



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

June 4, 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, June 4, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Mary McGrath, Susan Robinson, Kevin Perry, Mark Linde, Adelene Ellenberg and Sonya Striggles.

Absent: Brad McKinnon

Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

A moment of silence was held for Charles E. Murphy, a US Army veteran who passed away on May 5, 2024.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) May 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Linde made a motion to amend the names in the May 21, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

Councilor Linde made a motion approve the May 21, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Absent; Robinson – Yea; 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 noted that Council Training is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25th at 7:00p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: spoke about charter ordinances and suggested a Charter Compliance

Committee be formed. Also asked about retail businesses in residential zones.

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that she was glad to see Memorial Day parade back but questioned why the BR Band did not march.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Veterans Council:

Frederick Timmerman (2024 - 2027)
Paul La Porte (2024 - 2026)
Mary Bogle (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to appoint Frederick Timmerman, Paul La Porte and Mary Bogle to the Veterans Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

b) Cultural Council:

Joyce Pitta (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Chase made a motion to appoint Joyce Pitta to the Cultural Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

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

c) D.E.I.B. Committee:

Stephanie Simeon (2024 - 2025)

Councilor Robinson made a motion to appoint Stephanie Simeon to the D.E.I.B. Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: McKinnon – Absent; Robinson – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 7-1-0.

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

1) Charter Review Ordinances

Town Manager Dutton noted that there was a total of 11 recommendations made by the Charter Review Committee and 5 were returned to Council by Rules for discussion and approval.

2) Zoom Meetings

Town Manager Dutton noted that Zoom is frustrating but here to stay. Many volunteers on committees can

only commit to Zoom meetings. Some committees have asked to meet in-person which requires the meeting to be recorded. Hybrid cannot be done until better technology and more staffing.

3) Public Comments at Meetings

Town Manager Dutton noted that public comments during committee meetings are followed by Roberts Rules. Want to prevent potential lawsuits.

b) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the project is moving along, first phase permit all set.

c) Parthenon Frieze Restoration Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Friezes have been restored to original condition and are being stored for \$200 per month. In order to hang, structural work must be done which means cannot use the front door. Looking at Fall months for this work to be completed.

d) Olde Scotland Links Paving Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the paving is almost complete. No impact to golfing and have heard no complaints.

Councilor Linde would like an update on the Broad Street Project at the next meeting.

Councilor McGrath would like an update on why summer program was cancelled and why no rec. center in town.

Councilor Murphy would like a Veterans District update.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

Items under Legislation for Action could not be voted on due to Finance Committee not meeting on June 3, 2024. All Orders will be on the June 18, 2024 meeting.

a) Order O-FY24-041: Town Clerk's Salary

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

b) Order O-FY24-042: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriation Items

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

c) Order O-FY24-043: Employee Liability Transfers - Contractual Payments

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

d) Order O-FY24-044: End of Year Transfers

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

e) Order O-FY24-045: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging - Massachusetts Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

f) Order O-FY24-046: Transfer Order - Rebinding of Death Records Book

Budget & Finance Committee meeting 6/4/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/3/24.

OLD BUSINESS -None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Ordinance D-FY24-007: Proposed Amendment to Ordinance Part II - Administrative Code: Chapter 1, Article II, Section 1
Councilor Chase noted that this ordinance would impact Planning Board, Board of Appeals and Conservation Commission.

Councilor Robinson made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY24-007, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- b) Order O-FY24-047: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Timber Lane
Councilor Chase noted that the developer has come before the council for the next 3 Orders.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-047 to Planning Board, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- c) Order O-FY24-048: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Oldfield Road

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-048 to Planning Board, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

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

- d) Order O-FY24-049: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way – Erbeck Circle Ext.

Councilor Robinson made a motion to refer Order O-FY24-049 to Planning Board, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: noted about State of the Town not happening in January and what happens when violation of the Charter.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that public comments definition should be noted on the agenda.
- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: asked for a Summer Recreation program update.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Robinson: thanked the volunteers who were ratified.
- Councilor Ellenberg: would like the status of the State and Bridgewater talk on water/sewer.
- Councilor Murphy: thanked BCCR for the flag raising event. Looking forward to Juneteenth.

- Councilor Linde: noted that Councilor Murphy did a great job representing the Council at the Flag raising.
- Councilor Chase: noted that Memorial Day was well attended and organized. Thanked the new Veterans agent. Also noted that the Pride flag raising was a great event.
- Councilor Striggles: thanked those that spoke and commend the Town and DEI.
- Councilor McGrath: congratulated the seniors who graduated from BRHS. Also noted that the Senior Center is in need of an expansion.
- Councilor Perry: congratulated students on graduation. Congratulated the veterans agent on a successful Memorial Day.

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 – Absent; Robinson – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm.

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 18, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.