



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 7, 2016

CALL TO ORDER:

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

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:34 p.m.), Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche (arriving at 7:34 p.m.), William Wood, and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Kevin Perry

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Mr. Philbert Poulin

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- May 24, 2016

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 6-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher congratulated Councilor Losche on the birth of her baby.
- President Gallagher provided information on the Relay for Life this upcoming weekend.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.*

APPOINTMENTS –

- Fire Chief – Thomas Levy

Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Thomas Levy, who is being appointed Fire Chief. Mr. Dutton read from a press release provided (included in materials). Finally, Mr. Dutton noted this is a ratification of the appointment and the Town will be having a more formal swearing in at a later date.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons congratulated Chief Levy, stating he is proud to have him on board. Councilor Wright also offered her congratulations. President Gallagher offered congratulations to Chief Levy. Chief Levy came forward and read a formal thank you. Dave Canaepa came forward and spoke on behalf of Chief Levy and his history with the Fire Department.

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

- Agricultural Commission – David Anderson

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on Mr. Anderson's behalf.

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 8-0.

- Agricultural Commission – Lori Tunewicz-Gavin

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on Mrs. Gavin's behalf noting her experience in farming.

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



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Discussion: Councilor Wood noted he spent time speaking with Lori Gavin, who has extensive knowledge about farming and 4H regulations stating; she'll be a great addition. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he has known Lori for a long time and she'll do what's right by the town.

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

- Council on Aging – David Frim

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on Mr. Frim's experience and background.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mr. Frim for his volunteer work at Senior Center.

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

- Disabilities Commission – Anna Nakouzi

Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Ms. Nakouzi; who has been a long time volunteer at the Bridge Center, United Way and March of Dimes.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons noted it looks like we're finding people who are finding something of their personal experience that they can bring to the Town.

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

HEARINGS

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2016-023 – New Common Victualler's License – Cima's Place, 1055 Plymouth Street

Mr. Dutton explained this is a license for a food service. The petitioner has gone to the Planning Board to operate a food truck. Mr. Dutton explained it will be located across from Bridgewater Farm Supply. They are looking to be open 10-6. The Planning Board issued a special permit with several conditions. It has been approved by all the relevant parties.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he hopes they do well there. Councilor Colombotos confirmed with Mr. Dutton that it's an Industrial B zone.

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

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: acknowledged Music Alley as a great event. Mr. Dutton recognized Marilee Hunt for spearheading the idea. He further acknowledged the hard work of many employees and volunteers who made it possible. Mr. Dutton thanked State Representative D'Emilia for the DOC workers who came and painted the side of the fire station. Mr. Dutton met with Superintendent Swenson and Mrs. Maccedo about the approval process for applications to Agricultural Schools. The Town will be signing off on the applications for students to attend Agricultural Schools. They have committed to coming up with consistent policies. Mr. Dutton gave an update on the Board of Health regulation geared towards fowl and farm animals noting, they have a public hearing on 6/9 at the Senior Center. Mr. Sharland will be proposing recalling their endorsement of the regulation he put forward and endorsing something more akin to the state wide model. Mr. Dutton anticipates they will not take a vote that evening. Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the effort to recoup back taxes on the Route 24 rest stop stating it is more complex since it's state owned property. The power purchase agreement has been a challenge to sort out how the billing should work. Mr. Dutton thanked Lisa Sullivan. There is a large credit from National Grid which we'll have to use. Dr. Hunt has been very helpful in tracking usage and working with Lisa Sullivan. In the Academy Building they're finishing the HVAC and IT and looking at a moving plan that will probably be executed the 3rd or 4th week in August. There have been several discussions on planning for the Mitchell School. Mr. Dutton anticipates putting together a



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School Building Committee in the not-too-distant future. They are making progress on the conversion to the new website. Will train employees in July and will target rollout in August.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood asked for an update on the Academy Building Fountain and Oak Street. Mr. Dutton responded the fountain wasn't part of the original scope of the building, but the Bridgewater Improvement Association has offered to fund renovations. The Water & Sewer Department have offered to put in a vault near the fountain to house the system pump. Regarding Oak Street, Mr. Dutton stated he has an e-mail in to the engineer who has said an answer is imminent. Mr. Dutton will follow up with him tomorrow.
- Councilor Wright asked if there is greater interest in students going to agricultural schools. Mr. Dutton responded it ebbs and flows. Mrs. Wright asked for any updates on Comcast and hearing impaired accessibility. Mr. Dutton responded; thanks to Jeff Fowler, we do have some resources to look at for closed captioning. In the Academy Building, we should be equipped for hearing impaired.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons noted with regard to the two new members of the Agricultural Commission; they should sit down with the Board of Health and make sure there is a full vetting process and broad discussion.

