



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 March 3, 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, and John Norris. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor William Rivers
- Councilor Sandra Wright

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Wood announced the State of the Town Address would be held March 31, 2015 at BTV Studios.
- President Wood provided information on the Citizens Leadership Program holding program on March 31st and April 14th. For details contact Mary Waldron.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS –

- Conservation Commission – Melissa Desjardins
Mr. Dutton spoke on Ms. Desjardins behalf, noting her background and work experience.

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

Discussion: Councilor Whitaker noted she was impressed with resume and is thrilled she's volunteering.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

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: Mr. Dutton has done some research on policies for snow removal and will come forward with something for council input. To date we have spent \$608,000 on snow & ice removal. Mr. Dutton had a conference call with the state about possibly getting some relief. There has also been some discussion with DOR to raise snow & ice deficit over 2-year period instead of 1-year. There have been a couple of cases of improper tampering with water meters. Mr. Dutton reminded all that this is a crime and can be subject to criminal prosecution and substantial fines. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about the affordable housing units; Axis at Lakeshore. Information is on Axis website: www.s-e-b.com. An information session is scheduled for 3/9 at 6 p.m., at the library. Applications are due by 3/12. A candidate for the Community & Economic Development position will be coming in later this week to meet with several people. Brockton has negotiated host agreement with Rush Street Gaming for a possible casino on the fairgrounds. We need to see if Bridgewater is considered a "surrounding community". Mr. Dutton met with representatives from MassWorks, the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development and Mass Development to develop business opportunities in Bridgewater; particularly Elm Street.

Council Questions:

At Councilor Wood's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed the sidewalk plow was fixed. At Councilor Whitaker's request, Mr. Dutton confirmed he is in the initial stages of taking legal action relative to the tampered water meters. Councilor Whitaker asked about a potential start date for the Planner candidate. Mr. Dutton responded his hope would be March 30th. Councilor Colombotos asked if Mr. Dutton would be looking at MassWorks for some of the downtown revitalization projects. Mr. Dutton responded he did have a long discussion with them about that. As we move on,



would be a good idea to include the CDAC. Councilor Colombotos noted a lot of area is impassable in Central Square and asked about the ordinance which requires business owners to clear sidewalks in front of their businesses and how do we enforce the ordinance. Finally, Mr. Dutton stated he will reach out to the owner of the former bowling alley to get the graffiti cleaned up. He also confirmed that was one of the areas we've asked National Grid to look at for additional lighting.

DISCUSSIONS

- Administrative Code

President Wood noted the Ordinance is on the agenda under New Business with the details.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Public Safety – Councilor Pitta stated, while the Public Safety Committee didn't meet last week, he wanted to follow up on the discussion the Council had last week about the roof collapse at the Mitchell School.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Pitta to have public safety committee conduct a systems safety analysis on the Mitchell school roof collapse and report back within three months. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: Councilor Perry would be in favor of conducting an investigation. Councilor Fitzgibbons agreed because ultimately taxpayers of Bridgewater have to pay, though he does not anticipate it will be about blame, but about where these unanticipated costs came from and where we can be proactive in the future. President Wood suggested in the long term it probably makes sense, but we don't know the long term picture yet. Insurance hasn't completed their work and engineers haven't completed their work. In short term need to let some of the experts do their jobs first. Clearly, long term, there needs to be a snow removal policy in place. Councilor Pitta disagreed with President Wood stating any time there's any investigation it's important to gather facts early, but not interfere with the initial process. Councilor Norris suggested there should be an initial investigation, then a follow up and something that is regularly reviewed. Councilor Whitaker stated her opinion that she thinks there's value in doing a debrief now but not to lay blame, rather to learn what to do going forward. Councilor Fitzgibbons agreed with Mrs. Whitaker. President Wood clarified the intent was to assign the council's investigation powers to the subcommittee. Councilor Pitta confirmed that was his intent. Discussion continued regarding the timeframe for a report out. It was determined that three months would be sufficient and would work in conjunction with the Order to create a Snow Removal Policy.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-1 (Councilor Wood in the minority)

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance #D-2015-001 – Enforcement Ordinance – Canine Control
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to send to advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Norris.
Discussion: Councilor Whitaker explained the Rules & Procedures committee met this evening to consider this ordinance. A portion of this is state law with some additions. It has been reviewed by town attorney and it's in good shape. It takes care of two of our bylaws, but the leash law and needs to be rescinded and replace section 43, the Dog Bylaw.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Whitaker to amend by adding after "vote to" "rescind in the bylaw section XXI, the Leash Law, and replace Section XXXIII, the Dog Bylaw with the following Ordinance on Canine Control:" . The motion was seconded by Councilor Pitta.
Discussion: At Councilor Fitzgibbons request, President Wood confirmed this will become part of the code of ordinances.
A voice vote was taken and the motion to amend passed 7-0.
A voice vote was taken and the motion to send to advertising, as amended, passed 7-0.

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance #D-2015-005 - Administrative Code



Town of Bridgewater
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Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to Rules & Procedures. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton explained; there are four parts to the administrative section of the Town Code. What's before you is two sections which includes Elected/Appointed organizations and Administrative/Operational Organization. Councilor Whitaker stated she will coordinate a Rules & Procedures meeting, but stressed the need for all Town Councilors to look at this and provide feedback. Councilor Norris requested the document be published on website. Mr. Dutton stated this is something he may start holding public hearings for noting public input is critical. President Wood suggested perhaps holding Rules & Procedures Committee meeting with the Town Manager's hearing so we can consider everything.

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

- Transfer #T-2015-004 -CPC Transfer – Housing Coordinator

Mr. Dutton briefly explained this would fund someone most likely on a contract basis to keep track of affordable housing units in the community and will also help provide a little direction to the Affordable Housing Trust.

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

Discussion: None

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

- Transfer #T-2015-005 - CPC Transfer – Murray Needs Conservation Restriction Funding

Mr. Dutton explained; the way the order was originally written, essentially it gave the Town Manager and Town Accountant to identify the CPC funds that we want to take the money out of. That was not the intent. The Town Accountant has requested the Council vote on a specific funding plan. This does not appropriate more funds, clarifies the original order. Mr. Dutton also briefly outlined CPC recommendation.

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

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Recognized passing of Bill Tuenitz long time Bridgewater resident and employee.
- Councilor Perry: Echoed Councilor Fitzgibbons' condolences.
- Councilor Colombotos: None
- Councilor Whitaker: None
- Councilor Pitta: None
- Councilor Rivers: Absent
- Councilor Norris: None
- Councilor Wright: Absent
- Councilor Wood: Congratulated the BR TJ 2 Robotics team who did very well this weekend.

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 7-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Holmberg



Town of Bridgewater
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Meeting Minutes
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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, March 17, 2015, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted (6-0-1) (Councilor Pitta absent, Councilor Norris not present, Councilor Rivers abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk