



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

May 21, 2024
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Kevin Perry called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, 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) May 7, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the May 7, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea;

Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Perry introduced Greg Martin, Veterans Agent.

Mr. Martin thanked the volunteers who helped place 1,500 flags at the cemeteries and also thanked the Boy Scouts for placing the flags around the Common. Mr. Martin also gave details about Memorial Day. There will be wreath laying at all of the cemeteries starting at 8am at Mount Prospect Cemetery. Then a parade beginning on Perkins Avenue to Broad Street at 10:30am. There will then be a service in front of the War Memorial in the Common.

PROCLAMATIONS

a) Dementia Friendly Community

Council President Perry read the Dementia Friendly proclamation into the record.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Rosemary Anderson, 25 High Pond Drive: concerned with Zoom meetings, what/how can Council change that.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: spoke about town meetings and open discussion format. Also spoke about Claremont property.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: concerned about Claremont and 96 Main Street. Spoke about CBDS

zoning and wanting it on an agenda.

- Dennis Gallagher, 160 South Drive: spoke about ARPA award presentation.

Councilor Linde made a motion to take H. Presentation out of order, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Yea; Robinson – Absent at the time of the vote; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0.

APPOINTMENTS - None

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- a) Petition P-2024-022: Granting of the Transfer of a Wine and Malt Beverages License - Bridgewater0414 Corporation dba 7-Eleven

Council President Perry opened the Public Hearing at 7:30pm.

Council President Perry asked if there were any questions from the residents – no questions were asked.

Council President Perry asked if there was anyone in favor of the request – none.

Council President Perry asked if there was anyone in opposition of the request – none.

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

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-022, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

- b) Petition P-2024-023: The Granting of an Annual Entertainment License - Casa Agave

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-023, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

- c) Petition P-2024-024: The Granting of One Day Entertainment Permits - Fire For Effect Foundation Inc.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-024, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- d) Petition P-2024-025: The Granting of One Day Entertainment Permits - Portuguese Holy Ghost Society of Bridgewater

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2024-025, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

PRESENTATIONS

- a) ARPA Award Check Presentation - Plymouth County Commissioners and Plymouth County Treasurer Plymouth County Commissioner Chair Jared Valanzola and Commissioner Sandra Wright presented the Town Council with the award to Bridgewater for the new Fire Station Project of \$4,962,614.62.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Addressing Prior Public Comment Items (*No Council Discussion*)
Town Manager Dutton gave an update on the State of the Union ad CBDS questions asked at a prior meeting. Town Manager Dutton noted that CBDS could be added to an agenda.
- b) Grove Street Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that the one way was reversed on Grove Street due to a MA DOT safety audit. Police Chief notes that traffic is safer but will be looked at again.
- c) Spring Street @ Broad Street - No Turn on Red Sign
Town Manager Dutton noted that the MBTA controls what can be done at this location and also noted that there are bad sight lines there.
- d) Stiles & Hart Update
Town Manager Dutton noted that they are clearing 2 areas for parking; timeline is about 4 months.

Councilor Linde suggested that the list of questions being answered under a) could be added to the agenda.

Councilor McGrath asked that a Conservation Committee update be added to an agenda. Also asked if Agriculture Committee was still active, if not, she would like to sponsor.

Councilor Murphy would like the Town Charters questions and the Zoom questions answered on the next agenda.

Councilor McKinnon would like a Parthenon Frieze update and Fire Station updated added to the next agenda.

Councilor Ellenberg would like reports from Committees and have them come to meetings to provide summary.

Councilor Striggles would like an update on the paving at Old Scotland Links, will golf course be open? Traffic?

Councilor Linde asked if the storage room could become a council office with a desk.

DISCUSSIONS

- a) Saving Bridgewater's Main Street - Councilor Ellenberg
Councilor Ellenberg wants to preserve Main Street; a Business Improvement District (BID) can be started by

Council. Would like further information.

Councilor Robinson asked if the property is financially viable. Councilor Ellenberg noted that a Doctor or dentist office, there are grants available. Wants town to apply for historic and BID.

Council President Perry noted that Town Manager and Bob Rulli, CED Director will get more information for the council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY24-041: Town Clerk's Salary
Town Manager Dutton noted that this sets the Town Clerk's Salary

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-041 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- b) Order O-FY24-042: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriation Items
Town Manager Dutto noted this is the second annual capital.

Councilor Chase made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-042 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- c) Order O-FY24-043: Employee Liability Transfers - Contractual Payments
Town Manager noted that this is unused sick time payout from prior collective bargaining.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-043 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

- d) Order O-FY24-044: End of Year Transfers
Town Manager noted that this is funds being transferred from funds not used to funds needed.

Councilor Chase made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-044 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

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

- e) Order O-FY24-045: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging - Massachusetts Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
Town Manager Dutton noted that this is a grant that was received by Elder Services for Dementia Friendly Space.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-045 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- f) Order O-FY24-046: Transfer Order - Rebinding of Death Records Book
Town Manager Dutton noted that this was requested and recommended by the CPC for the restoration of death record books.

Councilor Chase made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-046 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee , which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: asked about council training; State of the Town – why not done in January; what happens if there is a violation of the Charter and where are all the other charter recommendations.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: asked that CBDS be put on an agenda; asked what a unit is and encouraged people to attend Memorial Day ceremonies.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: welcomed new councilors; asked about the new committee she suggested a few meetings ago; suggested new committee listings be made public; rules around when someone needs to withdraw (ie. Mullen Rule) and documents on the website, may have format issues.
- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: commented on recusal of Town boards; public comment periods during meetings and residents being updated on large projects coming in front of the boards.
- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: noted there is a volunteer handbook and concerned about the Summer program being cancelled.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: agrees about Charter, look into.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Council McGrath: noted that she volunteered on Saturday to place flags for Memorial Day.
- Councilor Striggles: thanked everyone for the warm welcome and thanked Town Manager for High Street dedication.
- Councilor Chase: noted that the dedication of the High Street dam was a great event.
- Councilor Linde: noted that the High Street dam was a wonderful event, good to see Keating.
- Councilor Murphy: noted that the school education program held a great touch-a-truck event at the school on Saturday.

- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked residents for coming to the meeting.
- Councilor Robinson: thanked residents for coming and that grace and understanding should be given to new councilors.
- Councilor McKinnon: None
- Councilor Perry: noted that the High Street dam dedication was a great event and noted that it would be good to have all of the councilors at the Memorial Day parade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Chase made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson .

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

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, June 4, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.