



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
January 10, 2023

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, January 10, 2023, in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Fred Chase, Dr. Kevin Perry, Bill Wood, Erik Moore, Mark Linde, Shawn George and Bradford McKinnon. Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

ABSENT

Susan Robinson and Dennis Gallagher

A moment of silence was held for the recent passing of 3 veterans: Ann Boudreau, Paul Jude O'Brien, Sr. and Manuel DeSousa Figueiredo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) December 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 20, 2022 which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Abstained; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Abstained; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 5-0-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

a) Swearing in of newly elected Councilors

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt swore in all of the councilors for their seats and the councilors signed the appropriate documents.

b) Reorganization of the Council: Elect President and Vice President

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt asked for nominations for President.

Councilor Wood nominated Councilor Chase for Council President, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea;

Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

Council President Chase asked for nominations for Vice President.

Councilor Linde nominated Councilor Moore for Council Vice President, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

c) Reorganization of Council Seats

Town Clerk Hunt seated the Council by having each draw a playing card. The new Council seat order is (first seat as you walk into Chambers): McKinnon, George, Perry, Moore, Chase, Robinson, Linde, Gallagher and Wood.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM - None

APPOINTMENTS

a) Parks and Recreation: Mark Thomas - 2022 to 2025

Councilor George made a motion to approve the appointment of Mark Thomas to Parks and Recreation, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2023-018: The Granting of a Class I Used Auto Dealers 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 7:16pm.

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:

Attorney James Burke spoke on behalf of the petitioner. He noted that this was for heavy rig trucks and distribution agreements have been issued. There would not be a large influx of traffic. Mr. Lucini has run a family business for many years and has a good business model.

Councilor Chase asked if there were any questions from the Councilors:

Councilor George asked what the Saturday hours would be and Mr. Lucini noted that the hours would be 7am to 12pm.

Councilor George made a motion to amend the hours to include Saturdays from 7am to 12pm, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

Dr. Perry made a motion to change “uses” to “new” in the license request, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

Councilor Chase asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Councilor Chase closed the public hearing at 7:22p.m.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the Class I license for Lucini Bus Lines, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Fire Station Project Update

Town Manager Dutton gave an update on the Fire Station Project noting that the land survey was underway and the design work is progressing. OPM will start to have regular meetings.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget & Finance met on 1/9/23 and voted 3-0 to recommend. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 1/4/23 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was for the taking of the Summer Street property. After taking it will be converted to a passive recreation park. It is the first step of a two step process.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-038, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

b) Order O-FY22-019: Eminent Domain Order of Taking of Summer Street Property

Community and Economic Development recommended 2-0 at their 12/13/22 meeting. This Order has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website. This measure may be considered this evening upon conclusion of the hearing.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-019, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

- c) Order O-FY23-039: Transfer Order - Bridgewater Housing Authority Window Replacement Project
Budget & Finance meeting on 1/9/23 to discuss. FinCom voted 5-0 to recommend at their 1/4/23 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton gave a brief update on what the money would be used for.

Colleen Doherty, Director of Bridgewater Housing added that they would be very much appreciative of the money. They deal with emergencies all the time and never have the funding to do projects like this.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-039, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) O-FY23-040: Certified Assessors Compensation

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was for professional education for the assessor.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-040 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

- b) Order O-FY23-041: Acceptance of Non- Recurring Revenue to Capital

Town Manager Dutton noted that this money is for prison mitigation which is less than the town has received prior.

Councilor George noted that he was surprised since Walpole is closing.

Councilor Linde asked if we could do more with our legislation reaching out to them. Town Manager Dutton noted that the council can send the State rep a letter and he would be happy to draft it.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-041 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

- c) Order O-FY23-042: Transfer Order - CPA Old State Farm Trail Project

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is the second phase of a four phase project. NRTB did some fundraising and asked CPC to fund \$40K. Once complete trail funding to the State can be completed.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-042 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

d) Order O-FY23-043: Bridgewater Raynham Regional School District Capital Allocation

Town Council noted that the Council appropriated money for the track, they chose other funding to use. Spoke with the Interim Superintendent and they would return and revote how the money was spent.

Councilor Moore noted that he would like to have additional detail on the line items.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-043 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

e) Proposed Ordinance D-FY23-007: Acceptance of Local Tax Option - Retail Marijuana Tax

Councilor Wood noted that retail taxes from marijuana sales can be set and can be up to 3%.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-007 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

f) Proposed Ordinance D-FY23-008: Cash Policy - Retail Marijuana Tax Reserve Fund

Councilor Wood noted that this is setting up special reserve fund – there will be a second part.

Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-008 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Dr. Perry: Thanked those that came out to vote and to breakdown the common decorations.

Councilor Moore: Thanked the Town Clerk for running a smooth election. Thanked the residents for voting for him. Congratulated the Rainwater Players on their 30th Anniversary. Encouraged all to attend a show.

Councilor Wood: Thanked the voters and his colleagues. Robotics kicks-off on Saturday.

Councilor McKinnon: Thanked everyone for coming out and voting and looking forward to being a Councilor.

Councilor Linde: Glad to be back and thanked the Town Clerk.

Councilor George: Thanked everyone for coming out and voting.

Councilor Chase: Congratulated new and returning members and thanked the staff for working a long day at the polls.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

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 24, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 8-0.