



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

July 16, 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, July 16, 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 18, 2024 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry noted that there was an error on the meeting minutes and asked that they be corrected and put on the next agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councilor Perry recognized the following veterans who have passed and asked for a moment of silence:

- Charles Murphy, US Army, Korea – June 18, 1934 to May 5, 2024
- Gary Varnum, US Army, Vietnam – October 4, 1942 to June 17, 2024
- Robert Pierce, US Marine Corps, Vietnam – February 22, 1945 to June 29, 2024
- Robert Thomas, US Army Vietnam – September 21, 1948 to July 1, 2024
- Henry Tousignant, US Army, WW2 – March 18, 1924 to July 2, 2024

PROCLAMATIONS

Councilor Perry read the 100th Birthday Proclamation naming July 27, 2024 as Loretta Pistone Day in the Town of Bridgewater on the occasion of her 100th Birthday.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Attorney John Norris, Vernon Street: spoke about Michael Mezzini and the Town taking of land by eminent domain.
- Melissa Ramondetta, 317 Lakeside Drive: noted that on 1/24/23 a 55+ ordinance was tabled 4 to 3 and now today an ordinance is in front of Town Council, does not agree with it.
- Ed Ivaldi, 10 Boxwood Lane: wants to know how much revenue was gained so far with recreational marijuana.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside Drive: spoke about water and changes to 55+ zoning, wants clarity.
- Bernice Morrissey, Lakeside Drive: discussed jet skis on The Nip, wants them banned.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS – None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS

a) Water Resources Presentation: Environmental Partners

Town Manager Dutton introduced Helen Gordon from Environmental Partners.

Ms. Gordon discussed capital costs, operations and maintenance, technology upgrades, financial stability. Current bond rating is A3.

Water plan quantity – 9 wells. Current demands – 2.56MGD max limit. Supply deficits – 0.53MGD.

Potential additional sources: Plymouth Street wells; Vernon Street wells; Taunton – wholesale purchase; Brockton – wholesale purchase.

Discussed FY25 Capital Projects – Well 9 and Well 5A in process. Capital projects FY2031 to FY2035.

Councilor Ellenburg asked what the cost would be if water was purchased from Taunton. Ms. Gordon noted that Taunton has extra water and looking for users. Mr. Rulli noted that they were still waiting on information from Taunton to determine costs.

b) Specialized Code Presentation: Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Town Manager Dutton introduced Lisa Sullivan and Michael Rossi from the MA Department of Energy Resources.

Ms. Sullivan noted that the Town has been a green community since 2011, has received \$1.1M in grants. A stretch code community which is a climate act signed in 2021 to achieve net zero emissions by 2050. Base code = 50 towns; Stretch code = 256 towns; Specialized code = 45 towns (new buildings only – no effect on existing or historic). HERS rating = miles per gallon for a house; the lower the better.

Councilor McGrath asked how long solar panels last. Ms. Sullivan noted that they can be recycled and last approx. 15 to 20 years.

Councilor Robinson asked 1) more costly?; 2) what does the Town need to do?; 3) cost benefit to the town?

Mr. Rossi noted that there would be added upfront costs and over time would benefit the consumers. There is a template and grants could be more.

Town Manager Dutton noted that it is a Council decision, listen to presenters and builders and make the decision.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she believes this will be a burden on builders.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Fire Station Update

CED Director Bob Rulli noted that the site clearing is taking place. Addressed concerns about starting before 7am. Abutters meeting being planned.

Councilor Ellenberg asked where is this happening and CED Director Rulli noted that the new Fire Station is being built on Pleasant Street.

b) Stiles & Hart Update

Town Manager Dutton noted that work is continuing and kiosks will be placed once work is done.

c) Perkins Self Storage Update

CED Director Bob Rulli noted that this was approved 8 months ago and nothing received by the buyer, their approval could expire.

d) Golf End-of-Year Report

Town Manager Dutton noted that Troume runs the golf portion and Barretts runs the food portion. FY23 closed with \$1.6M and Town netted \$150K after obligations. FY24 closed with \$404k and Town netted \$291k after obligations.

Councilor McKinnon would like the following items on the next agenda:

1. Flagg Street
2. National Grid Poles
3. Parthenon Frieze Installation

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION – None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Ordinance D-FY25-001: Proposed Zoning Order Amendment - Senior Village Housing Development

CED Director Bob Rulli noted that this should be referred to Planning Board and CED. This does not include Lake Shore. Create opportunity for land that could be converted to 55+

Councilor Linde noted that it would be good to see a current and new version ordinances

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY25-001 to Planning Board and CED, 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.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Bernice Morrissey, Lakeside Drive: noted again that Lake Nip was being abused. Ban jet skis, emissions leave oil slicks in the water.
- Jean DiBattista, 260 Lakeside, Lakeside Drive: thanked the Town Manager, heard he was leaving.
- Melissa Randella: would like more transparency with water projects.
- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: would like to know who paid for the golf cart paving and noted that there is overgrown trees at the Nip. Asked if it could be cleared.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McKinnon: thanked Al Lacerda for his work at Town River Landing. Also noted that he may miss meetings and wanted people to understand why.
- Councilor Robinson: no comments
- Councilor Ellenberg: noted that the country music festival was great.
- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor Linde: noted that it has been more difficult to make comments.
- Councilor Chase: no comments
- Councilor Striggles: thanked the 4th of July Committee for a great event.
- Councilor McGrath: noted that there should be two public meetings a year and encouraged people to watch the 6/26 Planning Board meeting.
- Councilor Perry: thanked the 4th of July committee for a great even.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Striggles 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 9:46pm.

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.