dutton thanked Councilors Whitaker and Pitta for their service.

**8:09 p.m., Councilor Norris returned.*

Council Questions:

**8:17 p.m., Councilor Fitzgibbons returned.*

- Councilor Whitaker asked if it would make sense to bring in a contractor to work with the Building Inspector. Mr. Dutton responded that's exactly what he suggested. Councilor Whitaker asked about the Compensation/Classification Study. Mr. Dutton explained his Assistant, Kim Williams is communicating with them, and he is trying to stay out of it. At Councilor Whitaker's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed; yes, the CPC Consultant was brought on board and they have a meeting tomorrow.
- Councilor Perry asked if we can do some painting of crosswalks for pedestrian safety. Mr. Dutton responded we will be doing something. Lisa Jacobson is offering suggestions, but right now it's a funding issue, but pointed out we have worked with National Grid on lighting. At Councilor Perry's request, Mr. Dutton explained he does not certain of a date for the High Street light. Councilor Perry followed up by asking if there will be any plan for repair on surrounding streets during the High Street light construction. Mr. Dutton responded the Highway Superintendent is aware and assessing.
- Councilor Wright asked for an update on the 40 Lawrence Street property. Attorney Gildea responded; it's bank owned and they're looking for the property owner.
- Councilor Rivers noted he would like the Community & Economic Director to present the Dukakis Study results and would like to invite the Planning Board as well.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

- Councilor Colombotos asked if a revolving account for inspectional services had been considered. Mr. Dutton responded he has asked Mimi to look at that. Mr. Colombotos asked if there could be a sidewalk incorporated into the Oak Street Bridge repair. Mr. Dutton responded that they had considered it, but it boiled down to the expense of widening it.
- Councilor Pitta asked if the paving plans can be put on Facebook. Mr. Dutton responded yes. He noted, Walnut Street work will start shortly.
- President Wood asked for a recap on Springfest. Chief Delmonte responded it was a busy weekend and there were a number of arrests, but no tragedies.

DISCUSSIONS

- Town Council Photo Contest for the Cover of the 2014 Annual Report
President Wood explained perhaps the Council could run a photo contest. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he thinks it's a good idea.
- Charter Change Process
President Wood stated at the last meeting we heard from Charter Review Committee with their recommendations. Mr. Wood explained; one way to change the Charter would be to pick a target date (for example, next April) and put together tasks of what we'd like to see accomplished. Councilor Rivers stated he would like to see an options ballot so citizens can pick and choose the changes they'd like to see as the final stage. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he thinks this discussion should happen in the Rules & Procedures committee with monthly updates to the Council. Councilors then offered suggestions for communication to the citizens. Suggestions included; mailings, web page, Facebook, a Q&A on BTV. Finally Councilor Rivers noted he hopes Rules & Procedures takes the Charter Review Committee's recommendations as starting point and that we're not limiting ourselves to just (the Charter Review Committee's) those recommendations.
- Town Manager Performance Update
Councilor Whitaker explained this has been an ongoing process. They did a 360 evaluation and received seven responses. Mrs. Whitaker thanked the department heads for completing the questionnaire. The Town Manager provided a self assessment. The Strategic Planning committee voted in agreement with the final document produced. There were 30 goals set last year, which is not realistic. We need to, going forward, have 5-6 goals. There were many goals where progress was made and there were some where partial progress was made. There was no room for unplanned items. Councilor Whitaker will make final edits and send to Council Clerk for distribution. One recommendation would be; at least every six months in lieu of Town Manager Report, we should have an evaluation update. With the Administrative Code and a better structured organization, some of those things will be corrected.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair, Rivers explained we have had some good news coming out of the State House over the past couple of weeks. The school committee has also lowered their number. We have more needs than money. The Budget & Finance Committee is meeting on the 4th to see the Town Manager's budget submission. All members of the public are welcome to attend Budget & Finance committee meetings.
- Public Safety: Committee Chair Pitta stated they are still in the fact gathering phase regarding the Mitchell School roof. He will work with the new Public Safety Chair to transfer the information.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION -

- Ordinance #D-2015-001: Enforcement Ordinance – Canine Control
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Rivers. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.
Discussion: Councilor Rivers had brought up some concerns last time about fees, but has had time to review the law and talk to the Town Manager and is now certain the Town Clerk has the power to set the fees.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; Perry – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Whitaker – YEA; Wood – YEA; Pitta – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Norris – YEA; Wright – YEA, the motion passed 9-0.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

- Order #O-2015-008: Affix Salary – Town Clerk

Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Rivers. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.

Discussion: Councilor Rivers explained this was unanimously approved by the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees and went on to explain the rationale in reducing the salary.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Rivers to amend by striking “for the full term of three (3) years from the time of election or appointment”. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.

Discussion: None

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

Discussion (on main motion cont’d): Discussion briefly followed regarding the classification of part time.

Councilor Rivers explained the position is part time because that’s what Plymouth County classifies it at. Mr. Dutton added the hours run all over the board. Then discussion turned to the salary of \$40,000 with Councilor Whitaker asking if there is a sense of what a range is for a position like this? Mr. Dutton responded it’s a little difficult with an elected position. Councilor Whitaker stated; based on the technical level of expertise, she feels the salary should be slightly higher.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Whitaker to amend the salary to \$45,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Pitta.

