



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Shawn George called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm, on January 5, 2021 via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present via Zoom© were, Timothy Fitzgibbons, Francis Sousa, Matthew Rushton, Shawn George, William Wood, Fred Chase, Aisha Losche and Dennis Gallagher. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT:

District 5 Vacancy

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

- Raymond A. Dumont, Jr.
- Robert H. Gilson
- Marjorie R. Harrington

President George announced: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no in person attendance permitted. Citizens who wish to tune in to the meeting may do so via Facebook Live.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- April 6, 2021

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

- President George addressed comments made by citizens regarding responses to citizens who speak during meetings and explained the requirements of the Open Meeting Law. He further reminded all that prior to the Council form of government, citizens were not allowed to speak at all during Selectmen meetings. Mr. George asked for understanding as the Council follows the laws and rules. He also reminded all that comments should not be directed at particular Councilors.

PROCLAMATIONS - None

CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- Marilee Kenney Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Ms. Hunt spoke as Town Clerk, thanking all the people who made the election successful. She then announced the results, which she noted are widely available. Ms. Hunt appealed to the public for help in boosting the election numbers.
- Peter Colombotos, 15 Plymouth Street: Mr. Colombotos expressed concern over DPW appointment, stating his belief that the appointee’s time may be too divided. He urged the Council to have the Town Manager ensure Bridgewater would be the priority.



- Aysha Hussain, 40 Sophia Lane: Ms. Hussein expressed concerned with retail marijuana citing several reasons why. She further suggested the question on the ballot was not advertised well enough, especially during the pandemic.
- Taylor Sullivan, 250 Norlen Park: Ms. Sullivan welcomed new Councilors and thanked Mr. Gallagher, Fitzgibbons and Ms. Losche for always making their stance on marijuana clear. Ms. Sullivan spoke in opposition to retail marijuana. Ms. Sullivan spoke passionately citing many reasons for opposition.
- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Mr. Ivaldi spoke about signs (related to the election) disappearing from property around town. Mr. Ivaldi asked several questions related to sign regulations. He feels it's important this issue be cleared up for future elections.
- Bill Aikns, Oak Meadow Place: Mr. Aikens expressed his strong opinions related to the non-binding question being included on a ballot during a pandemic. He further expressed his strong opinion about how he felt he was treated in the past.
- Jennifer Smith, Boxwood Lane: Ms. Smith requested the Councilors keep the marijuana ban in place.
- Jeff Daniels, Maple Avenue: Mr. Daniels spoke about the agenda item for Pride Flag and Juneteenth. He expressed concern that flying a flag in support of a specific group, may not be inclusive. He then spoke about the low voter turnout, suggesting a mailer may be a good way to increase participation. Finally, Mr. Daniels concern over retail marijuana.
- Astrid Rojas, Meadow Lane: Ms. Rojas spoke about her experience volunteering stating she got involved through the Bridgewater Facebook group. Stating it has been eye-opening. In terms of voting, Ms. Rojas reminded all that the burden doesn't fall only on the Town. Citizens need to also be engaged. Finally, Ms. Rojas spoke in support of the Pride Flag, stating it might make people feel like we are a welcoming Town.
- Suzi Robinson, Holly Lane: Ms. Robinson congratulated the new and re-elected Councilors. Ms. Robinson spoke about her involvement with DICE and inclusivity in general, echoing Ms. Rojas' comments. She also spoke about results from a survey sent out through DICE and BCCR.

APPOINTMENTS

- Fire Chief – Michael P. MacDermott
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Town Manager, Michael Dutton spoke on behalf of Mr. MacDermott's appointment briefly outlining his experience. At Councilor Fitzgibbons' request, Mr. Dutton then highlighted why Mr. MacDermott is the most qualified to run the department at this time elaborating on Mr. MacDermott's experience. Councilor Rushton expressed support for the appointment speaking on behalf of Chief MacDermott.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- DPW Director – Azu Etoniru
Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Mr. Etonriu and addressed Mr. Colombotos' previous concerns raised. Mr. Dutton explained the process to get to the point of appointing Mr. Etonriu, explaining he currently serves as the Town Engineer, once he is appointed to DPW Director we will hire a Town Engineer. Mr. Dutton answered questions from councilors and spoke in support of the appointment, further explaining how he sees Mr. Etonriu pulling the DPW function together.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor Fitzgibbons asked if there will be performance expectations? Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct.
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:



Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- Housing Authority – Mark Linde
 Mr. Dutton spoke on behalf of Mr. Linde and encouraged the appointment.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

HEARINGS

- 7:05 p.m.: Order O-FY21- Loan Order - Loan Authorization Curve Street Water Main
 President George opened the hearing at 8:01 p.m.

