



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2015

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 May 5, 2015 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Kevin Perry (arriving at 8:50 p.m.), Peter Colombotos, Dennis Gallagher, William Wood, Aisha Losche, William Rivers, John Norris (arriving at) and Sandra Wright. 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 veterans who have passed including:

- Ernest Procaccini

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt came forward and called for nominations for the seat of Town Council President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to nominate Councilor Rivers to President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

No other nominations were put forward.

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; Perry – NOT PRESENT; Colombotos – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Norris – ABSENT; Wright – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt then called for nominations for the seat of Town Council Vice President.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to nominate Councilor Perry to Vice President. The motion was seconded by Councilor Rivers.

No other nominations were put forward.

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

Wright – YEA; Norris – NOT PRESENT; Rivers – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Perry – NOT PRESENT; Fitzgibbons – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

Councilors then drew numbers to assign new seating, with seat #1 to the Presidents far right. Seat assignments were drawn as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Councilor Wright | 6. Councilor Losche |
| 2. Councilor Colombotos | 7. Councilor Norris |
| 3. Councilor Wood | 8. Councilor Gallagher |
| 4. Vice President Perry | 9. Councilor Fitzgibbons |
| 5. President Rivers | |

**7:37 p.m., President Rivers called a brief recess.*

**7:39 p.m., President Rivers called the meeting back in session*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- There will be a Styles & Hart Foraging Event May 7th



PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – No citizens came forward.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item “I: Town Managers Report” out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: None

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

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT (*Taken out of order*).

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: There have been complaints on water discoloration. Mr. Dutton explained generally that comes from certain wells when they are activated. He has posted on the Town’s Facebook page what hydrants are being flushed. Mr. Dutton also noted we need an additional filtration plant as there is a lot of iron in the water in Bridgewater. The Town Accountant, Mimi Spahr is leaving on the 15th. A contractor will step in until a new Accountant has been hired. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the Old Halifax landfill, noting there is a planned solar field that will go there. It’s permitted, but he does not have a timeline as yet. There is a management plan in the Town Manager’s office. Mr. Dutton finally spoke about the Building Office noting they have an enormous amount of work right now. He asked people to be patient as we get through it and get some temporary help.

Councilor Questions:

Mr. Dutton answered a few brief questions from Councilors. Items of note included: Councilor Wright asked if there are any benefits to the Town for the Solar Farm. Mr. Dutton responded there are probably no significant benefits. Mrs. Wright asked about the cost of a filtration system. Mr. Dutton explained he expects Free Cash to be certified this week. The Water Dept is submitting for a request to transfer \$100,000 for a feasibility study. Treatment facilities can run in the millions so borrowing would need to be done. In response to Councilor Colombotos’ question, Mr. Dutton explained about hiring help in Inspectional Services stating in the short term, we’ll need to look to Free Cash, but will be looking to do a revolving fund for that department.

**7:50 p.m. Councilor Perry entered the meeting.*

APPOINTMENTS – None

A. HEARINGS -

- a) 7:45 p.m.: Transfer #T-2015-006: Appropriation for Animal Control Vehicle

President Rivers opened the hearing at 7:57 p.m.

President Rivers explained the nature of the transfer request. Mr. Dutton explained the Animal Control Officer does not have a vehicle. The amount that gets voted isn’t necessarily what will be spent. We go out and look for the best deal.

President Rivers invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Rivers asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – None came forward.

President Rivers entertained any questions from councilors:

- At Councilor Fitzgibbons’ request, Mr. Dutton explained any unspent money goes back to Prison Mitigation Fund.

President Rivers closed the hearing at 7:59 p.m.

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



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Discussion: Councilor Wood noted the amount seems appropriate. Councilor Colombotos asked if the vehicle is subject to exemption under green communities. Mr. Dutton responded, no. It was noted that this was unanimously approved by the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees.

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wood - YEA; Perry – YEA; Rivers – YEA; Losche – YEA; Norris – ABSENT;
Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

DISCUSSIONS - None

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair Rivers stated Budget & Finance Committee has met jointly with the Finance Committee. He asked the Councilors to please review the budget and let committee know if you have questions or comments.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order #O-2015-011: FY16 Annual Town Budget

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

Discussion: Mr. Dutton stated this will be posted on the website tomorrow morning. A couple of items to note: Revenues – local receipts are up modestly. He added additional funds to the Ambulance Receipts. Mr. Dutton is proposing to use \$1,100,000, which is beyond the stated cap and will require 2/3 vote of the council. He is proposing this to hire one additional firefighter. New growth is assumed at \$250,000. We have about \$810,000 in snow & ice deficit. That will be reduced by an amount which is 75% of the first snow storm in January. What's left can be amortized over 3 years. Expenses – The school district is now looking for 2.8% which is down from 4%. We see increases in contractual obligations in the Fire and Police Departments. We have refunded a lot of our debt. Those savings will be passed on to the taxpayer. Pension assessments are going up almost 8%, which was expected. Next year's increase will not be quite as large. Mr. Dutton will give a larger presentation at the next meeting. He will also plan to do Town Manager hearings in his office. He will put dates on the Town website and Facebook.

Councilor Gallagher asked if Mr. Dutton sees other colleagues taking the approach of paying over 3 years. Mr. Dutton noted there's nothing that prohibits us from paying it off early, but most towns are taking the 3 year option. We do budget very little for snow & ice. Councilor Colombotos asked to get a breakdown of FTEs across departments.

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

- Order #O-2015-012: FY16 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred per motion above.
- Order #O-2015-013: FY16 Water Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred per motion above.
- Order #O-2015-014: FY16 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred per motion above.
- Order #O-2015-015: FY16 OSLGC Enterprise Fund Budget
Referred per motion above.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS



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- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Welcomed Councilors Gallagher and Losche. Thanked Mrs. Hunt for swearing in and congratulated her on her election to Town Clerk. Mr. Fitzgibbons also thanked Mr. Dutton for working hard to get a balanced budget to refer to committee.
- Councilor Gallagher: Stated it's good to be back. He is looking forward to working with the Council, Town Manager and employees.
- Councilor Norris: Absent
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche is excited to be part of the Town Council and representing Prescient 1.
- Councilor Perry: Dr. Perry welcomed Councilors Gallagher and Losche. He also congratulated Mrs. Hunt.
- Councilor Wood: Mr. Wood congratulated Councilors Gallagher and Losche. He also congratulated newly elected President Rivers and Vice President Perry. Mr. Wood also provided information on the Youth Fishing Derby to be held Saturday on Water Street from 7 a.m. -11 a.m.
- Councilor Colombotos: Offered congratulations to everyone.
- Councilor Wright: Offered congratulations to everyone.
- Councilor Rivers: Thanked everyone for Presidency. Mr. Rivers thanked Councilor Wood for serving as President and congratulated Councilors Gallagher, Losche and Mrs. Hunt. Finally, Councilor Rivers noted he has handed out a list of Council committees. He requested each Councilor e-mail the Council Clerk with their committee choices.

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 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 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