Discussion: The discussion continued while Councilors expressed their opinion and asked questions on the salary. Councilor Colombotos stated he was thinking of a salary of \$52,000, so he is not in support of this amendment. Councilor Rivers will not be supporting the amendment. President Wood reminded everyone that the Council meets frequently and this number can be reconsidered with a new piece of legislation. Discussion continued as more questions were asked relative to the budget allotted to the department and debated the issue of whether to consider the position or the person filling the position.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 5-4 (Councilors Colombotos, Rivers, Wright and Norris in the minority)

Discussion (on main motion cont’d): Councilor Fitzgibbons noted we should tie any position and salary that we set to performance.

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

Wright – YEA; Norris – YEA; Rivers – NAY; Pitta – YEA; Wood – YEA; Whitaker – YEA; Colombotos – NAY; Perry – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA, the motion passed 7-2.

- Transfer #T-2015-008: COLA transfer from Stabilization for part time / non-union employees

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

Discussion: Councilor Rivers explained this was unanimously approved by the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This measure adjusts non-union salaries.

- *9:32 p.m., Councilor Colombotos left the meeting.

Mr. Rivers stated he will support this although he just spoke against the contracts we just signed. It’s important to treat these employees fairly by giving raises commensurate with the unions.

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Perry – YEA; Colombotos – Not Present; Whitaker – YEA; Wood – YEA; Pitta – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Norris – YEA; Wright – YEA, the motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None

- *9:35 p.m., Councilor Colombotos returned to the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order #O-2015-009: Parking Ad Hoc Committee

President Wood explained the only way we can make a downtown revitalization plan work is if we have a parking plan. Mr. Wood is suggesting gathering an ad hoc committee of five to recommend parking solutions.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Rules & Procedures committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons explained he thinks there may be a little bit of language that needs to be cleaned up which can be handled in committee.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-1 (Councilor Rivers in the minority)

- Order #O-2015-010: Ratification of Police Department Contract

Mr. Dutton explained this is a tentative resolution to a negotiation that's been going on for a year. Mr. Dutton walked through changes; noting COLA increases over 3 years and there is a first responder provision stipend. They are giving up all sick leave buyback for new employees and the health insurance buyback.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance committee and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rivers.

Discussion: None

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

- Order #O-2015-011: FY16 Annual Town Budget
This item was not taken up at the request of the Town Manager.
- Order #O-2015-012: FY16 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget
This item was not taken up at the request of the Town Manager
- Order #O-2015-013: FY16 Water Enterprise Fund Budget
This item was not taken up at the request of the Town Manager
- Order #O-2015-014: FY16 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget
This item was not taken up at the request of the Town Manager
- Order #O-2015-015: FY16 Old Scotland Links Golf Course Enterprise Fund Budget
This item was not taken up at the request of the Town Manager

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

- Erica Cash, 63 High Street: Ms. Cash is shocked about the \$40,000 salary for the Town Clerk. Ms. Cash agrees with Councilor Whitaker that it's not an entry level position and she will be researching the matter. Her opinion is the salary should be \$50,000.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Mr. Fitzgibbons stated the best thing can say is we could disagree but still work together. He ran with Councilor Pitta the first time around. Mr. Pitta knew how to listen to people. On Mr. Fitzgibbons' first run for Council, he met Councilor Whitaker, who has been a great influence on the council.
- Councilor Perry: Thanked Mimi Spahr for her service and congratulated Mr. Meyers who is a pillar of the community. Dr. Perry thanked Mr. Pitta and Ms. Whitaker for their service noting Councilor Pitta has been a great role model. Councilor Perry assured Mr. Pitta he will pick up the ball on Rainbows End and thanked Mrs. Whitaker for all her hard work.
- Councilor Colombotos: Stated both Councilor Pitta and Whitaker have both acted with integrity.
- Councilor Whitaker: Thanked Mimi Spahr for her time and commitment. Whoever follows her has some big shoes to fill. Congratulated all the newly elected officials. Mrs. Whitaker thinks change is good. Personally this has been a great experience. She has learned so much and enjoyed it so much, stating we can agree to disagree. Everyone on the council has an expertise that she relies on. Overall Mrs. Whitaker feels we have moved in the right direction. Thank you to Mr. Dutton and Attorney Gildea and the Council Clerk; it's been a pleasure. Finally, Mrs. Whitaker thanked her family and Councilor Pitta for his service.
- Councilor Pitta: Congratulated all those who ran and won. Congratulated Aisha Losche. Thanked the people of Bridgewater, and District 1 for allowing him to represent them. Mr. Pitta feels he is leaving the town in better shape than he found it.
- Councilor Rivers: Thanked Mimi Spahr for all the time she spent in Accounting. He is sad to see her go. Thanked Councilor Pitta, who was always a steady voice and thanked him for all his effort. Mr. Rivers stated Councilor Whitaker has proven herself to be strong and interdependent Councilor who is always strategic in her thinking.
- Councilor Norris: Thanked Councilors Pitta and Whitaker stating they are both great role models. Mr. Norris congratulated those who won their elections.
- Councilor Wright: Thanked Mr. Meyers for his service. She also thanked Mimi Spahr for her service. Mrs. Wright thanked Mrs. Whitaker and Mr. Pitta for their service and welcomed all new officials.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 28, 2015

- Councilor Wood: TJ2, Went to world championship, and did really well. Have not been able to participate in discussions about Academy Building, but is really happy to hear we are moving forward. Mr. Wood thanked Mimi Spahr noting there were a lot of struggles in the past and she's done a great job bringing things back in line. Mr. Wood thanked Councilors Pitta and Whitaker stating, while he thinks change is good, they will both be missed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 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, June 2, 2015, to approve the aforementioned minutes by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Fitzgibbons not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk