



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

June 18, 2024

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chamber - Second Floor

The Town Council meeting is also aired via Facebook Live:

<https://www.facebook.com/bridgewaterma.org>

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 18, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) June 4, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the June 4, 2024 meeting minutes, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Council President Perry asked for a moment of silence for Robert LeClair a US Marine Corp Veteran who passed away on May 25th and William Owens, a US Army Veteran who passed away on June 10th.

PROCLAMATIONS

a) Margaret Wielhouwer Proclamation

Council President Perry read the proclamation into the record.

b) Quock Walker Proclamation

Councilor Chase read the proclamation into the record and extended thanks to the BCCR.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Beryl Domingo, 36 Saddle Drive: thanked the council for the Juneteenth Proclamation and the raising

of the flag.

- Ray Ajemian, 221 Aldrich Road: thanked Councilor Chase for the Quock Walker proclamation and noted that the Town was awarded as a 10 year Tree City.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: discussed the Juneteenth Proclamation and flag and noted that the DEI Committee is not at 2 people and would like to see more step up.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that the Nip is important; wants to know why band does not perform in town parades; wants council to work on charter changes and should not have 5 stories.

Councilor Linde made a motion to take (H) Presentations, out of order. This 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.

APPOINTMENTS

- a) Appointment - Veterans Council:
Kate Anderson (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the appointment of Kate Anderson to the Veterans Council 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) Reappointment - Board of Health:
Guillaume Dougados (2024 - 2027)

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Guillaume Dougados to the Board of Health, 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.

- c) Reappointment - Conservation Committee:
Wendy Smith (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the appointment of Wendy Smith to the Conservation Committee, 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.

- d) Reappointment - Cultural Council:
Nora Tarr (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Nora Tarr to the Cultural Council, 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.

- e) Reappointment - Disability Commission:
David Frim (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the re-appointment of David Frim to the Disability 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 – No; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-1-0.

- f) Reappointments - Elder Affairs Commission:
Nick Bagas (2024 - 2026)
Gloria Lemieux (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Nick Bagas and Gloria Lemieux to the Elder Affairs Commission, 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.

- g) Reappointment - Historical Commission:
Geoffrey Merriman (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Geoffrey Merriman to the Historical Commission, 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.

- h) Reappointment - Open Space Committee:
Maureen Minasian (2024 - 2026)

Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to approve the re-appointment of Maureen Minasian to the Open Space 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.

- i) Reappointment - Transportation Committee:

James Creed (2024 - 2027)

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the re-appointment of James Creed to the Transportation Committee, 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.

HEARINGS

- a) General Ordinance D-FY24-005: Amend Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Tires"
Public Hearing: Noticed in the 6/6/24 Enterprise. Rules & Procedures voted 3-0 to Recommend at their 3/18/24 Meeting.

Councilor Perry opened the Public Hearing at 8:11p.m.

Councilor McKinnon who is the sponsor of the Ordinance, noted that he is just trying to prevent future tire dumps. Current order allows, this will also make current dumps to have to clean.

Councilor Perry asked if there were any general questions from the public – None.

Councilor Perry asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in favor – None.

Councilor Perry asked if there was anyone that wished to speak in opposition – None.

Councilor Perry asked if there were any councilors that had any questions – None.

Councilor Perry closed the Public Hearing at 8:13p.m.

Councilor Robinson made a motion to approve the General Ordinance D-FY24-005, 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.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

- a) Vision to Reality Update - Bob Rulli, CED Director
CED Director Bob Rulli gave an update on Vision 2 Reality. Focused on objectives. Taping on BTV instead of newsletter, encouraged people to watch video. RFQ for Central Square Road and Pedestrian Improvements was sent out, 3 received.

Pasquale Property: highest land sale in many years. Bowling alley into a restaurant, mixed use on Broad Street. Nothing has been filed yet.

96 Main Street: noted that this project could be done before FBC zoning was passed. It has been on the market for over 600 days, beyond repair. Lenders will not lend for this property.

