



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

March 12, 2024

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, March 12, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) February 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor George made a motion to approve the February 20, 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 – Abstained; Robinson – Abstained; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0-2

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President asked for a moment of silence for Louis J. “Sonny” Cappiello Jr., a veteran who passed away on March 5th and Alan O. Warren a veteran who passed away on March 1st.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: still confused and has questions on speaking during committee meetings.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Conservation Commission: Mark Peterson – Term 2024-2025

Councilor George made a motion to approve the appointment of Mark Peterson to the Conservation Commission, 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 9-0-0

Councilor Perry made a motion to take G. License Transactions out of order, 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 9-0-0

HEARINGS

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

7:10pm Public Hearing: *Hearing notice published in the 2/27/24 and 3/12/24 Enterprise and on the Town's Website.*

Council President Moore called the public hearing to order at 7:10p.m.

CED Director Robert Rulli gave a brief presentation of the ordinance.

Council President Moore asked if anyone from the audience had any questions:

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: #9 an issue, not sure where it came from. Terminology not included, introduction not updated.
- Adelene Ellenberg, 76 Aldrich Road: agree to continue with zoning board; entitled to payment in lieu of taxes – BSU and prison. Asked that the council file a FOIA to the State for how much the town has been paid for the last 10 years for in lieu of taxes, would that offset grants.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: who is paying for train station to be moved, does not agree with 6 stores, keep Campus Plaza. Cost to town, mixed use will add to cost.
- James Candito, 37 Stetson Street: only get bits and pieces of information, has sent emails over the years and sometimes get response. Traffic is an issue. Bridgewater not a destination site.

Council President Moore asked if anyone wished to speak in favor of the Ordinance: no one spoke

Council President Moore asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition of the Ordinance: no one spoke.

Council President Moore asked if councilors had any questions:

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY24-004 to change the height from 6 stories to 5 stories. Councilor Chase seconded this motion.

Councilor Robinson noted that there was a joint meeting with CED and Planning. Then CED had a meeting. On 2/6 Pat Driscoll and Councilor Robinson met with the Town Manager and that was the version that went on the 2/26/24 agenda. 2/28/24 had an additional page, propose sticking with the

version from 2/20/24.

CED Director Rulli noted that the only difference is 9.9 and elimination of the Technical Review Committee.

Councilor Chase noted that he has heard from people who are in favor and opposed. Agree to amend to 5 story. Only 2 sites 5 stories could be.

Councilor Linde asked what Planning Board approved for height.

Councilor Linde made a motion to suspend the council rules to allow Patrick Driscoll from the Planning Board to speak. The motion 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 9-0-0.

Pat Driscoll, Chair of the Planning Board noted that the Planning Board approved 4 stories.

Councilor Robinson asked if a developer buys more land does that open more for 6 stories? Mr. Rulli noted yes but unlikely to happen.

Councilor Moore noted that foot traffic is needed in order the support businesses, need to fix the area.

A roll-call vote was taken on Councilor McKinnon's motion to amend the Ordinance and the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Abstained; George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Moore – Yea; Robinson – Abstained; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – No. Motion passed 6-1-2.

Councilor Robinson made a motion to refer the 2/20/24 version as amended tonight to Community and Economic Development Committee and Planning Board. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

Councilor George noted that when the ordinance comes back to council and if it doesn't pass, cannot revisit for two years. Also asked if moving the train platform must be done and what would the cost be. Town Manager Dutton noted that the platform did not need to be moved and there was no hard number right now for the cost of moving. He also added that if the platform were to be moved, taxpayer money would not be used.

A voice vote was taken on Councilor Robinson's motion to refer the Ordinance and 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 9-0-0.

Councilor Perry made a motion to continue the Public Hearing for Ordinance D-FY24-004 to March 26, 2024 at 7:15p.m. The motion was duly seconded by Councilor George.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2024-016: Change of Manager of an Alcohol Establishment - LFHM LLC dba The Chatta Box

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-016, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Addressing Prior Public Comment Items (*No Council Discussion*)

Town Manager Dutton noted that Council cannot engage in questions during citizens comments because of Open Meeting Laws so he is adding addressing prior public comment items to the agenda.