President George explained history of legislation.

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the Loan Order.

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

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

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

President George entertained any questions from councilors:

- Councilor Rushton confirmed the residents on Curve St will not be charged a fee. Mr. Dutton confirmed that was correct.

President George closed the hearing at 8:04 p.m.

Motion: Councilor Chase made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- Petition P-2021-010: New Common Victualler License - Irene Kneeland dba Bogie’s 106 2103 Old Plymouth Street
 Mr. Dutton explained this is a single station food truck and has been reviewed by relevant departments. It will be next to the small strip mall on Old Plymouth St.

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

PRESENTATIONS

- Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect (BCCR)
 - Pride Flag Display Proposal
 Sam Baumgarten spoke about the request by issuing a proclamation in support for LGBTQ community asking the Pride flag be flown in front of the Academy Building during the week of June 7th – 11th. Mr. Baumgarten spoke about other efforts by BCCR to exhibit their commitment to diversity and inclusion in the community. He encouraged the Town Council to support the effort.
 Vernon Domingo spoke on behalf of the proposal to fly a Pride flag to show the Town’s commitment to inclusion. Mr. Domingo cited several communities who do the same. Mr. Domingo noted the effort is supported by many throughout the community as evidenced by previous comments.
 - Junteenth Celebration Plans



Antionette Riley-Purefied spoke on behalf of a Junteenth Celebration planned for June 19th with a rain date of June 20th. The celebration will be held at the Stanley Iron Works. Ms. Riley-Purefied provided a brief history on the Junteenth holiday.

Beryl Domingo spoke about the events planned for the Junteenth celebration.

President George thanked the presenters and the effort they have put into these initiatives.

- **Community & Economic Development Update/Zoning Codification – Jennifer Burke, Community & Economic Development Director**

CED Director, Jennifer Burke gave a brief update. Ms. Burke spoke about her staff and their initiatives. Ms. Burke spoke about projects; Elm Street which brought FW Webb, Theory Wellness expansion, multi-bay contractor facility and the 400,000 sq foot warehouse. Ms. Burke briefly mentioned, the Mitchell School project, and the Broad Street mixed use project. Ms. Burke then provided an update on the Master Plan stating they have been working with Judy Barrett at Barrett Consulting. The Comprehensive Master Planning Committee finished up their work in December and the documents are on the website. The Planning Board will begin their review and the hope is to have the work completed by end of summer. Ms. Burke spoke about the LED Street Light project, Green Communities Funding for decorative lighting in Central Square. She talked briefly about the MS4 project and EPA Permitting. The 40B project off Burrill Avenue was addressed. The Town is aware of the concerns around how it's being marketed. The Town objects to how it's being marketed, and we are working with the Town Attorney to address the issue. Finally, Ms. Burke spoke about the Zoning Re-Codification. She recapped the history of the effort and clarified; it is strictly reorganization and codification. Ms. Burke recommends the measure be referred to the Planning Board for a hearing and hold a separate hearing at Town Council level.

Ms. Burke then answered questions from Councilors, speaking about inquiries from companies who may want to come to Bridgewater, noting possibly at the Perkins Foundry, which is going before the Planning Board and a potential commercial entity at corner of Pleasant and Elm. She spoke about one person who inquired about the opportunity zone but noted there isn't a ton of interest because there are some challenges in that area right now. She also addressed plans for the upcoming year to reach out more to Town Businesses and how the Buxton data can be used the best way possible.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Dutton reported on information about various activities happening around town and highlighted meetings and events. Items of note included:

- **Mitchell School Update (Standing Item)**

Mr. Dutton advised, the project is still on schedule. He spoke about the Project Budget, which is substantially down from the budget approved by voters, however we are still waiting for confirmation from MSBA before adding the tax calculator to the website. The Tree has been moved to it's new location. The completion date is still on target. The next meeting is Monday, May 10th at 6:30 p.m. More information can be found at www.bridgewaterproject.com.