Perkins Foundry: approved by Planning. They have redone original plan. Was in front of Planning Board or 3 years. Costs were \$1M a year in delay costs.

Competitive Grants: 2 in DIF for approx.. \$100k. \$1.8M Wells Replacement for #5 and #9.

BID are to improve a specific commercial area and Central Square is no where near being a BID. Town cannot buy a piece of property.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

1) Bridgewater Raynham High School Band - Memorial Day Parade

Town Manager Dutton noted that he spoke with Veteran's Agent Greg Martin and was informed that the reason the marching band was not in the parade was because of timing and nothing to do with funding.

2) Summer Recreation Program Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Summer Program was phased out from Parks & Recreation but the school was offering the same program with better opportunities and buildings. The program was shrinking in numbers, had no indoor space, no bathroom facilities and the Town has had to subsidize the program. This decision was based on the best interest of the entire town.

3) Charter Violations - What Happens

Town Manager Dutton noted that if a resident feels there are charter violations, then they can file a lawsuit, vote people out of office and start a recall.

b) Fire Station Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that the work started yesterday and everything is moving along.

c) Update on Businesses in Residential Areas in Town

Town Manager Dutton noted that he spoke with the Building Inspector and he is not aware of any complaints. If there are some areas in town with businesses in residential areas it could be that it pre-dated zoning or they have a home business. Noted that if someone feels that there is a business in a residential area they should file a complaint.

d) Veterans District Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that Raynham decided to hire their own Veteran's officer. Will proposed better amendments to the admin code.

Councilor McKinnon asked that the following items be added to the next agenda: 1) Stiles & Hart Update; and 2) Status of Perkins Self Storage.

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this sets the Town Clerk's salary. Only position that is set by the Council.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-041, 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) Order O-FY24-042: Transfer Order - Capital Appropriation Items
Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that there are 2 capitals order a year.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-042, 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.

- c) Order O-FY24-043: Employee Liability Transfers - Contractual Payments
Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is for past contract sick time payout.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-043, 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
Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is done at the end of every year, transfers are done from one department to another to balance the budget.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-044, 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.

- e) Order O-FY24-045: Acceptance of Grant: Council on Aging - Massachusetts Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)
Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this is the second grant for dementia help at the Senior Center.

Councilor Robinson made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-045, 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.

- f) Order O-FY24-046: Transfer Order - Rebinding of Death Records Book
Budget & Finance meeting 6/18/24. Finance Committee meeting 6/17/24.

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was CPC funding for the rebinding of some of the older books.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY24-04, 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.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Ray Ajemian, 221 Aldrich Road: thanked Councilor Chase for his proclamation.
- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: spoke about the summer program and requested a cost analysis for the last 5 years and who made the decision.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: noted that MBTA not a done deal, needs to be investigated further. Central Square improvements, residents don't get a say. Where does the golf money go.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McGrath: congratulated the 8th grade class for their moving on ceremony.
- Councilor Striggles: happy Juneteenth tomorrow. 1-6pm on Saturday for Freedom Day at BSU.
- Councilor Chase: noted that the Juneteenth flag raising was a great event. Wished everyone a Happy 4th.
- Councilor Linde: also noted that the Juneteenth flag raising was a great event. Wished everyone a Happy 4th and noted that the committee is still raising money.
- Councilor Murphy: thanked BCCR for the Juneteenth event. Noted that the council hears lack of communication from the council to the residents, need to find ways to get information to people.
- Councilor Ellenberg: wished everyone a happy Juneteenth and 4th of July and wants to change all boards to ministerial.
- Councilor Robinson: congratulated the new re-appointments and thanked them for volunteering. Thanked BCCR for the Juneteenth flag raising.
- Councilor McKinnon: thanked the veterans agent for a great Memorial Day parade.
- Councilor Perry: thanked appointees, BCCR for their work. Noted that the 4th of July committee is still looking for funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McKinnon 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 9:43pm.

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, August 13, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.