



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

February 6, 2024

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 7:18pm on Tuesday, February 6, 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) January 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the January 23, 2024 meeting minutes, 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 – Abstained; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0-1

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT – None

PROCLAMATIONS -None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: spoke about ordinance.
- William Smith, Chair of Historic District Commission: spoke about email he sent and the role of HDC.
- David Moore, Chair of Historic Committee: spoke about admin code change request and dedication of bridge.
- Marilee Hunt, Austin Street: spoke again 6 stories
- Carlton Hunt, Austin street: spoke about Form Based Code.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to take L. Legislation for Action out of order, which was 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

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Veterans Agent Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that they are proposing forming a district with Raynham. Law would require the town to spend more money on a veterans agent and feel better met with service and staffing to create a district. A district is both town and all are serviced.

Councilor Gallagher noted that he is still skeptical with a district and hope there is more outreach.

Councilor Robinson asked about staffing and Town Manager Dutton noted that the State requires certain staffing and it would be one (1) full-time agent and one (1) full-time administrative assistant.

Councilor Linde noted that we should maybe have a part-time person also and asked if the other Bridgewaters were considered. Town Manager Dutton noted that they were asked but were not interested.

b) Sewer Project Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that Phase I of sewer project was half-way through and will give a once a month update to the Town Council.

c) Well Replacement Project

Town Manager Dutton noted that work is progressing on the this project and they are looking for water close to the failed well.

d) See Click Fix Stats Update

Town Manager Dutton showed a report of See Click Fix and how requests are divided by categories. Trying to get people involve in letting the Town know of any issues.

Councilor Moore asked if management response and accountability could be added. Town Manager Dutton noted that if a resident logs into the system it will notify them of where the issue is sent.

Councilor McKinnon asked that the following items be added to the February 20th meeting agenda:

- 1) Legion Field Fence.

- 2) Historical Commission meeting on the delayed demolition – what happened at the meeting.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) **Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004: Central Business District and Form Based Code**
A joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board and Community & Economic Development Committee was held on 1/10/24. The Planning Board voted on 4-1 on 1/17/24 to recommend but with suggested adjustments/edits. The Community and Economic Development Committee met on 1/31/24 and voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments. This measure has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website, therefore may be finally considered this evening.

Town Manager Dutton noted that based on Planning Board recommendations and comments heard from citizens he proposes that a clean version of the Ordinance be brought back at the 2/20 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to defer Ordinance D-FY24-004 to the February 20, 2024 meeting, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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 9-0-1

CED Director Bob Rulli gave an update on the changes to the ordinance and presented a powerpoint presentation.

Councilor Gallagher asked if the ordinance would go to the State when and if approved. Mr. Rulli noted that yes it would be sent to the State for approval and he feels comfortable the way it will be written.

Councilor Moore noted that the town wants to be in compliant and wants to revitalize downtown. Create foot traffic which would create a spark for building owners to update their properties.

- b) **Order O-FY23-059: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way - Trinity Circle**
Town Council voted and accepted Trinity Circle as a public road on August 8, 2023 provided that certain conditions were met. All of those conditions have now been met.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY23-059, 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 9-0-1

- c) **Order O-FY24-022: Acceptance of Gift**
Budget & Finance meeting on 2/6/24. Finance voted 6-0 to recommend at their 1/29/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-022, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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 9-0-1

d) **Order O-FY24-023: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation**

Budget & Finance meeting on 2/6/24. Finance voted 6-0 to recommend at their 1/29/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-023, 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 9-0-1

e) **Order O-FY24-024: Vote to Authorize the Town Council President and Town Council Vice President to Sign on Behalf of the Town of Bridgewater**

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

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-024, 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 9-0-1

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

a) **Order O-FY24-025: Acceptance of Energy Aggregation Plan**

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to retain Order O-FY24-025 at Town Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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 9-0-1

b) **Order O-FY24-026: Acceptance of Non Recurring Revenue to Capital**

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-026 to Budget & Finance and Finance committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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 9-0-1

c) **General Ordinance D-FY24-005: Amend Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Tires"**

Town Manager Dutton noted that the current ordinance allows for the storage of used tires and this would prohibit tire storage.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion refer Ordinance D-FY24-005 to Rules & Procedures, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

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 9-0-1

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: being told that cannot comment on what is on the agenda during certain meetings, would like clarification. Asked why was Vernon Street wells closed and cannot locate See Click Fix on the website.

Councilor Moore noted that for the next meeting he would like the following added to the Town Manager's Update:

- 1) How people can access See Click Fix
- 2) Vernon Street Wells Update
- 3) Commenting during Public comments at meetings.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Chase: thanked the citizens who came out or reached the councilors via email/phone.
- Councilor Linde: appreciate all who came out for the joint meeting, noted some veterans want the district and that Casa Agave has now opened.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor McKinnon: thinks 5 stories is good; gave condolences to the family in East Bridgewater that lost their home; congratulated the small businesses in town that have received media highlights (Sweet Knead, J's Flying Pizza).
- Councilor Robinson: thanked Ms. Hanson for her comments; glad to see 3 candidates step up and it's nice to see media highlights for small businesses.
- Councilor Perry: thanked the School Committee for the joint meeting; noted Casa Agave has opened and gave a shoutout to the 4th of July committee for raising money for the Lions for Christmas decorations that were stolen.
- Councilor Gallagher: noted that budgets are going to be tighter; excited about moving forward with Form Based Code; Perkins Foundary and Broad Street are real and commented that the new signs within the Town Hall are a nice addition.
- Councilor Robinson: noted that we should ask questions of the School Committee and the budget; need more clarity, what are we getting.
- Councilor Moore: thanked all for the joint meeting, hard to make decisions now.

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 9-0-1

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.

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, February 20, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.