At the 2/20/24 meeting a question was asked regarding changing the admin code. Town Manager Dutton noted that there will be changes to the Admin Code being submitted when the new council is seated in May.

Councilor Linde asked if assistance could come from the AG office for open meeting law information. Town Manager Dutton noted that a planning session for new councilors is being drafted.

- b) Veterans Agent/District Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that they are trying to make veteran services better. Interviewed two candidates for VSO. VSO will be hired first and then he/she can assess what is needed for the second hire. The VSO will be located in both Bridgewater and Raynham. A district provides a better salary which bring better candidates.

Councilor Gallagher noted that outreach is important for veteran services.

Councilor Murphy asked what the different was between and district and town veteran services officers. Town Manager Dutton noted that with a district we can build a better services for the veterans. Raynham recently lost their VSO for a district making more money.

Councilor McKinnon asked that the following be added to the next council meeting:

1. Fire Station Update

2. 2 Fire Hydrants – 1 in front of Town Hall/1 on Old Plymouth Street
3. Stiles & Hart
4. Summer Street Path
5. Municipal Parking – how much has been made
6. Flagg Street Funding

Councilor Chase asked that the following be added to the next council meeting:

1. Status of Flagg Street: resident of Winter Street reached out to him. Heavy trucks using Winter Street because of Flagg Street truck detour.

Councilor Moore asked that the following be added to the next council meeting:

1. End of Vernon Street: bridge needs poled fixed; is it Bridgewater or Middleboro.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION – None

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY24-027: FY25 Water and Sewer Rates

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-027 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- b) Order O-FY24-028: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging – Mass Cultural Council

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-028 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- c) Order O-FY24-029: Acceptance of Grant: Community Transit Program – MassDOT
Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-029 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- d) Order O-F24-030: Acceptance of Grant: Police Department - Justice Assistance (JAG) Program

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-030 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor George.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- e) Order O-FY24-031: Acceptance of Grant: Fire Department - Department of Fire Services

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-031 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor George.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- f) Order O-FY24-032: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging - Massachusetts Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-032 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- g) Order O-FY24-033: Town Council Acceptance of Proposed License, Permit and Fee Increases Effective July 1, 2024

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-033 to Budget & Finance, Finance Committee and Community Economic Development Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- h) Order O-FY24-034: Deed In Lieu of Foreclosure - 0 Laurel Street

Order was pulled.

- i) Order O-FY24-035: Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-035 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- j) Order O-FY24-036: Town Department Capital Transfer Order

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-036 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- k) Order O-FY24-037: Transfer Order - Bridgewater Raynham School District Capital Assessment

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-037 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- l) Order O-FY24-038: Capital Transfer Order - Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-038 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

- m) Resolution R-FY24-005: Route 18 Corridor Transportation Planning Study

Councilor Perry made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY24-005 at Town Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: asked how vets would know when the office is open; did not

receive answers as to why can't speak at meetings.

- Adelene Ellenberg, 76 Aldrich Road: noted that vets agent was referred to budget committee and council signs off.
- James Candito, 37 Stetson Street: noted that putting train station at Burger King makes no sense. Is there a traffic study? Noted that fire burnt through the pavement on Stetson Street and still not fixed.
- Kevin Marshall, 780 Auburn Street: thanked the Town Manager for what is being done with Veteran Services.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Gallagher: no comments
- Councilor Robinson: noted about Form Based Code. Thanked those that showed up to the meeting.
- Councilor George: encouraged residents to look at the proposed 5 year capital plan on the website. Noted not against Form Based Code, just don't want it rushed.
- Councilor Perry: no comments
- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor McKinnon: noted that the Town Wide Clean-up is scheduled for 4/28 from 8am to 12pm, meeting at the Academy Building.
- Councilor Chase: noted that there was a lot of input tonight, better understanding of Form Based Code.
- Councilor Linde: cherish public comments, hope to have a Memorial Day celebration this year.
- Councilor Moore: excited about Form Based Code, did the right thing by referring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

A voice vote was taken and 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 9-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25pm.

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 26, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.