



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
June 6, 2023

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Erik Moore called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, June 6, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT

Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Shawn George, Erik Moore, Susan Robinson, Kevin Perry, Brad McKinnon and Mark Linde. Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

ABSENT

Dennis Gallagher

A moment of silence was held for United States Marine Corps veteran Mr. Peter T. Lennon who passed away on May 26, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) May 23, 2023

Councilor George made a motion to approve the May 23, 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 – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Abstained. Motion passed 8-0-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore noted the new committee assignments.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Steve Giberti, 1016 South Street: complained about illegal drone over his property.
- Ed Ivaldi, 10 Boxwood Lane: asked about the charter review committee recommendation orders.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: spoke about the Pride events in town.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Community Preservation Committee – Reappointments

- Carlton Hunt - Reappointment Term 2023 – 2025

Councilor George made a motion to approve the reappointment of Carlton Hunt to the Community Preservation 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

b) Conservation Committee – Reappointments

- Eileen Prisco - Reappointment Term 2023 – 2026

Councilor George made a motion to approve the reappointment of Eileen Prisco to the Conservation 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

c) Disability Commission – Reappointments

- Lorraine Carrozza - Reappointment Term 2023 – 2026

Councilor George made a motion to approve the reappointment of Lorraine Carrozza to the Disability Commission, 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

d) Energy Commission – Reappointments

- Carlton Hunt - Reappointment Term 2023 – 2025

Councilor George made a motion to approve the reappointment of Carlton Hunt to the Energy Commission, 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

HEARINGS

a) Ordinance D-FY23-012: General Ordinance - Section 10-D-(5) Flow Neutral Regulation - Sewer Regulations

7:05pm Hearing. *This hearing has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website and may be finally voted this evening.*

Council President Moore opened the hearing at 7:14pm.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is required to be adopted for lower percentage loans and forgiveness.

Council President Moore asked if there were any questions from the public – None

Council President Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor:

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street – Encouraged the council to vote yes.

Council President Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition – None

Council President Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors:

Councilor George made a motion to amend under 10-D5-2: replace “appl” with “apply”, 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

Council President Moore closed the hearing at 7:21pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Ordinance D-FY23-012, 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) High Street Bridge Closure

Town Manager Dutton noted that the High Street closure is scheduled for next week (6/15), which came up quickly. Residents have been getting notified in various ways.

b) Roadways/Paving Update

Town Manager Dutton gave an update on the street pavings for the year and what the approximate costs are.

c) Parameters for use of Drone Surveillance by the Bridgewater Police Department

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Town owns a drone and it is used by the police department when there is a missing person or if sending police into a location would be considered risky. Town Manager Dutton read the Drone Policy into the record.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY23-052: Municipal Electric Aggregation

Councilor Chase noted that the Rules & Procedures Committee met on 5/25/23 and voted 3-0 to recommend.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-052, 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a) O-FY23-061: Transfer Order - End of Year Transfers

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is a yearly order. Balances line items.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-061 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

b) O-FY23-062: Transfer Order - WTR High Street Treatment Plant Completion

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was to balance the fund.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-062 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

c) O-FY23-063: Transfer Order - CPA Transfer to Memorial Building Capital Project Fund

Town Manager noted that the Memorial Building project was over budget by \$95k, money is from the CPC.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-063 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

d) O-FY23-064: Ratification of 2% COLA Increase of Retirement Benefits

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is something that was voted on by the retirement board and each town needs to ratify it.

Councilor Linde asked what the estimated cost would be and Town Manager Dutton noted that it would be \$54K.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-064 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; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Steve Giberti, 1016 South Street: commented about drone.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Chase: Noted that the Pride flag raising was a great event, well attended.
- Councilor Murphy: Thanked all involved in the Memorial Day, Pride, Juneteenth and July 4th festivities. Looking forward to many more.
- Councilor George: No comments
- Councilor Robinson: No comments
- Councilor Perry: Thanked the committee members who were appointed tonight; Memorial Day was a great event, would love to see more residents attend. Gave condolences to David Moore on the loss of his mother.
- Councilor McKinnon: Noted that Black Hat Brew Works is holding a fundraiser on Thursday, June 8th for the July 4th event and on Saturday at the Landing there will be another fundraising event for July 4th. Also noted that it was good to see the town come together for the Oakhem family.
- Councilor Linde: Noted that it was a great Pride event, wished he could have attended but had to work. Thanked the committee members for serving.
- Councilor Moore: Noted that he will put the Charter changes on an agenda, Juneteenth Flag Raising will be on June 15th, congratulated the seniors who graduated and noted that there will be a Juneteenth celebration at the Middle School and the Council will have a table set up.

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 – Absent; McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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, June 20, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.