



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 20, 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 September 20, 2016 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Sandra Wright (arriving at 7:39 p.m.), Peter Colombotos (arriving at 7:40 p.m.), Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Mark Gildea were also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Timothy Fitzgibbons
- Councilor Edward Haley

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Paul Kilbridge
- Salvatore Madonna

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

- September 6, 2016

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

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM –

- Marilee Hunt, Austin Street: Voter registration and early voting. Registration is open until 10/14. Will be holding some early voting. Every day during business hours. From 10/24 – 11/4. Will also be open 8am – 8pm Wednesday, 10/26 and Thursday, 11/3. And Saturday 10/29. Speaking as a resident; there will be a 5K fundraiser for the Friends of Music Alley.
- Mr. Shea, Columbian Terrace: Has a concern about the water being discolored. Has called the water department and they advise it's because of the construction.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Meeting 9/26 here on Open Space Plan. Town's Flag needs to be at all meetings.

APPOINTMENTS –

- Disabilities Commission:
 - David Frim
 - Leslie Reed

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on behalf of both candidates.

Motion: A motion to appoint was made by Councilor Wright. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

Discussion: None

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

HEARINGS -

- 7:40 p.m.: Petition P-2016-039: Pole Location – Pole 42.5 and 43 on Conant Street
President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:45 p.m.

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

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – Kelly Correia representing Verizon came forward, explained there's a new home being built on Conant Street, and explained the movement of the poles.



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

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Perry clarified this is on the dead end side of Conant Street. The Verizon representative confirmed.

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

Motion: A motion to close the hearing was made by Councilor Sousa. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 7-0.

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

Discussion: None

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

- 7:45 p.m.: Petition P-2016-038: Transfer of Malt & Wine Beverage License to Naveed Enterprises, Inc. dba 7-Eleven, Bedford & Winter Streets

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:48 p.m.

Leslie St. Germain came forward and explained the nature of the transfer.

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

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

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

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors: No Council questions.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:50 p.m.

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

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

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

Discussion: None

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

- 7:50 p.m.: Petition P-2016-040: Pole Location – Pole 70.5 and 70 on Plymouth Street

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

Kelly Correia, representing Verizon came forward and explained new residential subdivision going in on Plymouth Street noting their compliance with the request from the Town's DPW.

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

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

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

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors: No Councilor questions.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:53 p.m.

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

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

Discussion: None

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

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – ABSENT; Haley – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Wright – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS -

- CPC Financial Update



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Finance Director, Tony Sulmonte came forward and spoke about the finances in the CPC. He referenced a handout (included in materials) and spoke about the budget and funding sources, debt services and expenditures. Mr. Sulmonte spoke briefly about reserve accounts: Open Space, Historic Preservation, Community Housing. Funds left over at end of the fiscal year are placed in CPA Reserve. Mr. Sulmonte also spoke about cash on hand.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT –

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: There was a good turnout for the Downtown Merchants Meeting. Bridgewater State University has hired police details to patrol Roche Bros parking lot to encourage students not to park there. High and Broad Street light is in the punch list stage. We have relayed concerns that were expressed to us. Representative D'Emilia has filed legislation, for the naming of the High and Broad Street light, which is before the Joint Transportation Committee and should be reported out shortly. The Open Space Plan is in process. There's an opportunity for public input Monday, 9/26/16. The Community & Economic Development Director has filed for a \$625,000 MassWorks Grant. The Fountain project is ongoing. Mr. Dutton has asked the Town Engineer to coordinate the parties involved. Mr. Dutton would like to hold a grand opening at the Academy Building but wants to do it once the fountain is complete. Mr. Dutton provided a brief update on the departure of the Building Inspector noting David Moore has returned on an interim basis. Mr. Dutton also spoke briefly about the Treasurer/Collector's resignation, noting they have someone coming in on an interim basis. The Police Department has been awarded full accreditation by Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. The Assessors office is in the process of identifying and describing all the town properties. They have done a very good job of collecting back taxes on a number of properties. Mr. Dutton will give an update on that at a future meeting. Mr. Dutton spoke about the water and sewer issues on Plymouth Street. He explained; the age and type of line that exist on Plymouth Street also exist on Pleasant Street. If they can go in and reline Pleasant Street fairly expeditiously, they will. He then addressed discolored water stating; when they flush the pipes, the iron that's been trapped comes out, but the water is safe. Mr. Dutton has met with the School Department to go over assessments and finances for students going to Agricultural schools. The kick off for the Affordable Housing Trust is October 14th. Based on that meeting Mr. Dutton will come back before the Town Council and outline their goals and mission. Mr. Dutton has been looking at other options for the Town to try and keep health care increases to a minimum. However, we will not be seeing any plan design changes. The new website should be rolled out in early October. The Academy Building is close to completion. They are finalizing the budget. The Memorial Building still needs to be done as it is not ADA compliant and needs drainage and HVAC work. The Solid Waste committee is still seeking members. Finally Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about discussion he has had with Colonial Power Group. OCPC has asked them to give advice on aggregation plans.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood noted the lights in the Council Chambers are very dim and asked if anything could be done. Mr. Dutton has asked the contractor. At Mr. Wood's request, Mr. Dutton updated the Council on Skips Liquors stating he believes demolition will begin tomorrow.
- Councilor Losche asked if documentation will be easy to find on the new website. Mr. Dutton responded, yes, but it will take some time to populate everything.
- Councilor Wright asked if Colonial Power should come give a update at a future meeting. Mr. Dutton agreed, but suggested perhaps as we get closer. At Councilor Wright's request, Mr. Dutton explained Comcast has resolved the issues that stood in the way of getting work done and have committed to an aggressive timeline. He also confirmed the Assistant Building Inspector has started and is in training now.
- Councilor Perry asked about the timeline for the water study. Mr. Dutton responded; it will probably go on for a couple of months and we will probably be looking at a \$5-7MM project. Councilor Perry requested someone from Water Department post some tips.
- Councilor Colombotos asked about the side entrance at the Academy Building, which Mr. Colombotos thought would be a handicap entrance. Mr. Dutton responded; the side entrance was not designed to be a handicapped entrance, although that is where the handicapped parking spots are. However, he is asking the architect and Town Engineer to look at handicapped signage to make it as easy as possible by providing some direction. Councilor Colombotos commented; it seems odd that there is a ramp that doesn't go anywhere.
- President Gallagher asked if it makes sense, for the future planning for vacant building to think about a full time maintenance person. He further stated there are no speed limit signs on Spring Street and there may need to be a



