



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, January 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 7:33 pm, on January 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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- December 8, 2015

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.

- December 22, 2015

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

- President Perry offered condolences to the family of William J. Tyler and a moment of silence was held in his honor.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- **Sheila Whitaker, 45 Brookside Drive:** Thanked all for their service. Expressed support for the plastic bag reduction Ordinance. One of the things she's always been proud of is the Town is always taking steps to move towards being more green. Sees this reduction ordinance as an important step towards that.
- **Marilee Hunt: Town Clerk:** Mrs. Hunt spoke about online voting and read a prepared statement. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, 2/10. For people wishing to register online at www.sec.state.ma.us/ovr. There are four political parties recognized, Democratic, Green/Rainbow, Republican and United Independent Party. Voting in the primary, you will vote only in your party. Many people consider themselves Independent, though they really are considered unenrolled. Mrs. Hunt announced: Wednesday, 2/10 the Town Clerk's office will be open 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

- Town Manager Reappointment – Michael Dutton

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to reappoint Michael Dutton. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons stated Mr. Dutton has done a fine job so far and he is all in favor. Councilor Wood also supports this reappointment. Councilor Colombotos stated he is in support of the contract but is disappointed we didn't do a performance appraisal.

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



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Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to take agenda item "N: New Business" out of order. The motion was seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

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

- Order #O-2016-001: Ratification of Town Manager Contract (*Taken Out of Order*)

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

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.

HEARINGS -

- Hearing continued from 12/22/2015: Order #O-2015-029: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Home Town Terrace

President Perry opened the hearing at 7:51 p.m.

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

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

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

President Perry entertained any questions from councilors:

- Attorney Gildea provided an update on the issue from last meeting: they have spoken with the Developer and his concerns are no longer an issue.

President Perry closed the hearing at 7:52 p.m.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to find that the laying out is required by the "common convenience and necessity". The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

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

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

Discussion: None

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.

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 is in the process of preparing a proclamation or resolution on behalf of Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect for the meeting of the 19th. The Administrative Code will be on the January 19th agenda for a final vote. Mr. Dutton announced the updated snow policy is on the town's website as requested by the Council. Mr. Dutton gave a brief update on the Academy Building noting he is now looking at technology and furniture needs. Two of the meeting rooms will be fitted with BTV access so meetings can be televised and/or recorded. The Draft Report of the Recreational Needs Study is due to Town Manager's office Friday. Mr. Dutton has spoken internally about the Zoning Bylaws and may try to look to grant funding since it will essentially be a total rewrite. Finally, Mr. Dutton noted the Charter Review and General Bylaw Review will be coming before the Council in the future.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Colombotos referenced the tour of Academy Building and asked if the room to rear of building would be used as council chambers. Mr. Dutton responded; that room will be available for council use. Councilor Colombotos followed up by asking what the next steps would be relative to the 40R district. Mr. Dutton



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responded; the next step is for Mr. Dutton to submit Jen Goldson's report to the state for final review. Then it comes back for more comprehensive review.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Community & Economic Development Committee: Councilor Colombotos announced the CEDC will be meeting on 1/12/16 at 7:00 p.m., in the Memorial Building to come up with a disposition for the Plastic Bag Ordinance. Mr. Colombotos encourage all to attend.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Transfer #T-2016-001: Public Safety Compensation Study
Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation of 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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – No citizens came forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: None
- Councilor Colombotos: None
- Councilor Wood: The Lions Club put up and took down the decorations on the common. He hopes everyone enjoyed them.
- Councilor Losche: Thanked the Lion's Club for the decorations and wished all a Happy New Year.
- Councilor Norris: Absent
- Councilor Gallagher: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Lost Steve Childs this week formerly of XXX. He was a great guy in making sure the town didn't lose out. Understood there was a partnership at all times. To his family and friends, Councilor Fitzgibbons offered his condolences.
- Councilor Perry: Echoed Councilor Fitzgibbons' sentiments on the passing of Steve Childs. Dr. Perry also recognized the Lions Club for their decorations.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 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, February 2, 2016, to approve the aforementioned Minutes by a voice vote (5-0) (1 Councilor vacancy, Councilors Losche and Fitzgibbons absent, Councilor Colombotos not present).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk