



**Town of
Bridgewater
Town Council**

October 11, 2022

7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Fred Chase called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, 2022, in the Council chambers.

PRESENT

Fred Chase, Dennis Gallagher, Dr. Kevin Perry, Bill Wood and Matt Rushton. Assistant Town Manager Kimberly Williams and Town Attorney Jason Rawlings were also present.

ABSENT

Erik Moore, Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa and Shawn George.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) September 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Since Councilor Rushton was absent from the September 27, 2022 meeting, there was not a quorum to vote on these meeting minutes. The meeting minutes will be added to the October 25, 2022 meeting agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Chase held a moment of silent prayer for all of the veterans.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane – Discussed Let the Voters Decide Order as he was not available at the last meeting.
Carlton Hunt, Austin Street – Vice Chair of CPC and noted that there is a CPC Public Hearing on 10/26 at 6:30 p.m. Information can be found on the Town website.
Marilee Hunt, Austin Street – President of BIA, decorations will be put up in Central Square, sent an email to the Town asking for Town funds.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

- a) Petition P-2023-009: Transfer of Lodging House License
*This hearing has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website and abutter letters sent.
This measure may be considered this evening upon conclusion of the hearing.*

Councilor Chase opened the Public Hearing at 7:12pm.

Councilor Chase asked if there were any questions from the public.

Steven Powers, South Street – Asked what is the purpose of the lodging. Councilor Chase noted that it is general lodging up to 18 people.

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in favor – no one spoke.

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in opposition – no one spoke.

Council Chase asked if any of the Councilors had any questions.

Councilor Rushton asked if anything has changed. Petitioner noted that she purchased property in April, it serves veterans and they have been renovating the house for the past 6 months.

Councilor Chase closed the Public Hearing at 7:18pm.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-009, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0.

A. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

B. PRESENTATIONS

a) Easterseals MA - The Bridge Center Introduction

Paul Medieros, President and CEO of Easterseals gave a brief presentation of the re-opening of the Bridge Center. Easterseals is partnering with them to re-open the center for use to support the needs of people with disabilities and veterans and their families.

C. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager was absent so there was no Town Managers Report. Assistant Town Manager Williams noted that she sent out a report last week to the Councilors and would be sending out another report at the end of the week.

D. DISCUSSIONS - None

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget and Finance Committee – Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget and Finance Committee met prior to the Town Council meeting and they voted 2-0 to recommend all of the Legislation for Action that is on tonight's agenda.

F. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY23-009 Acceptance of Gift Funding

Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 10/11/22 meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-009, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0.

b) Order O-FY23-010: Acceptance of Gift COA

Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 10/11/22 meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-009, which was duly seconded.

Roll-call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore - Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0.

c) Order O-FY23-011 Acceptance of AFG Grant

Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 10/11/22 meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-011, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0.

d) Order O-FY23-014: General Fund Free Cash Allocation to Trust Funds

Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 10/11/22 Town Council Meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-014, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

e) Order O-FY23-015: Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund Equipment Transfers

Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 10/11/22 Town Council Meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-015, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

f) Order O-FY23-016: Acceptance of Assistance to Firefighter Grant

Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 10/11/22 Town Council Meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-016, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

g) Order O-FY23-017: Acceptance of Elder Services Grant

Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 10/11/22 Town Council Meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-017, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

h) Order O-FY23-018: Acceptance of Elder Services Gift

Budget and Finance are meeting prior to the 10/11/22 Town Council Meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 10/5/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-011, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

G. OLD BUSINESS

H. NEW BUSINESS

a) Ordinance D-FY23-005: General Ordinance - Amend Article II. Sec. 14. Citizens Comments

Councilor Chase noted that he is sponsoring this ordinance because on 2 occasions non-residents wished to speak and he feels the council should know who the person is and what they would like to discuss.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-005 to Rules and Procedures, which was duly seconded.

Councilor Wood noted that business or property owners who do not live here should be able to speak.

Councilor Chase noted that this ordinance is not an intention to restrict.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the 24 hours should be looked at. Some people do not know they wish to speak until a few hours before the meeting.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

b) Order O-FY23-023: Acceptance of MEMA Grant

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-023 to Budget and Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

c) Order O-FY23-0024: Transfer Order - Prior Fiscal Year Bill

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-024 to Budget and Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

d) Order O-FY23-025: Transfer Order - Contractual Buyouts

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-025 to Budget and Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

e) Petition P-2023-010: 2022 State Election Warrant

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to keep Petition P-2023-010 in Council, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

I. CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

J. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Perry – No comments

Councilor Gallagher – Was not able to attend Fire for Effect event but was told it was a great success, next one will be 10/22 and there are even more vendors. CPC will be conducting a public hearing on 10/26. A huge shoutout to the Fire

Department for seeking the grants that they received.

Councilor Wood – Noted that there was no audience and Zoom added a lot of people. Will be hosting a budget process workshop to residents.

Councilor Rushton – Thanked all the Town employees. Council on Aging was struggling but with the new directors it is changing. Would like the Town Managers report posted for public viewing.

Councilor Chase – Value the residents input. Thanked Lilian Dupre for her handmade thank you card.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

L. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Wood made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded.

Voice Vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Absent; George – Absent; Moore – Absent; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 5-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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, December 6, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes.

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Debra Ward, Town Council Clerk