



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
November 22, 2022
7:00PM
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 7:00pm on Tuesday, November 22, 2022 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Fred Chase, Dr. Kevin Perry, Bill Wood, Erik Moore, Francis Sousa and Dennis Gallagher. Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

ABSENT

Peter Colombotos, Shawn George and Matt Rushton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Because of councilor absences, the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes could not be voted on. These meeting minutes will be on the December 6, 2022 Council agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A moment of silence was held for the Veterans.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Marilee Hunt: updated the Council on the Special Election candidates. Board of Registrars will be holding 2 debates (12/5 and 12/7).

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

a) Order O-FY23-027: FY2023 Classification Tax Allocation - Adoption of Residential Factor

Councilor Chase opened the Public Hearing at 7:09pm.

Chief Assessor, Shelley McCauley gave a brief update on the tax rate classification. A tax rate of 1 is being recommended and I would be the same for all tax classes. The average residential value of a house is \$521,524 which would mean a \$143 increase from last year. House values have increased 12.9% since FY22.

Councilor Chase asked if there were any questions from the public – No one spoke.

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.

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

- 1) Councilor Wood noted that Raynham is 76% residential and 23% commercial and adopted a split rate. Is there any benefit for Bridgewater to change? Ms. McCauley noted that businesses would pay more. Town Manager Dutton noted that one factor about Bridgewater to highlight is that there is a single tax rate. If tax rate were to go up for businesses it may deter businesses from coming to Town.

Councilor Chase closed the Public Hearing at 7:15pm.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-027, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Fire Station Update – Town Manager Dutton noted that there were no new updates.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY23-033: Acceptance of Elderly Services Grant

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-033 to Budget & Finance and Fincom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

- b) Order O-FY23-034: Transfer Order – Employee PY Retro Longevity

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-034 to Budget & Finance and Fincom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

- c) Order O-FY23-035: Bridgewater Public Library Staff Assn (BPLSA) Bargaining Contract Ratification

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-035 to Budget & Finance and Fincom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

- d) Order O-FY23-036: Transfer Order – Contractual Settlement BPLSA

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-036 to Budget & Finance and Fincom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

e) Order O-FY23-037: Transfer Order – Water Enterprise Fund

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-037 to Budget & Finance and Fincom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

f) Ordinance D-FY23-006: Proposed Bridgewater Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Adult Retirement Community in Planned Development District

Councilor Gallagher noted that he put forth this ordinance for a developer for an amendment to the zoning and would like to postpone first reading until first meeting in January because the CED Director is leaving and the CEDC committee for the council will be changing.

Councilor Perry asked if second meeting in January would be better.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to postpone the first reading of Ordinance D-Fy23-006 until the second meeting in January, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

g) Petition P-2023-012: Special Town Election Warrant – January 7, 2023

Councilor Wood made a motion to retain Petition P-2023-012 at council level, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Wood: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and reminded residents to read the question that will be on the 1/7/23 ballot.

Councilor Gallagher: Congratulated the candidates and noted that there are 8 seats available and one vacancy. Also noted that he does not support the ballot question.

Councilor Moore: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilor Sousa: Noted that he agrees with Councilor Gallagher and that a company came and took care of the tree problem around the common.

Councilor Perry: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, informed the residents about decorating the common this upcoming weekend and noted that the BR football team was facing Brockton at Fenway Park on Wednesday night.

Councilor Chase: Wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Absent; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6 -0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:54p.m.

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