crosswalk down closer to Bridgewater Bagel. Mr. Gallagher asked if he should put together an order. Mr. Dutton responded he will get back to him on that.

DISCUSSIONS

- Update on Progress Toward Fulfillment of Resolution 2016-001: Creation of Affordable Housing
Councilor Colombotos read the resolution for the record (attached) and began the discussion, stating affordable housing is a critical issue in the town. The Town finds itself facing another 40B out on Curve Street, which is unwelcome. He is wondering how to make progress on creating 40Bs that fit with the Town. Mr. Dutton responded; right now we are looking at a number of different fronts. If we achieve 10%, affordable housing, then the town has achieved its goal; though very few towns achieve that goal. Last year we were at 6.3%. The Coordinator is working with DHCD now to determine our current percentage. Mr. Dutton thinks it may be just under 7%. Andrew Delonno is looking at inclusionary zoning. Lisa Sullivan is looking at our subsidized housing to get a clear line on it. Lisa Sullivan is also working with Assessor's Office to develop town owned properties that are potential conversions into affordable units. Mr. Dutton agreed with Mr. Colombotos; the potential Curve Street project is not a LIP and is coming to us without our participation. He explained; they have not submitted their application to the ZBA yet. Once they do, the ZBA has 30 days to open a hearing. He noted; we have made some progress with the downtown by increasing the density. Mr. Dutton noted; there are very few towns that reach that 10% threshold.
Councilor Colombotos asked Mr. Dutton to explain the threshold outlined in the affordable housing plan. Mr. Dutton will find out the number. A property on Broad Street was briefly discussed as possibly including affordable housing units. The discussion turned to Curve Street. Mr. Dutton explained that only a percentage of the houses will count toward the 10% goal. In a rental situation, all units count, but that is not the case for houses. The discussion continued briefly. Finally, Councilor Colombotos stated, inclusion zoning is something we should be taking a look at. The next step is for us all to review the Affordable Housing Plan.
- Update on Progress Toward Fulfillment of Resolution 2016-002: Downtown Community Development Master Plan – Feasibility of Implementing Traffic Circulation and Parking Improvement
Councilor Colombotos began the discussion by referencing the Downtown Revitalization Plan, noting one of the elements was modifying the traffic and circulation downtown. Mr. Colombotos drafted the resolution this as a way to stick with it. He hasn't seen a lot of progress with this, but realizes there is a traffic committee to look at some of these things. Mr. Colombotos suggested perhaps the Traffic Committee could attend a meeting and report the progress they have made. Mr. Dutton responded that might be a good idea. Mr. Dutton explained; any long-term projects have to wait until we have enough money to go out of and do a comprehensive traffic plan. In the short term: they are looking at a complete streets grant application which will provide more bump outs, and money to move some of the crosswalks, provide additional lighting and add handicapped accessible ramps. Most of the short term items are Chapter 90 eligible. Mr. Dutton will be coming to the Town Council with a paid parking plan. Mr. Dutton has asked Larry Silva to confirm exactly what is owned by the town in the Municipal Parking Lot. At Councilor Perry's request, Mr. Dutton stated he will confirm deadlines for the Complete Streets grant. He also suggested having Mr. Delonno in to give a report on some of the issues discussed this evening.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Budget & Finance: Committee Chair, Wood stated the Budget & Finance Committee voted unanimously to approve the Acceptance of a Gift and Firefighters Contract, which will be taken up later in the meeting.
- Rules & Procedures: Committee Chair, Losche advised the committee did not meet as planned last evening, but has been meeting regularly finalizing changes to the Bylaws to Ordinances Ordinance. The document should be before the Council at the next meeting to move forward.
- Strategic Planning: Councilor Gallagher advised, the committee continues to meet regularly and will have more of an update in a couple of weeks.
- Public Safety: Committee Chair, Perry explained the committee met last week on the Stetson Street speed limit.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION -

- Order O-2016-018: Acceptance of a Gift – Bridgewater State University
Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation of the Order.