- **COVID-19 Update**

Mr. Dutton advised, the Town has about 19-20 community cases. BSU has a handful of cases in quarantine and the DOC has no cases. We appear to be trending in the right direction. DPH has approved BSU as a regional site, but they have not been told when they'll be up and active. At Councilor Gallagher's request, Mr. Dutton spoke about data availability on how many Bridgewater residents are vaccinated stating he will circulate the link. He also spoke about the potential of outdoor events happening with the new mandates, stating it's probably too early to answer.

- **FY2022 Budget (Standing Item)**

Mr. Dutton recapped; the budget was submitted and referred to Budget & Finance and Finance Committees. Budget & Finance Committee voted to recommend as presented. Finance Committee should be meeting next week to do the same. All the details are on Town's website. The budget hearing and vote is scheduled for 5/11/21.

- **Items for Next Meeting: *No items were noted at this time.***



DISCUSSIONS - *None*

COMMITTEE REPORTS: - *None*

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- Order O-FY21-033: Acceptance of a Gift - Howard Foundation for COA
President George read the committee dispositions.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-034: Acceptance of a Grant - MAPC Transportation Partnership Grant
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the grant and encouraged acceptance.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Sousa to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-035: Acceptance of Gift - Claremont Lakeside Gift for Tree Planting
Mr. Dutton briefly explained, these come out of mitigation negotiations.
Motion: A motion was made by Councilor Fitzgibbons to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-036: Transfer Order - Elm Street Capital Fund Replenishment
Mr. Dutton explained the order briefly.
Motion: Councilor Sousa made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-038: Transfer Order - Completed CPC Legion Field Fencing Project
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-037: Transfer Order - CPC Parks & Recreation Pickle Ball Court Project
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: None
A roll call vote was taken with results recorded as follows:
Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.
- Order O-FY21-039: Acceptance of One-Time Revenue - Claremont Lakeside Viva for Public Safety
Mr. Dutton briefly explained the order.
Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to approve which was duly seconded.
Discussion: Councilor Rushton expressed appreciation to Claremont.



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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- Ordinance D-FY21-008: Zoning Ordinance - Codification of Zoning Bylaws to Ordinances

Mr. Dutton briefly explained the ordinance, referencing Ms. Burke’s presentation previously.

Motion: Councilor Chase made a motion to refer to the Community & Economic Development Committee and Planning Board for a joint public hearing which was duly seconded.

Discussion: A brief discussion followed relative to the possibility of holding two separate hearings or one joint hearing.

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- Order O-FY21-040: Transfer Order - Capital Item(s) Special Purpose - High Pond Meter Project

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

Order O-FY21-041: Transfer Order - Water Mains Hayward to Curve Street Project

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to refer to the Budget & Finance and Finance Committees which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

- Resolution R-FY21-006: Amend June 2021 Meeting Date

Motion: Councilor Fitzgibbons made a motion to keep at the council level which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

Gallagher – YEA; Losche – YEA; Chase – YEA; Wood – YEA; George – YEA; Rushton – YEA; Sousa – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Fitzgibbons - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Keith Buohl, 10 Fieldcrest Drive: Mr. Buohl spoke in favor of the proposition of flying the Pride Flag. Mr. Buohl cited personal experiences in expressing his support. He also spoke about his love for the town and how it would show Bridgewater’s inclusivity.
- Laurene Powers, 41 Sunrise Drive: Ms. Powers spoke as a member of BCCR in support of their request to fly the Pride flag. She read a statement from Emily Williams, Elder Affairs Director.
- Sam Baumgarten, Short Street: Mr. Baumgarten asked what the procedures is from here on the ordinance and proclamation which is in committee.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: Ms. Hanson asked if the public would see the changes on the Zoning.
- Dr. Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: Dr. Hunt fully supports the flag issue and the Juneteenth celebration. Regarding the Zoning, Dr. Hunt noted it is available with the agenda on the website. Dr. Hunt outlined steps he has come across in the MGL. Finally, Dr. Hunt thanked Councilors Fitzgibbons and Losche for their service.



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Via Zoom©
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 27, 2021

- Ed Ivaldi, Boxwood Lane: Thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons and Losche for their service. Mr. Ivaldi spoke about the election and ballot vote on the non-binding question. Mr. Ivaldi encouraged the Council to consider all points of view as they consider next steps and not rush their decision.
- Jeff Daniels, Maple Ave: Mr. Daniels spoke about the Flag noting comments made previously, reiterating his opinion that government shouldn't support any one group as it can become unintentionally divisive.
- Beryl Domingo, Saddle Drive: Ms. Domingo feels strongly to see the Pride flag fly in order to be inclusive of groups who are marginalized.
- Rebecca Fleish-Cordeiro, Deerfield Drive: Ms. Fleish-Cordeiro spoke in full support of the Pride flag and doesn't feel it would show the Town as choosing sides speaking about personal experiences.
- Vernon Domingo, Saddle Drive: Mr. Domingo feels the younger generation will really appreciate the Flag.
- Steven Rogan, Howard Street: Mr. Rogan is honored to be speaking at the Junteenth event and fully supports the Pride flag.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Sousa: Thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons and Losche for their service and welcomed the new Councilors.
- Councilor Rushton: Echoed Councilor Sousa's comments. He stated he hopes in next election we see more diversity. He will miss Councilors Losche and Fitzgibbons. He congratulated Chief MacDermott. Finally, Mr. Rushton stated, BSU announced they will have all students return in person for the fall.
- Councilor Wood: Thanked Councilor Losche for her service to the Town Council, noting she was instrumental in the Administrative Code. Mr. Wood spoke about his long service history with Councilor Fitzgibbons and the many fiscal contributions Councilor Fitzgibbons has made. Finally, Mr. Wood stated May 8th the Lions Club will be hosing the Youth Fishing Derby which couldn't be held last year.
- Councilor Chase: Thanked Councilor Losche for her service and Councilor Fitzgibbons. He thanked all public who had comments this evening.
- Councilor Gallagher: Thanked all citizens who spoke this evening. He will support displaying the Pride flag. Mr. Gallagher welcomed the newly elected Councilors. He is looking forward to more civic events over the summer with the new regulations. Mr. Gallagher thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons for his service. He further thanked Councilor Losche for her service. Finally, Mr. Gallagher thanked the voters for re-election.
- Councilor Losche: Thanked everyone for their kind words. She is moving out of District 1, which is why she is moving off the council. Ms. Losche spoke about having a new daughter but she will be looking for new opportunities to serve the Town. She thanked citizens for attending meetings and expressing their opinions. Thanked the Town department heads for their help and time in crafting legislation.
- Councilor Fitzgibbons: Spoke about the many experiences and accomplishments the Council has achieved over his ten years. Thanked dedicated Town employees for their hard work especially through the pandemic. Thanked public safety. Mr. Fitzgibbons expressed his appreciation for the three Town Managers we've had recognizing Mr. Richard Kerbel and Mr. Dutton. Mr. Fitzgibbons took the time to speak individually about each Councilor he has had the pleasure of working with over the years as well as recognizing the Council Clerk.
- Councilor George: Thanked citizens for their comments and thanked all the people who stayed the full meeting. Thanked Town Clerk for hard work at election. Welcomed newly elected Councilors. Thanked Councilor Fitzgibbons and Losche.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – *No Executive Session was held.*

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Councilor Losche made a motion to adjourn which was duly seconded.

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

Fitzgibbons – YEA; VACANCY – D5; Sousa – YEA; Rushton – YEA; George – YEA; Wood – YEA; Chase – YEA; Losche – YEA; Gallagher - YEA. The motion passed 8-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Ann Holmberg