



CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Matthew Rushton called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm, on June 8, 2021, via Zoom©.

PRESENT:

Council members present via Zoom© were, Kevin Perry, Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, Matthew Rushton, Shawn George, William Wood, Fred Chase, Erik Moore, and Dennis Gallagher. Town Manager Michael Dutton and 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.

President Rushton 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.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **May 25, 2021**

Councilor George made a motion to approve the Town Council meeting minutes from May 25, 2021, as amended, which was duly seconded.

Discussion: None

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed 8-0.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

No announcements were given.

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- **Sam Baumgarten - Short Street:** shared comments on the Pride Flag event.
- **Jill Sheridan - Pleasant Street:** shared comments on the Pride Flag event and R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Vernon Domingo - Saddle Drive:** shared comments on the Pride Flag event.
- **Jennifer Rogan - Howard Street:** shared comments on the Pride Flag event.
- **Beryl Domingo - Saddle Drive:** shared comments on the Pride Flag event.



- **Jennifer Smith - Boxford Lane:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Taylor Sullivan - Norlean Park:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Jeff Daniels - Maple Ave:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Janet Hanson - Pleasant St:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Joe Oravec - Greenbrier Lane** - shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Mark Linde - Michael Road:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.
- **Suzi Robinson - Holly Lane:** shared comments on R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution.

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

- **7:23: Order O-FY21-045 Capital Transfer Order General Fund**

President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:23 p.m.

President Rushton invited any questions from the public – There were no questions from the public.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in favor – There were no citizens speaking in favor.

President Rushton asked if there was anyone speaking in opposition – There were no citizens speaking in opposition.

President Rushton entertained any questions from councilors – several councilors posed questions on specific capital transfer items to the Town Manager.

President Rushton closed the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-045 which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

- **7:32 p.m. Petition P-2021-011:** Cumberland Farms of Massachusetts, Inc. dba Cumberland Farms for a Change of Beneficial Interest and Change of Officer

Discussion: Mr. Dutton requested the hearing be continued to 6/29 at 7:10 p.m.

- **7:33 p.m. Petition P-2021-004:** New Lodging House License – 84 South Street, Normajean Begley & William F. Saba dba, the South Street House, they have withdrawn their petition for a lodging house license.

Discussion: Mr. Dutton shared with the council that the petition has been withdrawn.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS



H. PRESENTATIONS

- **Bias and Discrimination Community Survey Analysis**

Dr. Jibril Solomon and Dr. Taylor Hall shared a presentation on their data analysis of the social justice focus group study conducted by Dice & BCCR. The presentation also included responses, stories, and concerns from the community that were shared with the councilors. Many of the councilors shared their thoughts on what the town could do to help expand the surveys and studies.

- **Re-precinct Process (Town Clerk)**

The Town Clerk, Marilee Hunt, shared a presentation on the re-precincting process that the town will need to undertake and the challenges it presents. This process requires that a plan be submitted to the state by October 10, 2021, with the town's decision on re-precincting, and a complete timeline was given on the full re-precincting process. The options available for the re-precincting of the town were presented and examples included a charter change to 8 district councilors, totaling 9 or 11 councilors or a charter change to 12 precincts with 3 at-large councilors. The expenses of these examples were included in the presentation for consideration as well.

I. 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)**

Work continues as planned and is on schedule. The concrete decking is in the process of being poured. The topping off ceremony is being planned to be held within the next few weeks. The contractor and OPM have been focused on mitigating the dust from the construction.

- **COVID-19 Update**

There are 3 active cases in Bridgewater with 2 of the cases approaching the end of their 14-day period. BSU vaccination site is up and running. 54% of Bridgewater's residents have received one dose and 40% are fully vaccinated.

- **Items for Next Meeting:**

- **Update on Facilities** – Christopher Hartman will be at the June 29, 2021, meeting to share a presentation with the committee.

- **Old town hall update**

Michael Dutton discussed the feasibility study that was completed on the Old Town Hall. The final report was received in March 2021 and was forwarded to an ad-hoc committee and the Cultural Council for recommendations from the report. The report is available on the Town's website for public viewing.

- **Broad St development**

Michael Dutton reviewed what is allowed for mixed use for the location and the increases the planning board can allow for.

J. DISCUSSIONS

No discussions were held.

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Council Clerk Selection Ad Hoc Committee**

Councilor Chase provided an update on the status of the council clerk selection. The second meeting was conducted last week with attendance from the Assistant Town Manager and prior Council Clerk, Ann Holmberg. The focus of the meeting was reviewing the job description for the position and moving forward with the posting ahead to be published. A discussion item will be added to the next council meeting to bring all the council members in on the conversation.



L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- **Resolution R-FY21-009: Future Retail Sale of Marijuana Guidelines Resolution**

Councilor Wood reiterated the reasoning for the resolution being brought to the council. Several councilors shared their views on the resolution and the responses they have received from their constituents.

Councilor Wood motioned to approve Resolution R-FY21-009 which was duly seconded.

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

George – Nay; Gallagher – Nay; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Nay; Sousa – Nay; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Nay. The motion failed 4-5.

- **Resolution R-FY21-010: A Resolution Designating June 19th as a Town Holiday**

Councilor George motioned to approve Resolution R-FY21-010 which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

- **Order O-FY21-050: End of Year Transfers**

Councilor George motioned to recommend Order O-FY21-050 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

- **Order O-FY21-052: Transfer Order - Transfer for Support of Diversity and Equity Inclusion Committee**

Councilor George motioned to recommend Order O-FY21-052 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.



- **Order O-FY21-053: Transfer Order – Water Curve St Project**

Councilor George motioned to recommend Order O-FY21-053 to the Budget and Finance Committee and Finance Committee which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

Councilor George motioned to discuss “Citizen Comments” after 10 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- **Rebecca Cordeiro - Deerfield Drive:** shared comments on the Bias and Discrimination community survey analysis
- **Beryl Domingo - Saddle Drive:** shared comments on Juneteenth and the committees vote on Resolution R-FY21-010
- **Janet Hanson - Pleasant St:** asked a question on the bias survey; shared comments re-precinct presentation.

Councilor George motioned to discuss “Council Comments” after 10 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Each Councilor was given an opportunity to speak with the members sharing upcoming community activities, comments on

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION – No Executive Session was held.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George motioned to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:26 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed 9-0.

The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Via Zoom©
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, June 8, 2021