



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

March 26, 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 26, 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) March 12, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the March 12, 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 – Absent at the Time of the vote; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Moore led a moment of silence for all of veterans past and present.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: commented on the annual stipend ordinance, still against.
- Bill Aris: commented on stipend, against council approving future stipends.
- Bill Wood, 380 Hayward Street: creating handbook for Town Council, asked members to send ideas for the handbook.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: thanked Councilors Gallagher, Moore and George for their service. Also noted that a) send an hybrid meeting article and would like people to read; b) noted at times there is no parking at the academy building; c) asked the council to pay attention to the issues at the Nip; and d) reminded councilors to speak into their microphone because you can't hear watching on tv.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: asked about the environmental subcommittee of the Town Council that she asked be formed at the last meeting and noted the current issues with the project at the Nip.

- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: thanked the councilors and noted that she supports an environment subcommittee. Also noted how important public comments were and that she sent an email to the Council President and Town Manager and did not receive a response.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: thanked the council for putting the specialized code on the agenda and wants it to go to advertising.
- Mary McGrath, Pleasant Street: commented on an MBTA report and noted that it would be foolish to spend money to move the train station, not in favor of the FBC.
- Adelene Ellenberg, 76 Aldrich Road: noted that the stipend amount should be \$1,500 and future raises should be approved by taxpayers.

APPOINTMENTS

- a) Reappointments - S.A.V.E. Committee:
Paula Bracken (Term 2024-2026)
Lorraine Carrozza (Term 2024-2027)

Councilor George made a motion to reappoint Paula Bracken and Lorraine Carrozza to the S.A.V.E. Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

- b) Appointment - Housing Authority:
Paul Battista (Term 2024-2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to appoint Paul Battista to the Housing Authority, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

- c) Ratification of Finance Director - Laurie Guerrini

Town Manager Dutton noted that Laurie Guerrini was an ideal leader, critical piece of finance department and cares about Bridgewater and it's success and asked the Council to ratify Laurie's appointment to Finance Director.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to approve the ratification of Laurie Guerrini to Finance Director, which was duly seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

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.

- d) Ratification of Fire Chief - John Schlatz

Town Manager Dutton noted that Deputy Chief Schlatz is professional, great listener, reliable and a true leader and asked the Council to ratify John's appointment to Fire Chief for the Town of Bridgewater.

Councilor George made a motion to approve the ratification of John Schlatz to Fire Chief, which was duly seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

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.

HEARINGS

- a) Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004: Central Business District and Form Based Code
Continued Public Hearing - 7:15

Council President Moore asked if anyone in the audience wished to speak:

- Bill Wood, 380 Hayward Street: in favor of FBC; retail space requirements rule in place for a reason.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: decision process needs to be done by people who live in town.

Councilor Linde made a motion to continue Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance D-FY24-004 to the next Town Council meeting, April 9, 2024 at 7:15pm. This 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.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2024-017: Granting of the Transfer of a Beer and Wine License - HR Group Inc. dba Nick & Angelo's Pizza
7:05pm Public Hearing: Notice was in the 3/12/24 Enterprise.

Council President Moore opened the Public Hearing at 7:36pm.

Attorney Tom Truax, representing the petitioner, gave a brief update of the sale. It is a sale of assets; 10 years experience in business, owns a restaurant in Stoughton – Lucky Pizza, TIPS certified. Will stay open the same hours, building staying the same, turn key operation.

Council President Moore asked if anyone had any general questions: None

Council President Moore asked if anyone wished to speak in favor: None

Council President Moore asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition: None

Council President Moore asked if there were any questions from the Councilors: None

Council President Moore closed the Public Hearing at 7:39p.m.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-017, 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 N. New Business out of order. This 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.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY24-039: Deed In Lieu of Foreclosure - 0 Laurel Street

Councilor George made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-039 to Budget & Finance and FinCom, 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.

b) General Ordinance D-FY24-006: Amend General Ordinances Relative to the Veterans Department

Councilor Moore noted that this is needed to be voted on to create a district.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer to Rules & Procedures, 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 George asked if it would be proper to create a veterans group in Rules? Attorney Rawlins noted that he believes it is a separate matter, only amendment being made is changing to a District.

Councilor Linde made a motion to be added as a co-sponsor to General Ordinance D-FY24-006, 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 Robinson asked what would happen if this was not recommended. Town Manager Dutton noted that we would go our separate ways and each town would hire their own Veterans Agent.

Councilor George noted that he is not against a district, issue is with the hiring. Regulation says 1 full-time

VSO, 1 part-time VSO and 1 admin, but Veteran Services says don't need part-time.

Town Manager Dutton noted that the intent is to fully staff.

A voice vote was taken on the motion to refer to Rules & Procedures 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-

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Town Manager Dutton answered two questions from residents that were asked at the last Town Council meeting:

- 1) Public Comment: putting together clarity for the residents to understand
- 2) Stetson Street Burnt Pavement Issue: DPW will be fixing the pavement issue this Spring.

b) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the steel will be put up in the Fall, there is an urgency to get the building up prior to Winter. M.L. Connor was the winning bid.

c) Fire Hydrant Issue

Town Manager Dutton noted that an assessment of all fire hydrants is being done. Central Square and Old Plymouth Street hydrants have been fixed. Noted that the DPW and Fire work closely together on any hydrant issues.

d) Stiles & Hart Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the contract for construction was being signed by Attorney Rawlings tonight. Winning bid is \$795K and received a grant of \$480K. Construction will begin shortly.

e) Municipal Parking Lot Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that approximately \$100k has been collection over the past 4 years and the parking fees are critical to the Central Square study.

Councilor McKinnon asked about paving and Town Manager Dutton noted that DPW is looking into that.

Councilor George would like to know the amount received for parking tickets for that lot.

f) Flagg Street Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that trucks are being rerouted to Winter Street from Flagg Street. Will be rerouting again to the short section of Conant Street to Flagg Street. Town Manager Dutton also noted that the Town informed the State about the light issue at Winter and Bedford Streets.

Councilor Chase asked if there was a realistic window of when work will begin. Town Manager Dutton noted that there is some funding so early summer drainage replacement. Once done, no need for a detour.

Councilor Chase noted that the resident concern about the light is the timing. Seems the light favors Route 178 and shorten for Winter Street. Town Manager Dutton noted he will let the State know this.

g) Old State Farm Trail Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that this property is run by Natural Resources Trust which is a volunteer committee. DOC granted the town an easement on their property but the town had to pay for firm. CPC funds was used to pay for the firm and that is almost complete. The volunteer group is plowing ahead for State funds to construct the trail.

h) Vernon Street Bridge Issue Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that DPW reached out to Middleboro and learned that MassDOT is in the design process of replacing the bridge, 2 – 3 year process. State has open work ticket to repair the railings and the sign has been ordered.

Councilor George would like the following items on the Next Agenda:

- 1) Update on who owns the property on Water Street with the tires and the next steps.
- 2) Suggests we get a copy of the DCO report that shows the facilities that are closing. Is one of them Bridgewater State Hospital?

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to vote a) through e) together, 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.

Councilor George made a motion to approve a) through e) 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.

b) Order O-FY24-029: Acceptance of Grant: Community Transit Program - MassDOT

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their

3/18/24 meeting.

Approved as above.

- c) Order O-F24-030: Acceptance of Grant: Police Department - Justice Assistance (JAG) Program
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Approved as above.

- d) Order O-FY24-031: Acceptance of Grant: Fire Department - Department of Fire Services
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Approved as above.

- e) Order O-FY24-032: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging - Massachusetts Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Approved as above.

- f) Order O-FY24-036: Town Department Capital Transfer Order
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-036, 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.

- g) Order O-FY24-037: Transfer Order - Bridgewater Raynham School District Capital Assessment
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-037, which was duly seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

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.

- h) Order O-FY24-038: Capital Transfer Order - Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 3/19/24 meeting. FinCom voted 6-0 to recommend at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-038, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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.

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

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

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY24-005, which was duly seconded by Councilor Gallagher.

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.

j) Petition P-2024-018: 2024 Annual Town Election Warrant

It is required that the Town Council accepts and approves as a matter of record.

Councilor George made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-018, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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.

k) Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY24-003: Chapter 7.7 - Specialized Energy Code

Community and Economic Development voted 1-1-1 to recommend at their 1/31/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY24-003, 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.

l) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

Rules & Procedures vote 3-0 to recommend with amendments at their 3/18/24 meeting.

Councilor George made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008 back to Rules & Procedures, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

Councilor George noted that they heard residents with issues on how future raises are done and would like the Ordinance to go back Rules for further review.

Councilor Chase noted that this Ordinance has been discussed for many months and the highlighted text on the attachment was adopted by Rules during their last meeting. As to the request from a resident for a citizen body, out Charter makes no provision for that, it would be a charter change to add that. An Ordinance for an increase would require a public hearing so residents would have a say.

Councilor Perry noted that the amount choses was based on what other towns receive.

Councilor George withdrew his motion.

Councilor Gallagher made a motion to refer Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008 to Advertising, 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.

OLD BUSINESS – None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Bill Wood, 380 Hayward Street: thanked everyone on the Stiles & Hart Park.
- Kevin Marshall, Auburn Street: noted that he is in favor of a veterans district.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: public does not know how things work and views of the candidates are not on a town spot.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: noted that there is a candidates forum on BTV on 3/28 and 4/3.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Gallagher: thanked those that were reappointed and appointed and congratulations to Laurie and John on their appointments.
- Councilor Robinson: no comments
- Councilor George: in favor of remote participation but proceed with caution. Technology not the best; potential to miss someone. State needs to deliver guidance.
- Councilor Perry: congratulated those who were reappointed and appointed and special congratulations to Laurie and John.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor McKinnon: no comments
- Councilor Chase: echo congratulations to Laurie and John and thanked the citizens who stepped forward tonight.
- Councilor Linde: congratulations to all and noted that there is a Conservation meeting this Thursday that people should attend.
- Councilor Moore: congratulated Laurie and John for their appointments. Apologized to the resident for not responding to her email. Trying to keep information out there and welcome feedback from residents on how to. Noted open meeting law dictates what we can and cannot do so not trying to ignore residents, just making sure.

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 8:57pm.

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, April 9, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.