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



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Motion: A motion to amend the amount to \$25,443.48 was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

Discussion: None

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

Seeing no further discussion, a roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

- Order o-2016-019: Ratification of Contract – Firefighters Association

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the negotiation process describing it as a positive experience. He noted the goal was to control future liabilities – i.e., sick leave. They were able to clarify and simplify a lot of the language. Finally Mr. Dutton noted the budget impact for FY17 would be \$100,000 and \$60,000 for FY18 and a little under \$60,000 for FY19.

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

Discussion: Councilor Wood stated he thinks the Town Manager and Fire Department worked well together. It is a good sign to have such collaboration. Councilor Colombotos stated he was glad to see the relative simplicity.

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

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – ABSENT; Haley – ABSENT; Colombotos – YEA; Wright – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

- Order O-2016-020: Stetson Street Speed Limit

Councilor Wood provided a brief explanation of the Order.

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

Discussion: Councilor Perry explained, the Public Safety committee got together with the Police Chief who has no objections. The committee voted 2-0 in favor of the order. Councilor Colombotos asked if there is a default speed limit if one isn't posted? Councilor Perry responded it's 30 mph in thickly settled areas.

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

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – ABSENT; Fitzgibbons – ABSENT; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-2016-006: Revocation of General Bylaws and Adoption of Ordinances

This measure will be taken up at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Order O-2016-021: Granting of an Easement – Legion Field

Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation of the order.

This measure was not referred to any committee.

- Order O-2016-022: An Order to Review Existing Plans, Reports and Initiatives Relating to Community & Economic Development

Councilor Colombotos explained he drafted this legislation to help get our heads around the documents over the last 10 years or so. Mr. Colombotos read the Order for the record (attached). Councilor Wood noted there is no real need to refer to a committee.

- Transfer T-2016-011: Prior Year Invoices – Health Department

Mr. Dutton provided a brief explanation.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer the measure to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

Discussion: None

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

- Transfer T-2016-012: CPC Transfer – Refurbish WWI Monument

Mr. Dutton explained; this transfer is to fund refurbishing the WWI monument. Normally the CPC would make a recommendation then the request would come to you. However, due to the timing of their meeting tomorrow night we are asking for a first reading tonight.



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

Discussion: Councilor Colombotos noted he was a little concerned about the change in order of presenting prior to the CPC recommendation.

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

- Resolution R-2016-007: 2017 Meeting Dates

Councilor Wood briefly explained the resolution and dates. He advised there really is no need to refer to a committee and requested the Councilors look it over to see if there any necessary adjustments.

CITIZEN COMMENTS –

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Dr. Hunt is on the Energy Committee and stated there is a second option to be considered for energy aggregation. Respectfully, he requests that that organization also be given the opportunity to come in.
- Bernice Morrissey, Lakeside Drive: Ms. Morrissey is interested in rationale under old business. Ms. Morrissey applauds Councilor Colombotos' effort in the review of existing plans proposal.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Congratulated Bridgewater Police Department's Lieutenant Schlatz and Sergeant Largasta. Thanked Jacki Rivero for her service and wished good luck to those who take part in the 5K. She also thanked David Moore for stepping in as interim Building Inspector and thanked Mike White for his service.
- Councilor Colombotos: Thanked Mike White for his service. Mr. Colombotos reassured Mr. Dutton that his earlier comments were just because he cares about the community.
- Councilor Haley: Absent
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Absent
- Councilor Losche: Reminded all that after the 5K is Autumnfest.
- Councilor Wood: Acknowledged that the town and college are trying to work together regarding the parking in downtown, noting the garage is largely empty at the University. Mr. Wood almost hit someone in the center of town. It's really critical that we find a better solution.
- Councilor Perry: Echoed sentiments of previous councilors. He is looking forward to the Police Department 5K and thanked Rebekah Caylor. Dr. Perry is looking forward to Autumnfest and thanked BBA for their work on it. Bridgewater State University is having community business day this Thursday from 11am -3pm
- Councilor Sousa: Thanked Mike White.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked Mike White and Jacki Rivero as well. He is looking forward to Bridgewater Police Department 5K.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Perry. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 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, October 18, 2016, to approve the aforementioned minutes by a voice vote (8-0-1) (Councilor Fitzgibbons abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk