



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

December 19, 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, December 19, 2023 in the Council Chambers.

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

ABSENT: Fred Chase

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) December 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the December 5, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore asked for a moment of silence for all veterans who have passed.

Council President Moore thanked the DPW, Fire, Police and Town Manager's office for all of their efforts with dealing with the storm.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2024-005: The Annual Licensing of Establishments with Alcohol and Attendance Licenses

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-005, which was duly seconded.

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

b) Petition P-2024-006: The Annual Licensing of Class I, Class II and Class III Auto Dealers

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-006, which was duly seconded.

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

c) Petition P-2024-007: The Annual Licensing of a Common Carrier/Taxi Service Business

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-007, which was duly seconded.

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

d) Petition P-2024-008: The Annual Licensing of Common Victualler Establishments (Non-Alcohol)

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-008, which was duly seconded.

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

e) Petition P-2024-009: The Annual Licensing of an Antique Dealer's Business

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-009, which was duly seconded.

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

f) Petition P-2024-010: The Annual Licensing of Second Hand Gold/Pawn Shops

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-010, which was duly seconded.

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

g) Petition P-2024-011: The Annual Licensing of Lodging Houses

Councilor Moore made a motion to amend Petition P-2024-011 by changing “5” to “6”, which was duly seconded.

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

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-011 with the amendment, which was duly seconded.

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

h) Petition P-2024-012: The Annual Licensing of Automatic Amusements (in establishment without alcohol)

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-012, which was duly seconded.

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

i) Petition P-2024-013: The Granting of the Transfer of a Common Victualler License

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-013, which was duly seconded.

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

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Councilor McKinnon asked that the following items be on the next agenda: 1) Stiles & Hart Park; 2) Waste water for prison; 3) Fire station bid) and 4) Train station parking.

Councilor Linde asked that National Grid be on an agenda to update on the Monday storm and a veterans agent update be on the next agenda.

Councilor Murphy asked that a warming shelters update be on the next agenda.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Perry noted that the Downtown Revitalization committee met last week with Bob Rulli who shared the progress of Vision for Reality. They will be meeting monthly going forward.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget and Finance meeting 12/19/23. Finance Committee meeting 12/18/23.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to postpone Order O-FY24-019 to the next meeting since Finance Committee was not able to meet on 12/18/23 due to the storm. The motion was duly seconded.

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

- b) Order O-FY24-020: Acceptance of Gift - Lopiecke Trust

Budget and Finance meeting 12/19/23. Finance Committee meeting 12/18/23.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to postpone Order O-FY24-020 to the next meeting since Finance Committee was not able to meet on 12/18/23 due to the storm. The motion was duly seconded.

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

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

Councilor George made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY24-003 by changing the September 3, 2024 to September 10, 2024. The motion was duly seconded.

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

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve R-FY24-003 with the amendments, which was duly seconded.

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

- d) Resolution R-FY24-004: FY2025 Budget Resolution

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 12/5/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 7-0 at their 12/4/23 meeting.

Councilor Perry made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY24-004, which was duly seconded.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Absent; Murphy - Yea; George –

Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea.
Motion passed 8-0-0

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS - None

a) Order O-FY24-021: Contractual Buyouts

Town Manager Dutton noted that this funds sick buy back for Fire and Police retirements.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-021, which was duly seconded.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Murphy: thanked Town employees for their efforts with the storm and wished all a happy holidays.

Councilor George: thanked Town employees and asked that people be patient with the storm clean-up. Also wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Gallagher: thanked all for their efforts with the storm and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Robinson: noted that the East Bridgewater YMCA is open for a warming station and you did not need to be a member. Thanked many people who go above and beyond and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Perry: thanked staff and businesses for their support during the storm and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor McKinnon: thanked all for their help with the storm and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Linde: noted that the Library is another warming spot and wished everyone a happy holiday.

Councilor Moore: wished everyone a happy holiday and encourage people to check with their neighbors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm.

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, January 2, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted, by a Roll Call vote 9-0.