**8:18 p.m. Councilor Fitzgibbons briefly exited the meeting.*

- Councilor Colombotos asked for clarification on additional work in the Memorial Building. Mr. Dutton responded it needs a better HVAC system and to address the handicapped accessibility. Mr. Colombotos also asked for an update on the status of the application to MA School Building Authority on the school roof. Mr. Dutton responded we should learn in mid-December and elaborated; the process is quite different now and briefly explained. Finally, at Mr. Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton briefly explained about the changes to the Complete Streets policy.
- President Gallagher stated he noted some of the Town Manager goals were covered in the Town Manager's report.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION -

- Ordinance D-2016-005: Demolition Delay Ordinance

Mr. Dutton explained; this is an ordinance that would affect any building built in 1920 or prior and is not limited by district. It's designed to encourage the renovation of historic buildings over 96 years old.

Councilor Wood asked Attorney Gildea if it's appropriate for Councilors who may have property that may be affected by this ordinance, or family who may be affected. Attorney Gildea responded; he believes you can participate as there is an exemption under the conflict of interest law for tasks that involve a matter of general policy. It applies to substantial portion of the town – generally more than 10%.

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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos explained; the main purpose of this is to slow things down a little bit for someone who wants to demolish a building. This charges the historic commission to find solutions. Mr. Colombotos further explained the steps and timing, noting it provides a cooling off period to find alternatives. Councilor Wood asked if Councilor Colombotos was willing to sponsor since Councilor Norris is no longer on the board. Councilor Colombotos agreed he would sponsor the measure. Councilor Wood asked about a building that was razed at the University asking if that have fallen under this Ordinance. Attorney Gildea stated it would not apply to the Commonwealth. Councilor Wood spoke in detail about concerns he had with the layout of the timing. Councilor Wright agreed that the way things get delayed sometimes, we could easily exceed the 60 days outlined in the Ordinance. Councilor Fitzgibbons walked through the procedure starting on page 3. Councilor Wood restated his opinion that he disagrees with the time table. Councilor Sousa asked what happens when someone needs to add a deck to their home that falls into this category? Councilor Fitzgibbons asked Attorney Gildea how long before it can be taken up again if it doesn't pass? Attorney Gildea responded he has to look it up.



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Councilor Fitzgibbons withdrew his motion to approve.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to bring back with potential amendments at next meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilor Colombotos.

Discussion: President Gallagher stated he's not sure what needs to be clarified. Councilor Losche implored the Council to read and ask questions prior to this moment when considering legislation.

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

**8:53 p.m., Councilor Losche exited the meeting.*

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Transfer T-2016-004: CPC Annual Reserves

Mr. Dutton explained this transfer is the standard yearly transfer for FY17 and explained the allocations.

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

Discussion: None

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

- Transfer T-2016-010: Year-End Transfers

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the transfer.

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

Discussion: None

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

- Resolution R-2016-004: Referring the Town Manager's Proposal for Use of Town Owned Buildings to the CEDC for Review and Recommendation

Mr. Dutton explained this is a way to begin the discussion on the use for the Memorial Building, Town Hall, and McElwain. Mr. Dutton has made some general recommendations.

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Resolution R-2016-005: Town Council Support of Town Manager's Recommendation of Reclamation Project at Bridgewater Sand and Stone

Mr. Dutton explained; Bridgewater Sand and Stone have about 25 acres. They would like to begin a reclamation project, but it needs the consent of the town.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos referenced the attorney's letter asking for clarification on the "terrific long term opportunity". Mr. Dutton responded it's a good opportunity to have the land reclaimed to something more akin to its natural contour. For Clean Earth, it's a business opportunity. For Bridgewater Sand it's an opportunity to reclaim their land for future use.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: She is happy to see Mr. Levy as our Chief. Wished everyone has a great summer.
- Councilor Colombotos: Congratulated Chief Levy. Congratulated the volunteerism for the newly appointed members. Urged the Council to try and vet things more up front.



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- Councilor Haley: Agrees with Councilor Colombotos. He has seen this happen a couple of times and really hopes he will not be part of that.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Congratulated Mr. Levy. Mr. Fitzgibbons stated for the public that the friends of pack 35 Cub Scouts are sponsoring their annual trip to Foxwoods on June 18th.
- Councilor Losche: Not present
- Councilor Wood: Congratulations to Chief Levy. He attended Music Alley – it was fantastic. The space is really nice and the acoustics were great. Mr. Wood echoed other councilor's comments about discussions. If you're thinking of bringing forward an ordinance like demolition delay, perhaps it makes sense to add it as a discussion. Maybe in the upcoming weeks we should have a discussion about the rules.
- Councilor Perry: Absent
- Councilor Sousa: Congratulated Chief Levy.
- Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated Chief Levy. Thanked the citizens who volunteered for other committees. Thanked the Citizens of Bridgewater for coming out last Monday for the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Gallagher attended Music Alley. It was close to 200 people. Thanked everyone who pulled this together. Had an opportunity to present our outgoing Fire Chief with a Proclamation thanking him for his service. Mr. Gallagher noted upcoming events: Friday, Relay for Life, VFW fundraiser to support local veteran, Saturday, Spring clean up. Saturday, 6/18 Councilor Gallagher's coffee hour.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 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 21, 2016, to approve the aforementioned Minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (6-0) (Councilors Colombotos and Losche not present, Councilor Haley absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk