



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

November 7, 2023

7:00 PM

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, October 24, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Erik Moore, Kevin Perry, Mark Linde and Susan Robinson (via Zoom). Also in attendance was Assistant Town Manager Kimberly Williams and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

ABSENT: Brad McKinnon

Council President Moore asked for a moment of silence for veterans who have recently passed:
Joseph J. Bianchini, Jr. October 31, 2023, United States Army.
Frederick P. White October 22, 2023, United States Army.
Joseph Picchione October 30, 2023, United States Marine Corp Reserves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

a) October 24, 2023

Councilor George made a motion to approve the October 24, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Absent at the time of the vote; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore extended his condolences to the family of Ronald Ladue who was a retired Roadway Superintendent who passed away on October 26, 2023.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2024-003: The Granting of the Transfer of a Common Victualler License - Cafe Madeleine

Councilor Moore opened the public hearing at 7:05pm.

Petitioner Andrea Savidis noted to the council that Café Madeleine will be a little café that will sell juice, smoothies, grab and go sandwiches

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the public: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor: None

Councilor Moore asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition: None

Councilor Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors: None

Councilor Moore closed the public hearing at 7:07pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-003, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Absent at the time of the vote; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

PRESENTATIONS

- a) National Grid Tree Maintenance Presentation

Joseph King, an Arborist with National Grid gave an update on tree maintenance in the town.

Councilor George asked if a resident calls with a concern and the tree is on private property what would happen? Mr. King noted that National Grid would assess and if needed would obtain approval to remove the tree. National Grid does not have a right to remove a tree without approval.

Councilor Linde asked who a resident should call to report a tree issue. Mr. King noted that the resident should call customer service so it generates a work order.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) High Street Bridge Closure Update

Assistant Town Manager Kimberly Williams noted that High Street would be open by the end of next week and the top coat would be completed in the Spring.

- b) Energy Committee Update

Councilor Moore noted that since Town Manager Dutton is not in attendance tonight that this update should be continued until the next meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to continue the Energy Committee update, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea.
Motion passed 8-0-0

DISCUSSIONS

a) Guidelines to Citizen Participation Mechanisms

Councilor Moore gave an update about residents wanting to submit a petition to the Town. There were a few questions that were asked by a group.

Councilor Gallagher noted that it is good that a mechanism is in place for residents but wondered why residents wouldn't reach out to a councilor to sponsor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

a) Order O-FY24-013: Prior Fiscal Year Bill

Budget & Finance meeting voted 3-0 to recommend at their 11/7/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/30/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-013, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea.
Motion passed 8-0-0.

b) Order O-FY24-014: Acceptance of Department of Energy Resources Green Communities Competitive Grant

Budget & Finance meeting 11/7/23 prior to the Town Council meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 10/30/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-014, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea.
Motion passed 8-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY24-015: Sewer Enterprise Fund

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-015 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0.

b) Order O-FY24-016: Transfer Order - Sewer Waste Water Treatment Facility Phase I

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-016 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Peter Linhares, 45 Maura Drive: wanted to understand why residents could not engage the town attorney.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that a listing of transmission lines could be found on the National Grid website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: reminded all that the deadline for Winter Wonderland donations was 11/11. The money is used for the lights in the common.
- Councilor Robinson: no comments
- Councilor Chase: noted that he attended the Veterans ceremony at the Senior Center and it was well received and well attended. Kudos to Emily and her staff.
- Councilor Perry: extended his condolences to the family of Ron Ladue. Noted that the Veterans Parade was on Saturday, 11/11 in East Bridgewater.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments.
- Councilor Gallagher: noted that he also attended the Veterans ceremony at the Senior Center and it was a nice event.
- Councilor George: noted that the parade is a great showing and encouraged everyone to attend.
- Councilor Moore: thanked the Town Clerk for her event on 11/4.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent; Linde – Yea. Motion

passed 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:57pm.

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, November 24, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 8-0.