



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

December 5, 2023

7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council Vice President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Shawn George, Dennis Gallagher, Kevin Perry, Mark Linde, Brad McKinnon and Susan Robinson (via Zoom). Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

ABSENT: Erik Moore

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) November 21, 2023 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the November 21, 2023 meeting minutes, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council Vice President Dennis Gallagher asked for a moment of silence for all veterans who have passed.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- 1) Ed Ivaldi, 10 Boxwood Lane: noted that at the 9/5 meeting he read 1A of the Charter and that some wanted to revert back to open meeting. Suggested a citizens survey be conducted. Would like a retail marijuana sales update at the next meeting or the first meeting in January.
- 2) James Moore, 70 Grove Street: noted that the one way barrier's on Grove Street are great but would like them to look prettier, may arrows.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

a) Order O-FY24-017: FY2024 Classification Tax Allocation - Adoption of Residential Factor

Public Hearing: Budget & Finance meeting 12/5/23. Finance Committee meeting 12/4/23. Notice was published in the

11/21/23 Enterprise.

Councilor Gallagher opened the public hearing at 7:09pm.

Shelley McCauley, Chief Assessor gave a brief update. Board of Assessors met and assessed which is required by the DOR, approved on 11/9/23. Residential factor must be adopted by the Town Council. \$12.14 estimated tax rate. Average home is \$560,826 which is up by 7.5%. Commercial value is up by 22.5%. Average bill would be approximately \$112 more.

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 Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:19pm.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-017, which was duly seconded.

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

Councilor George made a motion to take Discussions out of turn, which was duly seconded.

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

DISCUSSIONS

- a) Kelvin Bimha, CED Office, Bridgewater State University Intern
Kelvin is a BSU student from Zimbabwe who has been working in the CED Department as an intern who gave a brief presentation about working in the Department and what he has learned since coming to BSU.
- b) Vision to Reality Update: Community and Economic Development Office
Bob Rulli, CED Director gave an update on Vision to Reality. Some items that he included were:
- Officially launched Vision to Reality in June 2023.
 - There has been community engagement (website launched, resident meeting in September, email sent weekly).
 - Now until February some items that are being done include zoning amendments; form-based code adoption, design an dcost estimate for relocating the MBTA platform.
 - Need to meet MBTA requirements.

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) High Street Bridge Project Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the bridge is open but there is still a few more months of work.

b) Winter Preparations

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Town has set up 45 plow trucks which is enough to cover the town in a storm. Also noted that Bridgewater is in-line with other towns when it comes to payments.

c) Oak Street Bridge Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that in 2014 there was a car accident that closed down part of the road and made it a one-way lane over the bridge. The State has a grant program but Oak Street did not qualify. Continue to look for funding and the overlay is on the DPW list.

Councilor McKinnon noted that maybe we should keep bridge a one lane and add a sidewalk.

Councilor Perry noted that the cost seems to be doubling, can we find money within the town.

d) Rainbows End Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the EPA is funding and cleaning with input from the Town and DEP. Testing of the soil will be done in January/February and then an RFP will most likely go out by the EPA in the Spring.

e) Demolition Date of Self-Storage Facility on Perkins Street

Town Manager Dutton noted that the owner of the property has to do an environmental abatement and has not pulled a permit for demolition.

f) Town River Landing Gazebo Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that Mr. Lacerda and others have done a lot of work at Town River Landing and the idea was to put either a gazebo or pavilion there. Have reached out to Home Depot but they have not returned calls. Reached out to Amazon and also to Bristol Plymouth High School. Looking for grant funding.

g) Energy Aggregation Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that Colonial Power posted the Standard Plan document which is required to be posted for one month. It will then come before Council. It is an approximate 2 year time frame for final approval from the DPU. Will put the process on the website.

Councilor Linde asked that a mobile station update be on the next Town Council meeting.

Councilor McKinnon asked that the fire station bid, college/keolis 180 parking spots and the sale of 330 Bedford Street be added to the next agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 11/21/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 12/4/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-015, which was duly seconded.

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

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

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 11/21/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 7-0 to recommend at their 12/4/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-016, which was duly seconded.

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

c) Resolution R-FY24-003: Town Council Meeting Dates - 2024

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

Councilor George noted that the State Primary is now September 3, 2024 so we should look at changing the September 3, 2024 date.

Councilor George made a motion to continue Resolution R-FY24-003 to the next meeting, which was duly seconded.

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

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY24-018: Establish Town Manager Goals

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-018 to Strategic Planning, which was duly seconded.

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

b) Order O-FY24-019: Eminent Domain Order of Taking for Two Lot Parcel on Broad Street

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-019 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

c) Order O-FY24-020: Acceptance of Gift - Lopieke Trust

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-020 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- 1) James Moore, 70 Grove Street: First time attending Town Council meeting in person, thought it was organized, thoughtful and well run.
- 2) Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: Would like the following items on the next agenda: 1) Form based code update – what towns have adopted and why; 2) Jay Leonard Park on Cherry Street – needs TLC.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 1) Councilor Chase: Attended the lighting ceremony on the Common. Commended all involved.
- 2) Councilor Murphy: No comments
- 3) Councilor George: Christmas on the Common was well attended despite the weather; lights look amazing in the Common – great job by all. 100% in favor of taking downtown to the next level.
- 4) Councilor Robinson: Thanked Mr. Moore for his words at the lighting on the Common; appreciate Mr. Ivaldi's comments earlier and agrees it is a good idea for an update on recreational marijuana sales.
- 5) Councilor Perry: Thanked the BIA for the lights on the Common and the Lions for he displays. Thanked the BBA for Christmas on the Common. Also noted that if any residents have questions they can call or email any one of the councilors.
- 6) Councilor McKinnon: The Common looks great, noted that maybe in the future there could be individual trees from businesses placed in the common.
- 7) Councilor Linde: Winter Wonderland was a great success. Library looks amazing. Great job by everyone.
- 8) Councilor Gallagher: Thanked all for coming to the parade. Appreciate all the work that is done for Christmas in the Common and the lights.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10pm.

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, December 19, 2023, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 8-0