



Town of Bridgewater  
Town Council Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 7, 2017

**CALL TO ORDER:**

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:32 pm, on February 7, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

**PRESENT:**

Council members present were, Sandra Wright, Peter Colombotos, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche, William Wood, Kevin Perry and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Associate Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

**ABSENT:** *No Councilors were absent.*

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

A moment of silence was held for all veterans who have passed including:

- William F. Chiocca

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

- President Gallagher re-read the proclamation for Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect.

**PROCLAMATIONS - None**

**CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None**

**APPOINTMENTS**

- Inspector of Buildings/Zoning Enforcement Officer Appointment Ratification

Mr. Dutton spoke briefly on behalf of Mr. Solari and encouraged the Council to ratify the appointment.

**Motion:** A motion to ratify the appointment was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

**Discussion:** None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

**HEARINGS -**

- 7:35 p.m., Public Hearing Appropriation Orders

- Order O-2017-005: Transfer Order – Demolition Bedford Street Project

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:36 p.m.

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the transfer is necessary due to the discovery of asbestos on the property.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- In response to questions, Mr. Dutton explained the demolition service is ready to add this into their schedule as soon as funding is obtained. He also clarified the Building Inspector has already declared the property a dangerous environment.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:40 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-2017-006: Transfer Order – Appropriation for Ambulance



Mr. Dutton explained this transfer seeks to fund the purchase of an ambulance out of the ambulance revolving fund over the next five years. It replaces a current ambulance at the end of its useful life.

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:40 p.m.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Wood spoke in favor of the order.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:43 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wright.

**Discussion:** None

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

- Order O-2017-007: Transfer Order – Appropriation for Police Equipment

Mr. Dutton explained this is necessary for equipment for the Police department.

President Gallagher opened the hearing at 7:43 p.m.

President Gallagher invited any questions from the public – None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in favor - None came forward.

President Gallagher asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition - None came forward.

President Gallagher entertained any questions from councilors: No questions.

President Gallagher closed the hearing at 7:45 p.m.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to close the hearing. The motion was seconded by Perry.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

**Discussion:** None

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Wright – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – YEA; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

#### **LICENSE TRANSACTIONS**

- Petition P-2017-004: Change of Manager, 99 Restaurants, LLC

Mr. Dutton explained the 99 would like to change their manager. The Petitioner was also present.

**Motion:** A motion to approve was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Perry.

**Discussion:** Councilor Wood noted there was no backup information provided in the packets.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

#### **PRESENTATIONS**

- Master Plan Committee and Energy Committee – Dr. Carlton Hunt

Dr. Hunt's PowerPoint presentation is included in meeting materials.

Dr. Hunt began his presentation speaking about the Master Plan Committee, noting they still needed 1 member and meet the second Thursday of each month. Dr. Hunt explained the mission and activities of the MPC and spoke about several key accomplishments and shortfalls through 2016. A project timeline displayed an explained



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in detail. Dr. Hunt then showed and explained an overview of initiatives for 2017 which included a brief item on Transit X. He noted the Town Council would need to approve a resolution to license Transit X.

The presentation then moved to the Energy Committee. Dr. Hunt noted they are also still in need of 1 more member. The committee meets the first Thursday of each quarter. Dr. Hunt explained the mission of the Energy Committee and major activities over the past 12 months and spoke at length about the Green Communities Grant and projects funded through that grant. A detailed graphic regarding energy use and cost summary was also explained at length. The solar field initiative off Fireworks Circle was highlighted and a graphic showing a summary of the solar purchase savings.

**Councilor Questions:**

- Councilor Haley asked Dr. Hunt to explain the underutilization of the solar field. Dr. Hunt explained there are a lot of reasons it might be low, could be clouds, angle, etc.
- Councilor Wright asked several questions related to solar panels. At Mrs. Wright's request, Dr. Hunt explained the solar panels are privately owned and the noise impact is virtually none.
- Mr. Dutton responded to Councilor Haley's question about incentives for companies to use solar power stating we don't locally offer an incentive, however, the state offers a fair amount of incentives through tax credits.
- Councilor Colombotos asked Dr. Hunt how he foresees updating the Master Plan. Dr. Hunt explained; the plan is to do one or two sections) every year. Agrees with Andrew Delonno that we should go out to bid and hire a company to do a rework of it. Some of the sections are 20 years old.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included: The Duxborow 40B application continues their public hearing on 2/22 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Arrangements for additional chairs and technology are being made. The ZBA is reviewing submissions for 40B consultant. Mr. Dutton thanked David Moore for stepping into the position of Building Inspector on an interim basis. Mr. Dutton spoke briefly about Captain Wilcox and Firefighter Dave Perrault retirement from the Fire Department, noting Michael MacDermott has been promoted to Captain. Regarding the sewer discharge permit; after meeting with DEP and EPA, the EPA will not amend the permit, however, they may entertain a slight extension on the timeline for upgrades. The town will continue to talk with them. The Water Department has secured a commitment from the commonwealth for an interest free loan for the High Street well. The Town Manager is expecting to hear any day about MSBA funding for the school roof. Mr. Dutton noted the Police Association donated to the WWI Monument Project. The phase II Inspection Report on Carver's Dam indicated it is in poor condition. The town negotiating an RFP for the Great Hill Cell Tower. Additionally, the Town is considering purchasing two electric cars and charging stations for Inspectional Services. The Senior Center renovations are going smoothly. Finally, Mr. Dutton advised he is developing a Building Use policy for Town Buildings, including the Academy Building.

**Councilor Questions:**

- Councilor Wood shared a suggestion someone gave to him to add a Cherry Additive for the smell on the waste water. Mr. Wood noticed Flippin' Burgers is open on Summer Street and are open until 2:00 a.m. When we licensed Chessmen's, we licensed them until 2:00 a.m. Mr. Dutton explained; he is aware they've been staying opened beyond their hours and the Building Official is speaking with them. Mr. Dutton further explained the name difference and encouraged the Council to consider putting a policy in place. Mr. Wood followed up, asking if there has been any issue with Uncle Shwarma. Mr. Dutton responded they haven't had any issue.
- Councilor Colombotos asked about the Pedestrian Safety assessment in Complete Streets. Mr. Dutton explained it will help to fund Phase II. At Mr. Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton explained at length about the sewer upgrade stating it will be a significant impact to users. The town's argument to the EPA has been the financial impact would be to the users (Housing Authority, dormitory users, and an elderly demographic in downtown area). At Councilor Colombotos' request, Mr. Dutton briefly spoke about plow drivers and the possibility of applying Green Communities grant funds to the boiler at Town Hall.

**DISCUSSIONS**



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- Councilor Agenda Items – Meeting of the General Public, February 28, 2017  
President Gallagher provided the details of the Meeting of the General Public and invited citizens to submit agenda items to Council Clerk no later than Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: None**

**LEGISLATION FOR ACTION - None**

**OLD BUSINESS**

- Order O-2016-029: Procure Services – Strategic Planning  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to send to advertising. The motion was seconded by Councilor Wood.  
**Discussion:** Councilor Wood began the discussion by noting the Budget & Finance Committee voted to send the measure back (to the Council) for discussion. Mr. Wood outlined in detail several concerns he has with the funding. Discussion continued while members of the Strategic Planning Committee briefly explained the need for a consultant. President Gallagher strongly disagreed with Mr. Wood’s concerns and suggested a discussion on this matter for the 2/28 agenda. Discussion turned to the proposed scope of work and anticipated reporting structure of the consultant.  
**Motion:** A motion to postpone was made by Councilor Colombotos. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.  
**Discussion:** Councilor Losche pointed out that this measure has been hanging out there a long time. She expressed her frustration that it would be postponed again and encouraged all to bring their questions forward to the committee in an effort to move forward.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Ordinance D-2017-004: Local Retail Marijuana Sales Tax  
Councilor Wood explained the proposed Ordinance.  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wood to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.  
**Discussion:** A discussion followed while several Councilors expressed concern that this legislation may be premature.  
A voice vote was taken and the motion failed 4-5 (Councilors Colombotos, Fitzgibbons, Wood and Perry in the minority).
- Order O-2017-002: Collective Bargaining Agreement Ratification – Library Union  
Mr. Dutton briefly explained, noting the only real change is in the COLA  
**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. The motion was seconded by Councilor Losche.  
**Discussion:** None  
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 9-0.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

- Marilee Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Reminded all that town elections are coming up. They still have nomination papers. Just because there isn’t a council vacancy in your district doesn’t mean there aren’t other roles.
- Dr. Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Regarding the Strategic Plan: it’s very important for the Master Plan. Dr. Hunt offered to share the vision statement.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- Councilor Wright: Thanked David Moore, congratulated Mr. Solari and offered condolences to the Chiocca family.
- Councilor Colombotos: Commended five Bridgewater students recognized for their art achievement which will be exhibited at MFA next month.
- Councilor Haley: None
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Thanked Boy Scout Troop 31 for their invitation to speak.
- Councilor Losche: Encouraged people to join the Master Plan Committee and Energy Committee.



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- Councilor Wood: Announced he is running for councilor again. Spoke about the BR Robotics program. He will be inviting all to the game which is being hosted at BR this year March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Councilor Perry: Offered condolences to the Chiocca family. Thanked David Moore for filling in and welcomed Mr. Solari. Dr. Perry thanked firefighters and wished his nephew Happy Birthday.
- Councilor Sousa: Warned all about the big storm coming Thursday.
- Councilor Gallagher: Reminded all that the next meeting is 2/28 at 7:30 p.m. and the meeting of the General Public will begin at 7:00 here.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion:** A motion was made by Councilor Wright to move into Executive Session under MGL, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:

Sousa – YEA; Perry – YEA; Wood – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Haley – YEA; Colombotos – YEA; Wright - YEA. The motion passed 9-0.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Open session adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Ann Holmberg

**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, February 28, 2017, to approve the aforementioned minutes by a voice vote (7-0) (Councilors Haley and Fitzgibbons absent).**

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

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Ann M. Holmberg  
Town Council Clerk