

Town of Bridgewater Town Council

April 18, 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, April 4, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) April 4, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the April 4, 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 – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A moment of silence was held for all veterans.

PROCLAMATIONS

a) First Responders Proclamation

Councilor McKinnon put forth a proclamation to have April 29, 2023 as First Responders Day. Council President Chase read the proclamation into the re

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

Al Lacerda, Comfort Street: noted that he appreciated the First Responders proclamation, it means a lot. Also noted that there is a First Responders event taking place on April 29, 2023 from 1pm to 6pm at Town River Landing.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Bridgewater MA Republican Town Registrar: Debbie Campbell Johnson

Councilor Wood made a motion to ratify the appointment of Debbie Campbell Johnson as Bridgewater MA Republican Town Registrar, 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 8-0-0

b) Conservation Commission: Marilyn MacDonald (2023 - 2026)

Councilor Wood made a motion to ratify the appointment of Marilyn MacDonald to the Conservation 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

c) Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging (DEIB): Sherley Phillips (2023 - 2026)

Councilor Wood made a motion to ratify the appointment of Sherley Phillips to the DEIB 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 8-0-0

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2023-028: Granting of the Transfer of a Wine and Malt Beverages License

Public Hearing: This Petition was duly advertised in the Enterprise on 4/10/23.

Councilor Chase opened the Public Hearing at 7:08pm.

The Petitioner's Attorney noted that this is the transfer of the beer and wine license for the store that is inside Roche Bros. Supermarket. There is no plan for an expansion of the area and will be open when the store is opened. The Manager of records has a vast knowledge of the ABCC.

Councilor Chase asked if there were any questions from the public – None

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in favor – None

Councilor Chase asked if there was anyone from the public that wished to speak in opposition – None

Councilor Chase asked if the Councilors had any questions – None

Councilor Chase closed the public hearing at 7:11pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the transfer of the Beer & Wine License under Petition P-2023-028, 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 8-0-0

b) Petition P-2023-029: The Granting of an Annual Entertainment License

Public Hearing and advertising are not required for Annual Entertainment Request. This Petition may be considered this evening.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the Annual Entertainment License under Petition P-2023-029, 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 8-0-0

c) Petition P-2023-030: Change of Officers/Directors/LLC - 99 Restaurant & Pub, 233 Broad Street

Public Hearing and advertising are not required for Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Manager. This Petition may be considered this evening.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the Change of Officers under Petition P-2023-030, 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 8-0-0

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Fire Station project was moving along. Wetlands completed last week.

b) High Street Bridge Closure

Town Manager Dutton noted that sign boards will be put out 30 days prior; mailings will also be sent.

Councilor Linde noted that there was increased traffic on Wall Street and was wondering what the town could do. Town Manager Dutton will look into the Wall Street issue.

c) Bristol-Plymouth Debt Exclusion Vote

Town Manager Dutton reminded everyone to vote this Saturday, April 22nd. Important question on the ballot. If the vote fails then the \$1.2M will have to be taken out of the operating budget which could mean changes in departments.

DISCUSSION – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Petition P-2023-028: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth

This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2023-028, 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 8-0-0

b) Resolution R-FY23-005: Funds Review Resolution

Budget and Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/4/23 meeting. FinCom voted 7-0 to recommend at their 3/13/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY23-005, 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 8-0-0

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY23-054: AFSCME Contractual Ratification

Town Manager Dutton noted that this would put employees more in-line with surrounding towns.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Order O-FY23-054 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

b) Ordinance D-FY23-010: Establish Stabilization Fund - Opioid Legal Settlements

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is would establish a fund to hold monies from opioid legal settlements, has restricted use.

Councilor Gallagher George made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-010 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 – Yea; McKinnon –

Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

c) Ordinance D-FY23-011: Special Purpose Stabilization Fund - Opioid Settlement
Town Manager Dutton noted that 100% would be put into the new established fund.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-011 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 – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Wood – Yea; Robinson – Absent. Motion passed 8-0-0

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

Councilor Perry noted that this ordinance pertained to regulations for wastewater.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY23-012 to Rules & Procedures, 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 8-0-0

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mr. Fitzgibbons, former Town Councilor: Recognized Council Wood at his last meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor McKinnon: Reminded residents to get out and vote. Thanked Councilor Wood for his service. Noted that on 4/29 from 9am to 12pm there is a town wide clean-up and from 1pm to 6pm there is a First Responders Event at Town River Landing.

Councilor George: Reminded residents to go out and vote and thanked Councilor Wood for his service and how it was a pleasure to serve with him.

Councilor Perry: Reminded residents to vote on Saturday and thanked Councilor Wood for his service.

Councilor Moore: Asked that Scotland Field improvement be put on the next agenda. Encouraged residents to go out and vote and thanked Councilor Wood for his service.

Councilor Chase: Thanked Councilor Wood for his service, looked at him for guidance.

Councilor Linde: Thanked Councilor Wood for his service, reminded resident to get out and vote on Saturday and donate to the 4th of July event and Juneteenth.

Councilor Gallagher: Reminder everyone to vote on Saturday, important vote. Noted that 4/29 is First Responders day from 1pm to 6pm and prior to that is the town wide clean up. Meet at Town Hall at 9am. Also thanked Councilor Wood, who has done so much for the town.

Councilor Wood: Thanked his wife for putting up with him through the years of serving on the council. Thanked everyone for their kind words. Reminded everyone to get out and vote on April 22nd and noted that the Lyons will be having their fishing derby on May 6th.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Chase noted that there was a need to move into Executive Session under: MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; and to adjourn from Executive Session.

Councilor George made a motion to move into Executive Session, 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 8-0-0

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, May 9, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.