



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 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 7:33 pm, on August 9, 2016 at BTV Studios, 80 Spring Street, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, Peter Colombotos, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton was also present.

ABSENT:

- Mark Gildea

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Mr. Henry J. Piston
- Mr. Warren H. Soderbom
- Mr. Edward Pinnette
- Mr. Roland Bowden

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- June 21, 2016

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- From the Town Clerk: regarding the 9/8 State Primary. The State Primary is Thursday, September 8th. The Primary will be held at the Mitchell Middle School. Absentee Ballots can be obtained at the Town Hall or you can e-mail the Town Clerk at clerk@bridgewaterma.org. The last day to register is Friday, August 19th. The Town Clerk's office will be moving that day however voter registration forms will be available in the library. The Mitchell Middle School is commonly known as the former High School.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – *No citizens came forward.*

APPOINTMENTS –

- Elder Affairs
 - Sandra Alley
 - Bridget Boyle
 - Nicholas Bagas (*reappointment*)

Mr. Dutton explained all three have been sitting on the board and are all reappointments.

Motion: A motion to ratify was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked the appointees for their service.

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

- Agricultural Commission – Brian Alves

Mr. Dutton explained there are three seats. Mr. Alves would fill the third seat. He's been unanimously endorsed by the Citizens Advisory Commission.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mr. Alves for volunteering.

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

HEARINGS



LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2016-030: Transfer of Common Victualler's License – Better Bean
Mr. Dutton explained Better Bean was sold and this is a straight transfer.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: Councilor Losche noted it looks like they're staying open later. Mr. Dutton clarified they're allowed to be open those hours, but they may not necessarily stay open that late. Councilor Wood asked why it took 4 months to come before the Council. Mr. Dutton didn't know of any internal delay.
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.
- Petition P-2016-032: Annual Entertainment License – Better Bean
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.
- Petition P-2016-033: Transfer of Common Victualler's License – QNB Foods, dba Tedeschi's 169 Spring Street to Aarna Corporation dba Bridge Mart
Mr. Dutton explained the transfer and noted he didn't believe there would be any name change at this time.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.
- Petition P-2016-036: New Common Victualler's License – Hissho Sushi at Bridgewater State University
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 9-0.

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: Mr. Dutton has revamped his operational report to better reflect how the charter and Administrative Code are set up to make it a little easier for people to look up information they may be interested in. The Academy Building is nearing completion with an anticipated move date of August 19th. Town offices will be closed on 8/19 and will reopen Monday 8/22 at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Dutton noted for the public: We will not have live broadcasts in the Academy Building until Comcast installs fiber, which may be 4 months. If citizens would like to watch the meeting live; it can be live streamed through BTV. If this is the last Council meeting at BTV, Mr. Dutton wanted to thank BTV and the Board at BTV for allowing the Council to use this space for so many years. The fountain (at the Academy Building) will be repaired with most of the funding through the BIA. Mr. Dutton would like to have the fountain complete before holding a grand opening, so he's looking at possibly mid-September. Mr. Dutton provided a brief update on the website noting it will be the primary source for posting and there is a listserv component. There will be a phase of education for Boards and Committees to ensure they have minutes; which will be posted on the website. The goal is to bring all the Boards and Committee meetings back into the Academy Building with the exception of Elder Services. There will be a meeting with BSU about changes for Springfest. The University is trying to tone down some of the worst parts of the event and boost the positive. Mr. Dutton provided an update on a proposed 40B program making its way through the state process. It's a 150 house proposal off Curve Street. The Town has commented through Mass Housing (MHA) with concerns. Once it's granted approval at the state level, the proposal will get filed with the ZBA and they will have 30 days to open a hearing and there will be back and forth with the applicant. The Plastic Bag Ban takes effect in September. The town has been working with BSU's Economic Department who has done surveys and work for us. Finally Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about going out to bid on Senior Center renovations and Claremont Company discussions about possible zoning changes that would allow them to develop behind their buildings. There have already been some meetings, though there is a feeling that we are better off planning that area rather than piecemeal the area. The Town is looking to do a little more comprehensive plan and will keep everyone informed of the process.



Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood – Light at High and Broad. Thanked some of the neighbors for their feedback. There's a low hanging limb on route 18 which obscures the light. Regarding the Senior Center, Mr. Wood asked if the work is inside, not the parking lot? Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct. The parking lot will be separate work.
- Councilor Colombotos requested an update on progress on traffic circulation plan for downtown. Mr. Dutton responded we will be hiring an engineer to do a comprehensive plan but not until Free Cash is certified as it is a capital item. Councilor Colombotos asked if there was any idea of the scope of the study. Mr. Dutton responded it will need to be a pretty comprehensive scope. Councilor Colombotos noted he would be eager to see the scope.
- Councilor Haley requested an update on Skips. Mr. Dutton explained he checked a week and a half ago. They couldn't cap the shared gas line. Approved demolition permit and approved keeping the line open during demolition. Mr. Dutton will double check on it.
- At Councilor Wright's request, Mr. Dutton provided an update on the McElwain School noting; forestry has cleared trees away from trailers in back. They are now having National Grid come in to make sure lines are severed. Mr. Dutton further explained; we have zoning that accommodates live/work space and he recommends packaging and selling the property. For the town it will be the best option. Councilor Wright would have liked to see it renovated and used for housing for Veterans.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if the McElwain would be included in 40R district. Mr. Dutton stated; much of what looking at for 40R has been accomplished with the zoning change. Councilor Colombotos asked what the next step is. Mr. Dutton responded we draft proposed regulations and they will make recommendations.

