



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

February 20, 2024

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, February 20, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

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

Absent: Erik Moore.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) February 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Murphy made a motion to approve the February 6, 2024 meeting minutes, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT – None

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Tina Larsen, 40 Amherst Ave: wanted clarification on political signs.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: commented about residents not being answered
- Jean DiBastita, 260 Lakeside Drive: would like an environmental subcommittee at Town Council level.
- John Sauvageau, 165 Pratt Town Lande: noted that the VFW post 2125 is not in agreement with district; need 2 full time agents and 1 clerical.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: commented on zoning ordinance.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

Councilor Linde made a motion to move F. Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004 to L. Legislation for Action, which was duly seconded.

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Vernon Street Well Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that the Vernon Street well was drilled and tested 10 years ago. Phase II water strategy 2026-0230; permitting with MA DEP.
- b) Commenting During Public Comments Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that if public hearing is on an agenda then public comments should only be heard for that item under the hearings public comments. If the hearings public comments are closed then comments are no longer allowed as could be used against town.
- c) Legion Field Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that the damage as Legion Field has been repaired and insurance payment received.
- d) Historical Commission - Delayed Demolition Meeting Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that there was a technology issue at a recent meeting and the item will be re-heard.

At the next Town Council Meeting the following Town Manager Updates were requested:

- 1) Councilor Gallagher: Veterans agent hiring and district update.
- 2) Councilor McKinnon: School Street Parking Lot – FY23, what was made and is it worth it.

DISCUSSIONS

- a) Fire Station OPM Update
Joe Sullivan, Project Manager for the Fire Station gave an update on the Fire Station. Noted received successful bids, finalizing contracts. It will be a building Bridgewater will be proud of. Abutter meeting taking place on 2/21/24.

Councilor Chase requested that the financials be sent to Town Council and Councilor McKinnon asked that the Town Facebook page be updated.

Town Manager Dutton noted that money was allocated to Station 2 and new station; \$23M, \$4.9M unfunded balance, applied for county AARPA funds.

b) National Grid Storm Update - Joseph Cardinal

Mr. Cardinal updated the council on how National Grid handles storms. 2-3 days before a storm they activate systems; cities/towns are notified. The January 9th storm was a type 3 event. Town Manager, Police Chief and Fire Chief notified. Tree crews, wires down crews and many more are activated. There are several substations that feed Bridgewater. Fire Chief is in constant contact with National Grid liaison. Every storm is different.

Councilor Murphy asked how the text messaging tool worked. Mr. Cardinal noted that during the last storm there was an issue with the system.

Councilor McKinnon thanked Mr. Cardinal for coming but noted that there was a big fire in Bridgewater last year and it took 40 minutes for National Grid to get there to turn off the power so there were live wires which made it very dangerous for the fire department.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

CED Director Bob Rulli noted that they consolidated comments and this document is in compliance with the MBTA request.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004 to Advertising, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

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

Strategic Planning voted 2-0 to recommend at the 2/12/24 meeting.

Councilor Perry noted that the Strategic Planning Committee met and when through the Town Managers goals and had some changes.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-018, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

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

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

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was a standard plan and that the Department of Utilities could take 2 - years to approve.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-025, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

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

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 2/20/24. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 2/12/24 meeting.

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-026, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

e) Petition P-2024-015: 2024 Presidential Primary Warrant

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-015, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-0

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: noted that she is still confused about speaking at meetings.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: noted that admin code needed to be looked at.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted employees should be trained on open meeting laws.
- Jean DiBastita, 260 Lakeside Drive: commented on public comments and noted important to seek public input.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: thanked the citizens who showed up to the meeting for commenting and also thanked National Grid for the update.

- Councilor Chase: thanked the citizens for their comments.
- Councilor McKinnon: thanked the citizens for their comments and Post 2125 for coming tonight.
- Councilor Murphy: thanked VFW who came out and hopes that the Town Manager heard them loud and clear.
- Councilor Perry: thanked all for coming and commenting tonight; great comments and feedback.
- Councilor Robinson: thanked everyone for their comments and feedback.
- Councilor Gallagher: thanked all who came tonight.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Perry made a motion to adjourn, 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 – Absent; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea.
Motion passed 8-0-0

Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm.

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, March 12, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.