



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
December 6, 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 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2022, in the Council Chambers.

A moment of silence was held for Mr. Angelo J. Veneto, a veteran who recently passed away.

PRESENT

Fred Chase, Dennis Gallagher, Dr. Kevin Perry, Bill Wood, Erik Moore, Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa and Shawn George.

Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT

Matthew Rushton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) October 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Abstained; Colombotos – Abstained; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6-0-2

b) November 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the November 15, 2022 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Abstained; George – Abstained; Moore – Abstained; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Abstained; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 4-0-4

c) November 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Moore made a motion to approve the November 22, 2022 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Abstained; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Colombotos – Abstained; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 6-0-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT – None

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM –

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Discussed how she is opposed to the question on the ballot.
Sandra White, 150 East Street: Discussed how she is opposed to the question on the ballot.
Ed Ilvaldi, Boxford Lane: Discussed how he is opposed to the question on the ballot.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Tree Committee:

Raymond Ajemian - Planning Board Appointment - 2022 to 2023

Shirley Krasinski - BIA Appointment - 2022 to 2025

Nicole Holmes - Open Space Appointment - 2022 to 2024

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve the appointments of Raymond Ajemian, Shirley Krasinski and Nicole Holmes to the Tree Committee, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) 1/7/23 Special Town Election Snow Emergency Procedure Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that any storm for January 7th plows will be coordinated. If small storm then equipment and staff would be at Middle School. If large storm the Town Clerk would make the decision. Would have to petition the court. Would use social media to notify the residents.

Councilor Perry asked if there would be early/absentee voting. Town Manager Dutton noted that there is no early voting for municipal elections but there is absentee ballots.

Councilor Gallagher asked if it is 6 hours into voting and they have to be shut down is the election official. Town Manager Dutton noted that the court would have to decide, no law or provision.

b) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that they met as a team for the design process, earliest September.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY23-021: Town Council's Annual At A Glance Calendar

At their 11/17/22 meeting, Strategic Planning voted 2-0 to recommend.

Councilor Moore noted that he wanted to make sure important dates are seen so planning could be done. Calendar will be managed by Strategic Planning and updated every year.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-021, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

b) Order O-FY23-031 Prior Fiscal Year Bill

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 11/22/22 meeting. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-031, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

c) Order O-FY23-032: Veteran Tax Benefits

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 11/22/22 meeting. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-032, which was duly seconded.

Councilor Sousa recused himself from the vote as he is a veteran.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Recused; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 7-0

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

Budget & Finance meeting on 12/6 prior to the Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that Budget & Finance met prior to the Council meeting and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-033, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

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

Budget & Finance meeting on 12/6 prior to the Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 4-1 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that Budget & Finance met prior the Council meeting and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-034, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

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

Budget & Finance meeting on 12/6 prior to the Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 4-0-1 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that Budget & Finance met prior the Council meeting and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-035, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

g) Order O-FY23-036: Transfer Order - Contractual Settlement BPLSA

Budget & Finance meeting on 12/6 prior to the Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 4-0-1 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that Budget & Finance met prior the Council meeting and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-036, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

h) Order O-FY23-037: Transfer Order - Water Enterprise Fund

Budget & Finance meeting on 12/6 prior to the Town Council meeting. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 11/30/22 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that Budget & Finance met prior the Council meeting and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-037, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

i) Ordinance D-FY23-002: Zoning Ordinance - Amend Section 11 Definitions

At a joint public hearing held on 11/2/22, the Community Economic and Development Committee voted 2-0 and the Planning Board voted 3-0 to recommend. This measure has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website. This measure may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor Moore noted that this is to change the restriction on in-law spaces from 600 feet to 800 feet.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Ordinance D-FY23-002, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

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

This Order was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed, therefore it may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor Moore made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-012, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

k) Resolution R-FY23-002 Naming of the Olde Scotland Links Golf Course Clubhouse

This Order was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed, therefore it may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY23-002, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY23-038: Appropriation for Eminent Domain Order of Taking for Summer Street Property

Town Manager Dutton noted that the funds are from CPC for the taking of the Mobil Station.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-038 to Budget & Finance and FinCom, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

b) Resolution R-FY23-004: Town Council Meeting Dates – 2023

Councilor Perry made a motion to keep Resolution R-FY23-004 at council, which was duly seconded.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Spoke again about not being in favor of the question on the ballot.

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Also spoke again about not being in favor of the question on the ballot.

Sandra White, 150 East Street: Also spoke again about not being in favor of the question on the ballot.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Perry: Commended the BBA on a great Christmas on the Common, well attending. Also noted that the lights look great. Great job between the Lions and the BIA.

Councilor Sousa: Noted that Christmas on the Common was a big turnout, great event.

Councilor George: Thanked the BIA, BBA and Lions for the lights and noted that Christmas on the Common was a great event.

Councilor Moore: Enjoyed the parade and Christmas on the Common. Excited bout the lights around town and noted that the houses on Auglis Way are great.

Councilor Gallagher: Christmas on the Common was a great event; common looks beautiful at night. Thanked the speakers tonight. Spoke about not being in favor of the question on the ballot.

Councilor Colombotos: None

Councilor Wood: Christmas on the Common was great. Spoked about being in favor of the question on the ballot.

Councilor Chase: Christmas on the Common was a great event. Thanked the citizens for their comments tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Sousa – Yea; George – Yea; Moore - Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher –Yea; Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Absent. The motion passed 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:19p.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 20, 2022, to approve the aforementioned minutes.