DISCUSSIONS

- Gift Acceptance Procedures
Mr. Dutton explained; at the last meeting the Council referred a gift to the Budget & Finance and Finance committees. He wants to know if the Council had an interest in streamlining the process by possibly allowing either Mr. Dutton or perhaps the Town Council President approve those. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he is not against the idea, but wants to make sure it complies with state law and the Charter. Councilor Fitzgibbons requested the Town Manager come back with a proposal for an ordinance.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Councilor Wood stated the Budget & Finance Committee met and discussed items "L b and c". The committee voted 3-0 to recommend to council for passage.
- Rules & Procedures: Councilor Losche stated Rules & Procedures will be meeting next Tuesday to continue review of the Charter and bylaws. They will be setting up a public hearing in October.
- Strategic Planning: Councilor Gallagher thanked the committee members for meeting over summer. The committee met with a representative from the Master Plan Committee. They are developing bullet points and a matrix for the organization, in addition to ways we evaluate the Town Manager at the end of the year. They are working on criteria for 2017.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Petition P-2016-035: State Primary Election Warrant
President Gallagher read the warrant into the record.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed unanimously.
- Order O-2016-016: Acceptance of a Grant - DOER Green Communities
Mr. Dutton explained; Dr. Carlton Hunt has really spearheaded the issue. The grant this year will allow us to do a host of energy saving things.
Motion: A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood
Discussion: Councilor Wood noted the Budget & Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 9, 2016

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed unanimously.

- Order O-2016-017: Ratification of Contract – United Steelworkers Union

Mr. Dutton explained; this is a three year contract. We wanted to get everyone onto the (compensation) matrix. There were a few one-time payments. There are three people who are below the first step. Year two we address those people. Year three there will be a 1% adjustment to the matrix and allow people to go to that with a satisfactory evaluation. Mr. Dutton spoke about changes to sick and vacation time noting; previously it was in a lump sum, but has now moved to a total accrual system where time is accrued on a monthly basis. The number of sick days that can be accumulated has also been capped and have negotiated the ability to buy back time prior to employees retiring. Mr. Dutton is very comfortable with the number in this contract.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood stated Budget & Finance voted unanimously to recommend approval. Councilor Fitzgibbons confirmed with the Town Manager that this was vetted by the Town Accountant. Councilor Fitzgibbons confirmed with the Town Manager that this funds within the prop 2 ½ limit and prompts no layoffs. Councilor Fitzgibbons stated he is very, pleased with this agreement. He has been advocating for years that our employees should have a baseline and that they're paid fairly. Also to tie performance increases to performance evolutions is a huge step.

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa - YEA. The motion passed unanimously.

- Resolution R-2016-006: Propose Traffic Light Dedication – High and Broad Street

Councilor Wood explained the history of the light. The area around the light has a lot of state land. This resolution is to recognize one of the key contributors.

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

Discussion: None

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

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2016-018: Acceptance of a Gift – Bridgewater State University

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the order.

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

Discussion: None

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – No citizens came forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Thanked the appointees for their service. Councilor Wright is very excited to move to the new building. She noted the college students will be back before we meet again and welcomed college students back.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked Dr. Carlton Hunt on the DOER Grant. Bridgewater wouldn't have received a Green Communities status if it weren't for Dr. Hunt.
- Councilor Haley: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked all the teachers for their hard work.
- Councilor Losche: None
- Councilor Wood: Mr. Wood is very happy to be moving into the Academy Building. During the voting, he was never able to voice his opinion. He grew up across from there and is extremely happy to be getting to the end of the progress.
- Councilor Perry: Had official retirement of officer McLain and thanked him for his years of service. Offered deep sympathies to the Piston families.



Town of Bridgewater
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- Councilor Sousa: Took a walk through the new building and was very surprised and pleased with what he's seen.
- Councilor Gallagher: Offered condolences for Henry Piston, noting that he knew him well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to move into Executive Session under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and to adjourn from Executive Session. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.

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

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Open meeting adjourned at 8:45 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, September 6, 2016, to approve the aforementioned Minutes, as submitted, by a voice vote (8-0) (Councilor Losche absent).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk