



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Dennis Gallagher called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:34 pm, on March 7, 2017 in the Academy Building Council Chambers, 66 Central Square, Bridgewater, Massachusetts.

PRESENT:

Council members present were, Edward Haley, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Dennis Gallagher, Aisha Losche (arriving at 7:56 p.m.), William Wood, and Frank Sousa. Town Manager Michael Dutton was also present.

ABSENT:

- Councilor Sandra Wright
- Councilor Peter Colombotos
- Councilor Kevin Perry
- Town Attorney Mark Gildea

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Mr. Kenneth R. Porter

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- February 28, 2017 (Meeting of the General Public)
- February 28, 2017 (Regular Meeting)

Motion: A motion to postpone both sets of minutes was made by Councilor Wood. The motion was seconded by Councilor Fitzgibbons.

Discussion: None

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President Gallagher announced the Bridgewater TRIAD would be hosting a free ice cream and informational social on identity theft at the Senior Center on Tuesday, March 21st at 12:45 p.m.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM – None

APPOINTMENTS

- Reappointment to Housing Authority - Nick Bagas
Mr. Dutton spoke on Mr. Bagas' behalf and encouraged the Council to ratify the appointment.

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

Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons thanked Mr. Bagas for his service.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2017-009: Six (6) One Day Alcohol and Entertainment Licenses – 49'ers Club

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

Discussion: At Councilor Fitzgibbons request, Mr. Dutton to explained; although the Town Manger has the authority to approve one-day alcohol licenses, this comes before the Council because it is combined with entertainment licenses and because they're basically putting their years' worth of licenses on this one petition.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 5-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- Community Paradigm Associates, LLC – Strategic Plan Proposal



Councilor Healy introduced Mr. Bernard Lynch.

Mr. Lynch came forward and referenced the proposal he submitted several months ago (included in packets) and spoke about his municipal experience. He stressed the importance of Strategic Planning, stating it is crucial. It articulates the big picture for the town, establishes goals, short, medium and long term. A strategic plan anticipates a changing environment and provides a managerial tool. It is not a document that just sits on a shelf; rather it's a living document. Mr. Lynch then outlined Phase I which is where the focus of his services will be. He explained; the Strategic Planning Committee sets up a mission statement and visioning, then spoke briefly about phase II and III.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Wood explained the Town already has a lot of documents on the shelf already and asked how to get from plan to implementation? Mr. Lynch responded; the first phase wouldn't necessarily get you to implementation. For example; what you do with downtown is one element of the strategic plan. The proposal does not include implementation and noted; some areas of implementation take quite a long time to attain. Councilor Wood asked if Phase I included citizen input. Mr. Lynch confirmed it currently does not, but would like to consider revising that in the proposal if the Council wanted to move forward. Mr. Wood noted we have a mature master plan and expressed concern that the proposal seems a little unfocused and articulates things that are already in place. He is concerned about spending the money up front without really understanding the product asking how we determine the focus. Mr. Lynch responded; if these documents are already in place, you're well on your way to a strategic plan; the question is who is pulling all the information together. He would bring in the capacity to facilitate discussions and bring in information from other communities on how they're addressing issues.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons stated we have a lot of great plans out there and asked how this process will allow us to step up within our limited means and staff to accomplish the goals it sets. Mr. Lynch responded; you already have some of the plans in place. Strategic Planning tries to take all those and see how they connect, then decide what the priorities are. Councilor Fitzgibbons reiterated; we have a lot of great ideas out there and many great citizens, however the Town has limited resources, time and money to do this in house.
- Councilor Haley stated; without this we have stacks of plans. We don't know where all of them stand. The Strategic Plan would try to bring them all together so we can move forward.

Mr. Lynch confirmed this process will help facilitate the Town putting all those documents together and setting the goals and priorities.

- Community Preservation Committee.

Harry Bailey, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) offered a brief presentation. He began by stating the CPC lost funding for grant writer, Jennifer Goldson. Jennifer taught the committee about the ups and downs of the law. The Committee hasn't met since November, but will meet this month. The Committee lost some members due to the Administrative Code, but are working towards getting our full membership. Mr. Bailey explained; according to Community Preservation Act (CPA) laws, most members are on other boards or committees. He announced committee members: Ray Ajemian (Planning Board), Harry Baily (Conservation Commission), Melissa Desjardins (Town Manager Appointee), Gina Guasconi (Recreation Commission), Kevin Mandeville (Open Space) Joan Neumeister (Housing Authority), Bob Wood (Historical Commission), Vacant Historic District Commission and Affordable Housing Trust. Mr. Bailey spoke about projects funded and projects in process. He also spoke about the financial condition of the committee noting it is in good shape. Finally, he thanked all the members and volunteers.

Councilor Questions:

Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if there were any encumbrances against the funding sources Mr. Bailey spoke about. Mr. Bailey responded, yes, but we still have money coming in.

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 Old Colony Planning Council will be updating the Town's Housing Production Plan and will be seeking public input. Claremont has submitted a site eligibility plan that they submitted to Mass Housing.



They're proposing a 40B. Mr. Dutton has reached out to their Counsel. The Planning Board Chair and Community & Economic Development Director have looked at it quickly. There was a kick off meeting with Howard Stein Hudson, who are doing the Complete Streets Plan. There will be a public input schedule sometime in April and Mass DOT is funding that phase. The Duxboro 40B project is still in the hearing process. The next hearing is Wednesday, April 12th here in Council Chambers. Mr. Dutton spoke about the Waste Water Discharge permit stating we have disagreed vehemently with the time period. He elaborated; affordability alone should allow us some additional time. The discussion is ongoing but we have agreed in principle that we would like to enter a consent agreement with the EPA. The language is being worked out. The draft RFP on the McElwain School is almost complete. He will propose sale of the building with some type of affordable housing component requested and possibly an assisted living component. The council will have to vote to declare the building available for lease or purchase. Mr. Dutton's inclination is to include Town Hall for process purposes. Soon, Mr. Dutton will want to address the Great Hill cell tower and the Spring Street garage and will probably add those into the legislation. Finally, Mr. Dutton announced that he and Sup intendent Swenson taped an informational session with BTV on the MSBA funding describing what each phase requires. The next step for us is to form a school building committee.

Councilor Questions:

- Councilor Fitzgibbons confirmed his understanding; if we don't get through the eligibility phase we don't get to go to the feasibility stage. Mr. Dutton agreed. Mr. Fitzgibbons then suggested we should be doing a parallel funding track in case the state doesn't fund something that's affordable.
- Councilor Wood asked if it would make sense to use the CPC Housing money to building housing at the McElwain? Mr. Dutton responded; we can maximize the return for the tax payer better by selling. Councilor Wood asked how much it would cost to restore that to school space. Mr. Dutton responded; it's possible to calculate, but we asked that question earlier on of the architectural firms and with all the code and educational requirements, it is not feasible. Regarding the Skips Liquors property; Mr. Wood asked if there's a strategic plan now that there's a deed problem? Mr. Dutton responded; he's been ordered to fill the hole in and add a bulked. Finally, Mr. Wood asked about the possibility for a Short Span Bridge grant for Oak Street? Mr. Dutton responded the grant is designed for bridges that are substantially shorter. However, if there are funds left over, he will go to Mass DOT.

DISCUSSIONS

- Consultant Services for Strategic Plan
Councilor Wood asked; given the presentation, why wouldn't we do it in house and through the standard planning process? Mr. Dutton responded he agreed with Councilor Fitzgibbons' point about time and staff presenting a challenge. Councilor Wood noted; if time and money are an issue it should be approached from a budgetary standpoint.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Petition P-2017-008: Annual Town Election Warrant
Councilor Gallagher read the elected open seats and the date of the annual election.
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 – ABSENT; Colombotos – ABSENT; Haley – YEA; Fitzgibbons – YEA; Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA – Wood – YEA; Perry – ABSENT; Sousa – YEA. The motion passed 6-0.

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 Haley.
Discussion: None
A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.



NEW BUSINESS

- Ad Hoc Advisory Committee – Marijuana

Councilor Haley is hoping there is some interest in forming a committee and read the order.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to refer to the Rules & Procedures committee. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haley.

Discussion: A brief discussion was held regarding whether the measure should be an Order or Resolution. Mr. Dutton confirmed an order does not require advertising and Mr. Wood pointed out this committee would have to follow the Open Meeting Law.

A voice vote was taken and the motion passed 6-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS - None

- Dr. Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt thanked the Strategic Planning Committee for bringing Mr. Lynch in for the presentation. He agrees that staff and money are issues and it should be someone from outside the town.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Wright: Absent
- Councilor Colombotos: Absent
- Councilor Haley: Noted his concern over the big hole at Skips Liquors
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Mr. Fitzgibbons apologized for missing last week's meeting. He recognized the BR/WB Gymnastics Team for winning the state championship.
- Councilor Losche: Mrs. Losche also congratulated the Gymnastics Team on their accomplishment.
- Councilor Wood: Spoke about TJ Squared; who will be hosting the Robotics Games this weekend.
- Councilor Perry: Absent
- Councilor Sousa: Mr. Sousa was very happy to hear Mr. Lynch's presentation.
- Councilor Gallagher: Mr. Gallagher spoke briefly about his meeting with Phi Theta Kappa fraternity at Bridgewater State University. He noted the next meeting is 3/21/17.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons. The motion was seconded by Councilor Sousa. A voice vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 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, March 21, 2017, to approve the aforementioned Minutes by a voice vote (6-0-2) (Councilor Wright absent, Councilors Perry and Colombotos abstained).

A TRUE COPY ATTEST:

Ann M. Holmberg
Town Council Clerk