



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

January 2, 2024

7:00 PM

MEETING AGENDA

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, January 2, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

PRESENT: Erik Moore, Fred Chase, 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.

Council President Moore asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Navy Veteran Robert L. Wood who passed away on December 21st at 101 years old.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) December 19, 2023

Councilor George made a motion to approve the December 19, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Abstained; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Absent at the time of the vote; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that the Energy Aggregation plan is available for public comment on the Town website and would be there until January 17, 2024.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

a) Petition P-2024-014: The Annual Licensing of Class III Auto Dealer

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-014, which was duly seconded by Councilor George.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor George made a motion to take N. New Business out of turn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Parking Issue at Train Station

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Town received no advance notice from BSU, MBTA or Keolis about the parking issue. Reached out to MBTA and Keolis and received no information. BSU discussed leasing 130 spaces that would be clearly marked from the MBTA after the first of the year but students caught wind of this prior to winter break and thought they could park anywhere and anytime. BSU issued warnings and tickets and notified students. BSU police will monitor. If not enough spaces for MBTA riders will have a discussion with them. BSU extended apologies.

Councilor Geore asked how the MBTA can release spaces to BSU if the Town pays for them.

b) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that a low bid of \$21M was submitted but with the soft costs it would be above \$23M. Looking at closing the gap, not going back to residents for more money.

Councilor Linde asked if the money saved from coming in under on the Mitchell project could be used towards the Fire Station. Town Manager Dutton noted that money can only be used to the allocated project, cannot use any monies saved for another project.

Councilor Murphy asked what the expiration date is for the bid, does funding need to be set and why was it delayed in the beginning. Town Manager Dutton noted that the bid expires after 60 days, funding has to be in place and there was issues with the property that took time to correct.

c) Sale of 330 Bedford Street

Town Manager Dutton noted that the address is actually 333 Beford Street and the Town does not usually get advance notice on potential buyers of property in town. A potential buyer went to Building Inspector.

d) Stiles & Hart Park Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Stiles & Hart project is going out to bid and once bid is chosen work

will commence.

e) Waste Water for prison

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is waste water “to” the prison. Been in discussion with DOC and future use of their plant for some of the town’s flow. Their plant needs upgrades and they are looking for funding. Will continue to discuss with them.

f) Recreational Marijuana Sales Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that he was asked what the financial impact to the town was for recreational marijuana sales and right now it is too early to know. One of the two businesses in town have applied but have not been approved by the State yet.

Councilors asked that the following items be added to the next agenda:

Councilor McKinnon: Winter Street Drainage

Councilor George: Update on Water Street Tire Issue

Councilor Murphy: Migrant housing crisis, how does it impact Bridgewater and is there a plan in place.

Councilor Linde: Update on Veterans Agent

DISCUSSIONS

a) Town House Restoration Committee Update

Marilee Hunt gave a presentation on the Ad Hoc Town House Committee. Noted that the roof has been done. Discussed 2020 findings and recommendation for the reuse of Old Town Hall, vision and project timeline, and the needs.

Councilor Gallagher noted that efforts have come before the council and have never been denied. Believes capital plan digitization money was granted. Notes it is an important part of the Town.

Councilor Robinson thanked the committee for their work and noted that 2020 costs would be higher today and asked how it would be funded.

Councilor George noted that he supports cleaning and updating the Town House but need to figure out Central Square before long term decision on Town House is made.

Councilor Perry noted that the Downtown Revitalization Committee is currently tackling traffic and want to make the Town House the jewel of Central Square.

Councilor Moore noted that he believes that keeping the documents and the updating of the building are both important but not sure if the urgency is now vs. later. Is it inconvenient or unacceptable.

Councilor Moore would like a status of document archiving on the next agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 12/19/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 12/27/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-019, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

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

Budget and Finance voted 2-0 to recommend at their 12/19/23 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 12/27/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-020, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

c) Order O-FY24-021: Contractual Buyouts

Budget and Finance meeting 1/2/24. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 12/27/23 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-021, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004: Central Business District and Form Based Code

Bob Rulli, CED Director gave a brief update of the proposed zoning amendment. Noted that there is a special joint meeting with the Planning Board and the CEDC on January 10th and then the Town Council will hear the ordinance for approval on February 6th.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004 to Planning and Community and Economic Development, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Councilor Linde made a motion to take J. Discussions out of turn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilor Linde: wished everyone a Happy New Year

Councilor McKinnon: wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Perry: wished everyone a Happy New Year and extended his condolences to the Family of Veteran Robert Wood.

Councilor Robinson: wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that there are now 48 children that have been integrated into the schools and we need to be careful o our words because words matter.

Councilor Gallagher: noted it was a good meeting and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor George: no comments this evening.

Councilor Murphy: wished everyone a Happy New Year and thanked the Town Clerk for her presentation.

Councilor Chase: thanked the Town Clerk for her presentation, thanked all of the workers for their efforts on the recent storm and wished everyone a Happy New Year.

Councilor Moore: wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted that if anyone wanted to run for office they can look at the openings on line.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 9:03pm.

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 23, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.