



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 6, 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 7:35 pm, on September 6, 2016 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

- Councilor Aisha Losche

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Shawn Burke
- Gardner Pratt

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- July 12, 2016

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

Discussion: None

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

- August 9, 2016

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

Discussion: None

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher provided details on Senior Center event: Drug Recognition Workshop to be held on September 20, 2016.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten spoke on three topics: pedestrian safety, Mr. Baumgarten would like to know what can be done on a smaller level to increase pedestrian safety. Regarding Town Hall; Mr. Baumgarten hopes the second floor of Town Hall becomes an indoor “Music Alley”. Finally, Mr. Baumgarten asked why we aren’t making better progress with Comcast to have really good television in town.
- Edmund Spencer – Mr. Spencer wanted to get involved in Senior Housing and would like to know how to get involved.

APPOINTMENTS –

- Elder Affairs Commission

Motion: A motion to appoint Peter Caratelli, Robert Coolen and Joan Colombo was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked them all for volunteering.

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

HEARINGS -

- 7:40 p.m.: Petition P-2016-037: Pole Location Request – Verizon New England Inc., and Massachusetts Electric Company – Poles 29/58 and 29/59 on Elm Street



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President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:47 p.m.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – none came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor -

Barry Mufeeny, who works for UCS came forward and explained this will service building address 1050. These are the final two poles in Bridgewater for Elm Street.

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

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors – no questions.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:49 p.m.

Motion: A motion to close the hearing was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons briefly explained the history of Elm Street and thanked everyone who put time into the development of Elm Street.

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

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

PRESENTATIONS -

- Plastic Bag Effort – Dr. Madihavi Venkatesan

Dr. Venkatesan came forward and explained this effort and presentation was a result of the request by Councilor Losche. Dr. Venkatesan introduced the students who were involved in the survey. Jordan Remy, BSU Student delivered a presentation on the ecological harm caused by thin film bags. Andrew Sukeforth came forward and discussed the results of the survey, which consisted of 12 questions.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the representatives from BSU took questions from Councilors. Councilor Wood asked if they would recommend the town change the ordinance in light of compostable bags. Dr. Venkatesan expressed her opinion that it is not biodegradable, it is photodegradable. At President Gallagher's request, Mr. Remy spoke about his surprise that it was the older generation who was most interested in supporting the ordinance. He also found it interesting to learn that most people supported the ban. Councilor Perry asked why some of the major stakeholders didn't wish to participate. Mr. Remy responded it might have been that they were against the ordinance.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: The Building Official, Mike White has resigned. We are working on an interim solution and have hired a Deputy Inspector who will start next week. Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation of the road repairs on Plymouth Street noting they really need to take a look at the current infrastructure and plugging items into a Capital Plan. A demolition permit has been issued for Skips Liquors. The Community & Economic Development Director is dealing with a number of issues; Zoning and building. The police Chief has joined the effort to reach out to business owners. The zoning effort is being moved up to the top of the priority list. Mr. Dutton expects the owner of Broad Street property that burned to apply for building permit. The Transportation Committee and Mr. Delonno are looking at sidewalks and crosswalks to make them safer. The Town has engaged a demolition contractor for the trailers behind the McElwain, the house on Bedford Street and Rainbow's End playground. Mr. Dutton spoke to State Representative D'Emilia about the naming of the High and Broad Street intersection. If it turns out it's going to get bogged down we'll take another route. The Elder Affairs Director continues to seek volunteers for meals on wheels. Mr. Dutton provided an update on the roof at the Highway Building noting; we did not suffer any loss of content, but did lose some paper and a few minor things. Water got into the walls, so they'll have to come out along with the insulation. He was concerned that there would be no insurance reimbursement, but insurance will cover the roof.



