



**Town of Bridgewater**  
**Town Council**  
January 24, 2023  
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, January 24, 2023, in the Council Chambers.

**PRESENT**

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

**ABSENT**

Susan Robinson

A moment of silence was held for those that have passed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

January 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes

*Councilor George made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from January 10, 2023, which were duly seconded. Motion passed 7-0-1 (Councilor Gallagher abstained).*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Council President Chase noted that committee assignments have been completed and Town Council Clerk will send out by the end of the week.

**PROCLAMATIONS** – None

**CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

- Bernice Morrissey, 150 Lakeside Drive: Opposes Ordinance D-FY23-006. Handed out documents to the councilors.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Opposes Claremont proposal, will diminish and harm resources.
- Pat Neary, 225 Lakeside Drive: Welcomed new councilors. Opposes zoning proposal.
- Kitty Doherty, 524 Conant Street: Opposes zoning ordinance.
- Vernon Domingo, 36 Saddle Drive: Opposes zoning ordinance.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: Opposes zoning ordinance.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: Opposes changes to the zoning.

- Mike Williams, 40 Saddle Drive: Opposes changes to zoning and wants Saddle Drive paved.
- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: Opposes zoning, read a letter into the record.
- John Fitzgerald, 369 Lakeside Drive: Opposes zoning change.
- Robert DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: Opposes zoning change
- Francis Jeffries, 35 Shaw Road: Opposes zoning ordinance.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Opposes zoning ordinance.

**APPOINTMENTS** – None

**HEARINGS** – None

**LICENSE TRANSACTIONS** None

**PRESENTATIONS**

Bridgewater's Planned Development District Zoning Purpose, History and Considerations (Moore)

Councilor Moore gave a presentation on Planned Development District. Land is divided into areas called zones and each contain certain regulations. Critical to comprehensive Master Plan.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**Fire Station Update:**

Town Manager Dutton noted that the design phase was underway; September bid date.

**High Street Dam and Bridge project Update:**

Town Manager Dutton noted that this has been a 6 year process. Significant project impact; start date this week until December 2023. Road closed 6/15/23 for 4 months. Notices will be sent out. No weekend or holiday construction without approval. Weekday hours 7am to 3:30pm. Work done around time of year restrictions.

Councilor Moore asked if the 6/15/23 date could be delayed until school is out for the summer. Town Manager Dutton noted that he could ask the contractor as there is a short period of time to do the bridge.

Councilor Wood asked that Oak Street Bridge be looked at. Town Manager Dutton noted that he has reached out to Mass DOT.

**DISCUSSIONS** – None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION**

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was adopting state law for assessor education certifications.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-040, 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was a decrease in the amount. The year was 2020 during Covid so the population dropped.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-041, which was duly seconded.*

Councilor Wood noted that the Town gives money back to the State for being a host MBTA community. So money coming in from prison but going out for MBTA. We should ask our State Representatives.

Councilor Perry asked what it costs for prison to be in town, ie. Services, water, etc.. Town Manager Dutton will gather that information.

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

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was legislation past last year, Town to have easements on DOC property but must cover the cost of survey and recording. \$12k was raised and the \$40k was approved by the CPC.

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-042, 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

*Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-043, 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

Councilor Wood noted that this would allow the town to tax retail marijuana sales 3%.

*Councilor George made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-007 to advertising, 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

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

*Budget and Finance meeting 1/23/23. Finance Committee meeting 1/23/23.*

Councilor Wood noted that this sets up a specific fund to allocate money into. Appropriation would need to be done to fund it. This sets it up only.

*Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-008 to advertising, which was duly seconded.*

Councilor Gallagher noted that there are 7 or 8 accounts like this already. Retail marijuana revenue should be part of revenue projections in the budget like meals tax, hotel tax, etc.

Councilor wood noted that he would check with Finance as we may be able to vote a certain amount out.

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

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

**OLD BUSINESS** – None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Order O-FY23-044: Acceptance of Funds - Council on Aging Donation**

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is a gift to fund senior center coffee station.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-006 to Budget and Finance and FinCom, which was duly seconded.*

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

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – out of room at the time of the vote; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0

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

Councilor George recused himself because of a conflict of interest.

Councilor Gallagher noted that he was told that a particular developer was looking for 55+ community. Was not aware of other potential construction that was filed for.

*Councilor Moore made a motion to table Ordinance D-FY23-006, do not know enough about the project.*

Councilor Wood noted that table means to kill the item until re-introduced. Would like to hear from Planning Board. They will have a hearing.

Councilor Perry noted that more information is needed, do not recommend tabling, would like a presentation from the new CED director.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion to table Ordinance D-FY23-006 with the results recorded as follows:

Perry – No; Linde – Yea; George – Recused; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – No; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – No; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 4-3-0

### **c) Ordinance D-FY23-009: Capital Expenditure Policy**

Councilor Wood clarified that when the Town Council votes for capital plan for the school it is used/committed to that project. Comes back to running track; no backup to the request. Our vote for track did no pay for the track.

Councilor George noted that he will not be supporting this, feels like it is a knee jerk reaction.

Councilor Linde noted that we have a good communication with the school.

Councilor Gallagher noted that he thinks it should go to committee for process.

*Councilor George made a motion to table Ordinance D-FY23-009, which was duly seconded.*

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

Perry – No; Linde – Yea; George – Yea; Moore – No; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – No; McKinnon – No; Wood – No; Robinson – Absent. Motion fails 3-5-0

*Councilor Wood made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-009 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.*

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

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – No; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-1-0

### **d) Order O-FY23-045: Ratification of Renewal Cable Television License Agreement: Comcast Cable Communication Management, LLC and Town of Bridgewater**

Town Manager Dutton noted that contract negotiations were ongoing, 10 year renewal. \$230k capital contribution.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-045 to Budget and 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Bernice Morrissey, 150 Lakeside Drive: noted details about the climate change and the lake.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: Thanked the council for tabling the ordinance.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Thanked the council for engaging.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: Thanked the council for tabling the ordinance.
- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: Thanked the council for tabling.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: Thanked Councilor Moore for a great presentation.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Brad McKinnon: Thanked everyone for speaking tonight.
- Shawn George: Attended the MMA meeting, good meeting. MMA Resolution asking for 100% transportation reimbursement being submitted.
- Dr. Perry: Thanked the residents for coming out. Extended condolences to the family of Diane Wyman on her passing.

- Erik Moore: thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Welcome feedback from the presentation. Also attended MMA meeting and went to a PFAs seminar. All still learning.
- Mark Linde: Appreciate debate and discussion and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and speaking out.
- Dennis Gallagher: Thanked Councilor Chase for running a good meeting. Thanked the residents for coming to the meeting. Welcomed Brad, Mark and Suzi. Also attended MMA meetings. Received a letter from WinWaste reassuring residents and if questions they should reach out to WinWaste.
- Bill Wood: Attended MMA and the private roads workshop. MMA requesting that Chapter 90 funding be raised. Excellent meeting tonight.
- Fred Chase: Thanked everyone that came out tonight. The council depends on input from the residents. Also attend MMA meeting and the housing session. Very informative session. Noted that tabling was appropriate action to take.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – None

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor George 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:58p.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, February 7 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 8-0-1.**