



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

August 13, 2024

7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Kevin Perry called the Special meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 in the Council Chambers.

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

Also in attendance was Town Manager Michael Dutton, Interim Assistant Town Manager Blythe Robinson and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) June 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the June 18, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

A roll 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) July 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the July 16, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

A roll 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) July 23, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the July 23, 2024 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A roll 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 all veterans past and present.

Council President Perry read a brief statement regarding the hiring of a new Town Manager, interim Town Manager and ad hoc committee.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Bill Wood, Hayward Street: would like feedback on the Town Council handbook he sent to the councilors. Also noted that the Rules and Procedures are out of sync, need to adjust the rules with the appropriate start time of a Town Council meeting.
- Ray Ajemian, 221 Aldrich Road: speaking on behalf of the chair of the Tree Committee – noted that a Certified arborist was part of the part of the committee set up but because we require that committees be made up of town residents, they have not been able to find one. Town Manager added into code that if cannot find arborist within town we can go outside of town. Would like you to consider that recommendation.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: noted that microphones work best when you are right there and thanked Dr. Perry for his remarks at the beginning as it helped clear up some of his questions.
- Gary Marrese, 48 Village Gate Drive: presented a petition signed by residents to expand the size of the search committee. want it expanded to 8 or 9 people.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: discussed Carlton Hunts email about Cambridge. Wants council to rescind the vote from last week and engage like Cambridge. Citizens could not serve on committee and could not get insurance, how did Cambridge do it.
- Janet Hansen, Pleasant Street: thanked Dr. Perry for what was said, cleared up some concerns. Insurance – has anyone talked to the insurance company to see if citizens can be covered. What is the difference. Who decided on who the 4 Town Council members would be.

Councilor Ellenberg asked for a point of information: wanted to make a motion to rescind the previous committee that was adopted last meeting, Roberts Rule of Order Section 35, which was seconded by Councilor Linde.

Attorney Rawlins noted that he did not believe that there was a pending measure brought before the council. Based on technicality there was no measure before the council. Bring an ordinance and there can be a vote.

Councilor Linde asked if a vote should be taken or not. Attorney Rawlins noted that this body has been having discussions, a vote was taken on a posted discussion. The proper way is by way of an ordinance or order. Appointments are not voted on. Measures should always be done by ordinance or order.

Council Linde asked Attorney Rawlins who the client was and Attorney Rawlins noted that the client was the Town Manager, the Town Council and the employees of the Town.

Councilor Robison asked if the council was allowed to see the town insurance policy and Town Manager Dutton noted that a copy can be sent to them.

Councilor Linde asked about citizens being involved on the ad hoc committee and said that he called the MMA and spoke with someone who said they would be covered.

Councilor Ellenberg has asked the Town Manager to investigate a rider for insurance for volunteers.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Appointments to the Town Manager Preliminary Screening Ad Hoc Committee:

- 1) Council President Kevin Perry
- 2) Council Vice President Paul Murphy
- 3) Councilor Fred Chase
- 4) Councilor Susan Robinson
- 5) School Committee Chair Timothy Fitzgibbons

This item was not acted upon.

b) Reappointment Board of Assessors: Milton Morris (2024-2027)

Councilor Chase made a motion to reappoint Milton Morris to the Board of Assessors, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

A roll 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 - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - None

DISCUSSIONS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

a) Order O-FY25-007: An Order Dedicating 46-48 Summer Street as a Public Park Pursuant to MGL Chapter 45, Section 3

Town Manager Dutton noted that the Town Council took 46 – 48 Summer Street by eminent domain in February 2023 and pursuant to a grant submitted with the state one criteria is the town officially dedicate the location as park property. That is what this order does.

Councilor Ellenberg asked how much the grant was for and Town Manager Dutton noted that it was \$500k. Project is estimated to be \$760k with BSU, Capital Stabilization and additional CPC Funds covering the remainder. He also noted that they had a great site visit today and optimistic that it will be done, will find out in the Fall.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-007 to Community Economic and Development, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A roll 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) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-002: Revisions to the Administrative Code

Town Manager Dutton noted that this ordinance was fairly straight forward with potential revisions to the administrative code, noting that the Council may want to add more. Most of the changes are focused on revamping boards and committees.

Council Linde asked if the Library wanted a to make a revision that the time would be now. Town Manager Dutton noted yes.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she would personally like to see each and every revision in writing and Town Manager Dutton noted that all proposed revisions were part of the package.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-007 to Rules & Procedures, which was duly seconded by Councilor Robinson.

A roll 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-2025-001: State Primary Warrant – 2024

Town Manager Dutton noted that this was the State Primary Warrant for 2024.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Petition P-2025-001, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A roll 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

- Sam Baumgarten, Short Street: noted that he supports statement about diversity with the development of an ad hoc committee.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: noted that the council should take their time as it is an important decision. Would like to know what revenue has been generated from retail marijuana sales.
- Bill Wood, Hayward Street: noted that since the retail marijuana store has been opened for a year now we should understand what the cost is to the town. Asked for a cost.
- Donna Jewel: noted that the survey has been completed for Summer Street property and have not seen anything published, would like something published.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McKinnon: no comments
- Councilor Robinson: – no comments
- Councilor Ellenberg: asked if the MMA has been contacted? Have heard that a search committee has been selected and thanked the citizens who were brave enough to put their name

on a petition. Council President Perry noted that a search firm has not been selected.

- Councilor Murphy: no comments
- Councilor Linde: thanked the citizens for being at the meeting, glad the process is going at a slower pace.
- Councilor Chase: no comments
- Councilor Striggles: thanked everyone for the feedback we have received, hear your concerns.
- Councilor McGrath: no comments
- Councilor Perry: noted that he gave his comments at the beginning of the meeting and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

A roll 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 8:08p.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, September 10, 2024, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.