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The 2015 Management Letter has been received and will be forwarded on to the council with from the Finance Director. Currently the Town is in discussions with Comcast to fix the inter town fiber. Finally, Mr. Dutton stated we will begin to make smaller changes to the Downtown crosswalks.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wright suggested having Comcast come in to explain about the service and broadcasting of local television. Mrs. Wright also asked about Skips Liquor and the Mobile Station. Mr. Dutton responded, as far as he knows Skips should be done in a day or two. Regarding the Mobile Station; they'll be receiving their third letter this week
- Councilor Wood asked if there will be an opportunity to talk about the timing of the lights at High and Broad Streets. Mr. Dutton responded; there will be another site visit in a couple of weeks. Mr. Wood asked if they will pave over the Plymouth street repairs. Mr. Dutton stated he will ask Sewer & Highway Superintendent what the long term prognosis is. Finally, Mr. Wood asked if there is any chance to regionalize the Building Inspector position now. Mr. Dutton responded they do always look to regionalize when we can.
- Councilor Colombotos asked if there is a ticket book for Inspectional Services. Mr. Dutton explained; there is a lot of misconception around the ticket book. Animal Control has a ticket book. He has had discussions with all the departments that can issue tickets. Every time you issue a ticket you can assume you'll end up in Brockton for an appeal. We do have tickets and are developing a mechanism for tracking so the Clerk can take payment. However, not having the ticket book doesn't prevent the department head from sending a letter saying a fine is being issued. Councilor Colombotos asked if Inspectional Services is in this building, but Highway is still in the Highway Barn. Mr. Dutton confirmed that is correct. He would like to do a proposal to renovate the space to have DPW in one space.
- Councilor Perry asked about the proposal for the building permit for Broad Street lot. Mr. Dutton responded it will be mixed use as allowed "B" zoning. There will be a Commerical and Retail component on the first floor.

DISCUSSIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Rules & Procedures:
 - General Bylaws and Adoption of Ordinances: In Councilor Losche's absence, Councilor Wood stated; over several months have gone back to earlier work on bylaws. Mr. Dutton walked through a presentation on the marked up bylaws. They will take any provision being converted and make the most minimal change possible.

**8:52 p.m. Councilor Fitzgibbons left meeting, returning at 8:56 p.m.*

Councilor Wright noted she has a concern about the evacuation plan.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2016-019: Ratification of Contract – Firefighters Union
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the changes in the contract.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-2016-020: Stetson Street Speed Limit
Councilor Wood provided a brief explanation noting this order proposes a change to 20 MPH. Councilor Wood asked the scriveners error be corrected in the explanation.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Perry to refer to the Public Safety Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.
Discussion:
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS –



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- Edmund Spencer: Feels the Plastic Bag Ordinance is a waste of time and money.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Welcomed BSU students back and reminded them to be careful. Commented on the beautiful Academy Building and thanked Mr. Dutton and all colleagues.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked the volunteers for their work on the Academy Building he looks forward to progress on the downtown improvements.
- Councilor Haley: Mr. Haley spoke about the food trucks and is looking forward to seeing how the Town reacts to them.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Encouraged parents to be patient with school busses. Condolences to Mr. Pratt, who was on the USS Missouri and witnessed that event.
- Councilor Losche: Absent
- Councilor Wood: The building turned out really nice. He is very happy we are meeting in this space. Mr. Wood is glad the High and Broad Street light is now working.
- Councilor Perry: Kudos to all involved in the completion of the Academy Building. Thanked Elder Affairs Commission volunteers. Wished good luck to all the sports teams.
- Councilor Sousa: The building is beautiful. Mr. Sousa is happy we are looking at public safety in downtown, but thinks we're focusing on too small an area and spoke about a person trying to cross up by the Nip.
- Councilor Gallagher: Commented on the Beautiful building. Job well done. Mr. Gallagher noted the next open session will be 9/20.

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 Perry.

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

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - Absent. The motion passed 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 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 20, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as written, by a voice vote (5-0) (Councilors Fitzgibbons and Haley absent, Councilors Wright and Colombotos not present for vote).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk