



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

May 7, 2024
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt swore in the newly elected councilors: Mary McGrath, Adelene Ellenberg and Sonya Striggles.

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Councilor Kevin Perry called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:03pm on Tuesday, May 7, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Mary McGrath, Sonya Striggles, Susan Robinson, Kevin Perry, Brad McKinnon, Mark Linde and Adelene Ellenberg. Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) April 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the April 23, 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; McGrath – Abstained; Striggles – Abstained; Ellenberg – Abstained; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 6-0-3.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

a) Reorganization of the Council: Elect President and Vice President

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt asked for nominations for President of the Council.

Councilor Chase nominated Councilor Perry which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.

Councilor McKinnon nominated Councilor Linde which was seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

A voice vote was taken and the results were as follows:

Councilor Chase voted for Perry

Councilor Perry voted for Perry

Councilor Murphy voted for Perry

Councilor Striggles voted for Perry
Councilor Robinson voted for Perry
Councilor McKinnon voted for Linde
Councilor Ellenberg voted for Linde
Councilor McGrath voted for Linde
Councilor Linde voted for Linde

With a vote of 5-4, Council Perry is the new Town Council President.

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt then asked for nominations for Vice President:

Councilor Chase nominated Councilor Murphy which was seconded by Councilor Robinson.

Councilor Ellenberg nominated Councilor Linde which was seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken and the results were as follows:

Councilor Chase voted for Murphy
Councilor Perry voted for Murphy
Councilor Murphy voted for Murphy
Councilor Striggles voted for Murphy
Councilor Robinson voted for Murphy
Councilor McKinnon voted for Linde
Councilor Ellenberg voted for Linde
Councilor McGrath voted for Linde
Councilor Linde voted for Linde

With a vote of 5-4, Council Murphy is the new Town Council Vice President.

b) Reorganization of Council Seats

Town Clerk Marilee Hunt had each councilor pick a card for seat assignment. The following is the seat assignment:

McKinnon, Robinson, Ellenberg, Murphy, Perry, Linde, Chase, Striggles and McGrath.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Tim Fitzgibbons, 238 South Drive: congratulated the newly elected councilors, Vice President President. Also noted that Ms. King from the school committee was in attendance and asked that the rules be suspended so she can speak if needed during the budget hearing.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to suspend the rules to allow Ms. King to speak, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

- Ed Ivaldi, 10 Boxwood Lane: congratulated the newly elected councilors and made suggestions on how they can better interact with the residents. Also commented in regards to the State of the Union and asked a few questions.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: congratulated the newly elected councilors and asked about CBDS, waiting on an answer.
- Rebecca Fleisch-Cordeiro, 135 Deerfield Drive: congratulated the newly elected councilors and spoke about the Juneteenth flag. Invited all to the event taking place on June 22nd from 1pm to 6pm at BSU.
- Kevin Buohl, 10 Fieldcrest Drive: spoke about the Pride and Juneteenth flags and noted that the July 4th festivities fundraising has begun. \$50k is needed.
- Raymond Ajemian, 221 Aldrich Road: spoke about the Juneteenth flag raising.

APPOINTMENTS – None

Town Manager Dutton introduced Greg Martin, Veterans Agent who presented a presentation to the Council and residents of the veterans who have passed away since September of 2023. A moment of silence was then held.

HEARINGS

a) Budget Order O-FY25-001: FY2025 Annual Town Budget

This hearing has been duly advertised in the Enterprise and on the Town's website. All orders relative to the FY2025 budget may be finally voted this evening and are itemized under L: Legislation for Action. Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Council President Perry opened the Public Hearing at 7:31pm.

Town Manager Dutton noted that the FY2025 budget was a challenging budget; reduction in fees and state aid. No major staffing changes. School Department is 50% of the total budget.

Council President Perry asked if there were any general questions from the Public:

- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: spoke on behalf of the energy committee and asked about \$150k.

Council President Perry asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor: no one spoke.

Council President Perry asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition: no one spoke.

Council President Perry asked if any Councilors had any questions:

- Councilor Ellenberg asked how many employees were in the Town Manager's office and Town Manager Dutton noted that there are 4 employees.

Council President Perry closed the Public Hearing at 7:41pm.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-001, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Addressing Prior Public Comment Items (*No Council Discussion*)
Town Manager Dutton noted that there were no questions asked at the last council meeting to be answered.
- b) Spring Street: Gazebo Engineer, Clean-up and Re-pavement Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that the town is looking in a gazebo at Town River Landing and that Bristol Plymouth High School has put it on the Fall list. DPW is working with an architect to create a plan. DPW also did some cleaning and paving will e done when other roads are done.
- c) Tire Pile Issue Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that they are not sure whose property the tire dump issue is located on and a site visit will be conducted with BSU and the Town.

Councilor Ellenberg asked about the cost to the Town for this clean-up and Town Manager Dutton noted that there would be no cost to the Town because it is not Town owned property.
- d) Signage Issues around Town
Town Manager Dutton noted that Hayward and Hale Street sign issues have been replaced and they are working on the speed limit sign on Route 104.
- e) Winter Street Paving Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that it is not a simple paving job on Winter Street. 5 electric poles need to be relocated and drainage replaced. Will take about 6 to 8 months and on National Grid list for pole relocation.
- f) Flagg Street at Conant Street Intersection Paving
Town Manager Dutton noted that because of the sink holes looking to start the drainage on Flagg Street as soon as possible. Then replacing road. Truck traffic can resume on Flagg once drainage is done.
- g) Fire Hydrant Status Update
Town Manager Dutto noted that there are 7 fire hydrants out of service. 1 was because of an accident; 1 is leaking and 5 are being replaced. There is a total of 10,500 hydrants in Town.
- h) Fire Station Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that they are waiting on a permit from the Army Corp and once that is received work can start. Walls should be up before winter.

Councilor McKinnon asked that the following items be added to the next agenda:

- 1) Grove Street: jersey barriers, can this be changed. Accidents still happening.

- 2) Spring Street at Broad Street: Can the “no turn on red” be changed?

Councilor Murphy asked that the following item be added to the next agenda:

- 1) Stiles & Hart Update

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Budget Order O-FY25-002: FY2025 Water Enterprise Fund Budget

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is the same service levels as last year.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-002, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

- b) Budget Order O-FY25-003: FY25 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton again noted that this is the same service levels as last year.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-003, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- c) Budget Order O-FY25-004: FY25 Transfer Station Enterprise Fund Budget

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Transfer Station has volatility in trash and recycling. Paying more money to get rid of recyclables.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-004, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

d) Budget Order O-FY25-005: Authorization of Revolving Funds

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is approved on an annual basis, set up to cover expenses without having to come to Town Council for a transfer. Limits set by Town Council.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-005, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

e) Order O-FY25-006: CPA Reserve Accounts - FY2025

Budget & Finance voted 3-0 to recommend at their 4/16/24 meeting. Finance Committee voted 6-0 to recommend at their 4/29/24 meeting.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Budget Order O-FY25-006, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

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

f) Petition P-2024-021: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth

This measure was not referred to any committee. 14 days has elapsed, therefore this measure may be voted this evening.

Councilor Linde made a motion to take f) Petition P-2024-021 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; McGrath – Yea; Striggles – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 9-0-0.

Councilor Chase noted that he was grateful for the support for this Petition from the Council and the residents.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-021, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy - Yea; McGrath – Yea; Striggles – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Robinson – Yea; Perry – Yea; McKinnon – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion

passed 9-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Laurene Powers, 41 Sunrise Drive: thanked the council for approving the Pride and Juneteenth flags.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: suggested that the Pride and Juneteenth flags be done automatically every year.
- Rebecca Fleisch-Cordeiro, 135 Deerfield Drive: thanked the council for approving the Juneteenth flag.
- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: thanked the council for their support of the CPC and asked new Councilors to come to a meeting to see how the process works. Also noted that they created policies and procedures and posted to the website.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Chase: congratulated and welcomed the new Town Councilors.
- Councilor Murphy: congratulated and welcomed the new Town Councilors and thanked those that attended the meeting tonight.
- Councilor Linde: congratulated and welcomed the new Town Councilors and elected President and Vice President. Thanked Marilee Hunt for her service.
- Councilor McKinnon: welcomed the new Town Councilors and thanked those that showed up for First Responders Day. Thanked Councilors Perry and Linde for helping with the Town Wide Clean up day.
- Councilor McGrath: thanked all that voted for her.
- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked all those that voted for her.
- Councilor Striggles: thanked all that voted for her and noted that there are now 4 strong women on the council.
- Councilor Robinson: thanked the newly elected councilors and thanked the residents for coming to the meeting.
- Councilor Perry: thanked the newly elected councilors and the residents for participating this evening.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:32p.m.

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, May 21, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.