



## **Town of Bridgewater**

### **Town Council**

February 7, 2023

7:00 PM

### **MEETING MINUTES**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Fred Chase called the meeting the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:25pm on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, in the Council Chambers.

#### **PRESENT**

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

a) January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

*Councilor George made a motion to approve the January 24, 2023 meeting minutes, 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 – Abstained. Motion passed 8-0-1

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT** - None

#### **PROCLAMATIONS** - None

#### **CITIZEN OPEN FORUM**

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Spoke about the high cost of electricity and how the Town should sign onto a program.
- Lillian Holbrook, 45 Driftwood: Read a letter regarding comments made by a councilor at the 1/24/23 Town Council meeting.

#### **APPOINTMENTS** - None

#### **HEARINGS** – None

## **LICENSE TRANSACTIONS** – None

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### b) Community & Economic Development Presentation (Bob Rulli)

CED Director Bob Rulli gave a presentation to the Town Council which included current market conditions; Central Square; alternative development options; form based code; transit oriented development; infrastructure/impact fees; planning and zoning amendments.

Mr. Rulli noted that Form Base code is an alternative zoning district that helps a community realize its vision for a specific area.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Perkins Foundry has come to a head, Elm Street has a lot of businesses and Downtown area is important and needs improvement.

Councilor Moore noted that this was a great presentation for strategic planning and likes the idea of an impact fee.

Councilor Wood asked how shared parking can be leveraged. Mr. Rulli noted that conversations need to be had with business and property owners.

Councilor Robinson noted that she is curious about form based code, need to get residents involved and how do we prioritize. Mr. Rulli note that all are a priority to him, all aspects have to work together.

Councilor Chase thanked Mr. Rulli for a great presentation.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### c) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that it's a slow stage at the moment. The OPM and architect have regular meetings; detailed survey almost completed and the outstanding land issues have been resolved.

### **DISCUSSIONS**

#### d) Town Council Social Media Policy Discussion (George)

Town Council George noted that social media being used for attaches, not trying to stop anyone from using social media, just need to draw a line.

Councilor Linde noted that he would like to see what other communities are doing.

Councilor Moore noted that he does not want to see information but also need to make sure not violating someone's first amendment.

Attorney Rawlins noted that before anymore discussion, intent should be established, put pen to paper and then discuss.

Councilor George noted that he will put something together and present at a future meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None

## **LEGISLATION FOR ACTION** – None

## **OLD BUSINESS** – None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- e) Order O-FY23-046: Acceptance of Gift - Natural Resources Trust of Bridgewater - \$25,000

Town Manager Dutton noted that this supplements the CPC order that was recently approved for the Old State Farm Trail Project survey.

*Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-046 to Budget & Finance and FinCom, 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 – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

- f) Order O-FY23-047: 2023 Election - Debt Exclusion Ballot Question

Town Manager noted that voters elected to construct a new Bristol Plymouth Technical School and this is to cover the costs.

Councilor Moore asked if there was enough time before April election to inform the voters and Town Manager Dutton noted that there is enough time.

*Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-047 to Budget & Finance and FinCom, 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 – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that Mr. Rulli's made a great presentation.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Brad McKinnon: Enjoy the Super Bowl.
- Shawn George: No comments
- Dr. Perry: Thanked Mr. Rulli for his detailed presentation.
- Erik Moore: Impressed with Mr. Rulli's presentation.
- Susan Robinson: Fun, first meeting, looking forward to the next one.
- Mark Linde: Great presentation.
- Dennis Gallagher: Welcome Ms. Robinson to her first meeting.
- Bill Wood: Covid still here please take care of yourself.
- Fred Chase: Welcomed Ms. Robinson to her first meeting and noted that there is a good deal of work ahead.

**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 – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:15p.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 21, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 8-0-0.**

