



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council
June 20, 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 20, 2023 in the Council Chambers

PRESENT

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

ABSENT

Susan Robinson

A moment of silence was held for United States Air Force veteran Mr. William Patrick, Jr. who passed away on June 9, 2023.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) June 6, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the June 6, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded.

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

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; George – Absent at the time of the vote; Moore – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Abstained; McKinnon – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 7-0-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT – None

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS - None

a) Historical Commission Reappointment:

Matthew Casey (2023-2026)

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Matthew Casey to the Historical Commission, which was duly seconded.

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

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

b) Open Space Reappointment:

Maureen Minasian (2023-2026)

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to reappoint Maureen Minasian to the Open Space Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

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

c) Parks and Recreation Reappointment:

Thomas Arrighi (2023-2026)

Councilor Chase made a motion to reappoint Thomas Arrighi to the Parks and Recreation Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

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

d) Planning Board Reappointments:

Raymond Ajemian (2023 - 2026)

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to reappoint Raymond Ajemian to the Planning Board, which was duly seconded.

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

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

Steven Geller (2023-2027)

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to reappoint Steven Geller to the Planning Board, which was duly seconded.

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

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

e) Tree Committee Reappointment:

Raymond Ajemian (2023-2025)

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to reappoint Raymond Ajemian to the Tree Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

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

f) Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Reappointment:

Brian Heath (2023-2026)

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to reappoint Brian Heath to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which was duly seconded.

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

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

g) Board of Assessors Reappointment:

Milton Morris (2023-2024)

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to reappoint Milton Morris to the Board of Assessors, which was duly seconded.

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

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

Ronald Barron (2023-2026)

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Ronald Barron to the Board of Assessors, which was duly seconded.

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

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

h) Board of Registrars Appointment:

Christina Porter (2023-2025)

Councilor Moore made a motion to reappoint Christina Porter to the Board of Registrars, which was duly seconded.

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

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

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2023-033: Granting of the Transfer of an All Alcohol Beverages License - Yugsmit Inc. dba Bernier's Liquors

This hearing has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website and may be voted this evening.

Council President Moore opened the hearing at 7:06pm.

Petitioner's Attorney Matthew Porter noted that this was a request to transfer the license at 905 Plymouth Street. Petitioner has a wealth of experience, owns several locations and there will be no major changes to the operation. Attorney Porter also noted that there will be a Pledge of the License with Rockland Trust.

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 – None

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

Council President Moore closed the hearing at 7:09pm.

Councilor Chase made a motion to amend the second paragraph to change the address of “233 Broad Street” to “905 Plymouth Street”. The amendment was duly seconded.

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

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

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to approve the transfer of the All Alcoholic License at 905 Plymouth Street, which was duly seconded.

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

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

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the Pledge of Inventory to Rockland Trust at 905 Plymouth Street, which was duly seconded.

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

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

PRESENTATIONS

a) Downtown Revitalization Update - Mr. Robert Rulli, Community Economic Development Director

Mr. Robert Rulli, Community Economic Development Director noted the following:

- a) The MBTA agreed the platform can be moved but they will not pay for it. Working on engineering specs.

At 7:13pm Councilor George entered the meeting.

- b) There will be a Community Workshop on 9/26
- c) New Website: bridgewatermavisiontoreality.com
- d) There will be a presentation to the BBA on 6/21 at 6pm at Barrett's
- e) Rack Cards will be going out to businesses; 9/26 save the date posters will be posted and mailers will be sent out.
- f) Using LinkedIn and CED Facebook page to push out information
- g) Video was created

Councilor Chase asked if there would be grant funding for moving the platform and Mr. Rulli noted that they will be looking into all avenues for grants.

Councilor Gallagher noted that they should not give up on state funding and asked how committed the owners of Campus Plaza are with the proposed changes. Mr. Rulli noted that at first the owners were dressing up to sell but after a few meetings they are now open to talking.

Councilor Moore asked if the platform and parking were both being moved and Mr. Rulli noted yes. Councilor Moore thanked Mr. Rulli for using metrics, thinks it is important to know data.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) High Street Bridge Closure Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the bridge did not close on 6/19 because one special permit from Marine Fisheries was not received. Closure happening on 6/26 until mid-October. The project is built around time of year restrictions.

b) Bridgewater Rain Barrel Program

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Water Department obtained a Rain Barrel Program for residents. Information will be on the website.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY22-047: Loan Order - Fire Stations

Town Manager Dutton noted that Bond Council requires 2/3 of 9 for a vote and only 5 voted on it at the prior meeting.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY22-047, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

b) Order O-FY23-060 Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 at the 6/20/23 meeting. Finance committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 6/12/23 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was an annual presentation. Has not changed much, not a commitment, projection of expenditures.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-060, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

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

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 at the 6/20/23 meeting. Finance committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 6/12/23 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this order was for end of year transfers.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-061, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

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

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 at the 6/20/23 meeting. Finance committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 6/12/23 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend.

Town Manager Dutton noted this order covers High Street Treatment Plant not covered by loans.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-062, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

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

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 6/20/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 6/12/23 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this order was for additional funding from CPA for the Memorial Building Capital Project.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-063, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

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

Budget & Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at the 6/20/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 6/12/23 meeting.

Councilor Gallagher noted that the Budget & Finance Committee voted 2-0 to recommend.

Town Manager Dutton noted that Governor Baker signed law for retirement to go up to 5%. This order is for an additional 2% for retirees. 147 retirees, approximately \$47k and does not affect budget, one-time.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-064, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Moore noted that that New Business is to introduce an item, it is not voted on until the second meeting.

a) Order O-FY23-065: Acceptance of Gift - BSU \$55,000

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was an annual gift from Bridgewater State University and they ask that it be split between Fire, Police and Highway Department.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-065 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

b) Order O-FY23-066: Contract Amendment - Town Manager

Councilor Moore noted that at a previous meeting the Town Council adjusted the Town Clerk salary to align with market conditions and this is what this Order is doing. One change is to the salary and the other is extending contract. Believe we need a multi-year commitment, allows consistent leadership. The salary is aligned with other like communities.

Councilor George made a motion to retain Order O-FY23-066 at Council level, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

COUNCIL COMMENTS – None

- Councilor Chase: Shared sentiment on Bob Rulli presentation and noted 4th of July is upon us and the committee is still looking for donations.
- Councilor Murphy: No comments
- Councilor George: Also noted 4th of July and donations are needed. Asked people to take a look at the Capital Plan, paints a picture of future discussions.
- Councilor Gallagher: Noted that the 4th of July committee works hard all year. Friday night event @ Emma's Pub, 20% of the total sales will go to the 4th of July festivities.
- Councilor Perry: Noted 4th of July donations still needed and thanked all those that were reappointed tonight.
- Councilor McKinnon: Noted that there is a Summerfest taking place on 6/24 and \$10 donation goes to Easter Seals.
- Councilor Linde: Noted that Summerfest is a great event. Alziemer's Walk went at Crispis on Wednesday at 5:00pm.
- Councilor Moore: Thanked Juneteenth Committee, event was cancelled because of weather but they worked hard to put it together. July 4th Committee needs more help.

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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:21pm.

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, July 11, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.