



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

December 20, 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 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Peter Colombotos

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) December 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 6, 2022, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Abstained. The motion passed 7-0-1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councilor Chase asked for a moment of silent prayer for Lt. Elders, retired Bridgewater Fire Chief who recently passed away.

Since this was the last meeting for 3 of the councilors, Councilor Chase thanked each of them for serving.

PROCLAMATIONS

Councilor Chase read a proclamation for Jim Campbell into the record. Mr. Campbell was a long time member of the Recreation Commission who recently stepped down.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Thanked the council for their work on the council. Spoke in opposition of the question on the 1/7/23 ballot, read facts.

Pat Neary, Lakeside Drive: Spoke in opposition of the question on the 1/7/23 ballot, read facts.

Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Spoke in opposition of the question on the 1/7/23 ballot, read facts.

Brian Perry, 1065 High Street: Would like help with the issue of sand and gravel trucks on High Street. Noted

that there is a sign on Route 18 that says 19 tons but these trucks are bigger. Would like some support to get this corrected.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Robert Rulli, Community and Economic Development Director Ratification

Town Manager Dutton noted that Mr. Rulli has a wealth of experience and received many awards. Highly recommended.

Councilor George made a motion to ratify Mr. Robert Rulli as Community and Economic Development Director, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

b) Nora Tarr, Cultural Council – 2022 to 2024

Councilor George made a motion to ratify Mr. Robert Rulli as Community and Economic Development Director, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2023-013: The Licensing of Establishments with Alcohol and Attendant Licenses

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-013, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

b) Petition P-2023-014: The Licensing of Lodging Houses

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-014, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

c) Petition P-2023-015: The Licensing of Automatic Amusements (*in establishments without alcohol*)

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-015, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

d) Petition P-2023-016: The Licensing of an Antiques Dealer's Business

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-016, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

e) Petition P-2023-017: The Licensing of Class I, Class II and Class III Auto Dealers

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-017, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

f) Petition P-2023-018: The Licensing of Second Hand Gold/Pawn Shops

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-018, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

g) Petition P-2023-019: The Licensing of a Common Carrier/Taxi Service Business

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-018, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

h) Petition P-2023-020: The Licensing of Common Victualler Establishments (without Alcohol)

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-018, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – None

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY22-019: Eminent Domain Order of Taking of Summer Street Property
CEDC voted 2-0 to recommend at their 12/13/22 meeting. To be referred to Advertising this evening.

Councilor Chase noted that this Order was for the eminent domain taking of the Mobil station and it needed to be referred to Budget and Financing and Finance.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY22-019 to advertising, which was duly seconded.

Councilor George asked how long it would take to obtain the Mobil station. Attorney Rawlins noted that it will be 60 days to record, fairly quick if no appeal.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

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

- b) Ordinance D-FY23-005 General Ordinance - Amend Article II. Sec. 14. Citizens Comments
Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend at their 11/15/22 meeting. This measure has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website. This measure may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Ordinance D-FY23-005, which was duly seconded.

Councilor Moore asked if someone shows up to speak and they did not follow this rule can they speak. Councilor Chase noted that the council could amend and vote the rules and allow them to speak.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

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

- c) Resolution R-FY23-003: FY2024 Budget Resolution
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 11/22/22 meeting. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 12/14/22 meeting.

Councilor Wood noted that Budget and Finance met with the Finance Committee to go over the Resolution. Fairly general language, focus should be on the four Town Manager objectives.

Councilor Wood made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY23-003, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

- d) Resolution R-FY23-004: Town Council Meeting Dates – 2023
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-FY23-004, 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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY23-039: Transfer Order - Bridgewater Housing Authority Window Replacement Project

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-039 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.

Councilor Rushton noted that this was a great use of CPC funds. Bridgewater Housing has a very tight budget and competes with other housing authorities for State and Federal money.

Voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Spoke about the special election, opposed question and noted marijuana facts.
Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Opposes question, voting no. Wants to know why crosswalk at the common was moved.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Rushton: Acknowledged everyone on the board; would like to see more appreciation for Town employees. Will continue to give 110% for the Fire Station project. Also noted that he voted for the question to be on the ballot to let the voters decide but will be voting against it.

Councilor Wood: Thanked Councilors Colombotos, Sousa and Rushton, pleasure serving with you. Noted that he is pushing for the question on the ballot because his district voted in favor. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilor Gallagher: Thanked the speakers who spoke tonight. Noted that the council started the year with Zoom meetings and then in person meetings. Thanked Councilors Colombotos, Sousa and Matt. Spoke about the Special Election, opposes the question, not a good fit for the town. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilor Moore: Congratulated Jim Campbell for his service to the town and thanked all who spoke. Noted that truck issues were an enormous problem and the town should look into it. Welcomed Mr. Rulli and thanked Councilors Colombotos, Sousa and Rushton.

Councilor George: Reminded residents to vote on 1/7/23. Agreed with resident Mr. Perry, High Street has truck issues. Thanked Councilors Colombotos, Sousa and Rushton. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

Councilor Sousa: Thanked everyone for their kind words. Noted that he was not in favor of the question.

Councilor Perry: Condolences to Captain Elders family. Thanked Jim Campbell and welcomed Mr. Rulli. Thanked Colombotos, Sousa and Rushton. Reminded residents to go out and vote on 1/7/23; opposes the question, voting no.

Councilor Chase: Thanked everyone who came and spoke, respect your opinions. Will miss Councilors Colombotos, Sousa and Rushton. Wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

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 – Absent; Wood – Yea; Rushton – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35p.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, January 10, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 7-0.