



**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 29, 2021.

**PRESENT:**

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:** Kevin Perry

**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**

- **June 8, 2021**

*Councilor George Motioned to approve the June 8, 2021, meeting minutes which was duly seconded.*

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.

**B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

President Rushton indicated that an invitation to council members was extended to join the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and provided details for those planning to attend.

**C. PROCLAMATIONS - none**

**D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM**

- Beryl Domingo – Saddle Dr: shared comments on the Juneteenth celebrations.
- Rebecca Cordeiro – Deerfield Dr: shared comments on the Juneteenth celebrations.
- Rigoberto Noel Garnet Place: shared comments on the Juneteenth celebrations and Order O-FY21-052

**E. APPOINTMENTS**

**F. HEARINGS**

- **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 7/13 at 7:05 p.m.



- **Order FY21-051: Laying of Way and Accepting a Private Way – Upland Drive and Strathmore Road**

*President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:13 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:

- Ross Becker – Strathmore Road: expressed concerns on the work to the sidewalk that needs to be addressed.

President Rushton entertained any questions from councilors – There were no questions from councilors.

*President Rushton closed the meeting at 7:17 p.m.*

*Councilor Wood motioned to approve Order O-FY21-051 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

## G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- **P-2021-013: The Granting of a One-Day Alcohol & One-Day Entertainment Permit – Black Hat Brew Works**

*Councilor Chase motioned to approve P-2021-013 which was duly seconded.*

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.

## H. PRESENTATIONS

- **Charter Review Committee – Final Recommendations**

The chair of the committee, Ed Ivaldi, shared a presentation with the Town Council reviewing all the Charter Review Committee’s recommended changes and additions to the Town Charter. The committee met a total of 33 times over the last year, and their recommendations ranged from grammatical corrections to changes and additions of language within the charter.

## I. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and is on schedule. Deliveries are being staged depending on where they are coming from to ensure the site is ready for the supplies and that the surrounding streets and neighborhoods are not negatively impacted with traffic and backups. Projection completion date is still planned for July 2022. The budget is still being processed by MSBA at this time.

- **COVID-19 Update**

There are 0 reported active cases currently, 50% residents are fully vaccinated and an additional 5% have received their first shot. The Covid Clinic at BSU is still running and available to residents.

- **McElwain School Update**

The school has changed hands and work has started, site work and hazardous material abatement, and the total construction time for the project will be 18 months. Notices of CPC funding acknowledgment and renderings of the project should be on display at the site for public viewing soon.



- **Enforcement of Ordinance D-FY18-012 Vacant and Abandoned Properties**

Broad Street and Summer Street have a couple properties that appear vacant or abandoned and the Town Manager is meeting with the Town’s development team to see what can be enforced on the properties.

**J. DISCUSSIONS**

- **Reprecincting Process**

Marilee Kenney Hunt and Jolie Sprague-Martin spoke with the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office who stated the most optimistic reprecincting would be 10 precincts and include 5 districts and 2 or 4 at large councilors can be added equaling 7 or 9 total councilors. The current unknowns are the 2020 Bridgewater census count, how MA Legislature will apportion the Commonwealth’s legislative districts, the distribution of Bridgewater’s population and that, until the legislature has finished its processed, Bridgewater cannot make their final determination.

- **Council Clerk Selection**

Councilor Chase addressed the Town Council on the work being done to select a Town Council Clerk. The ad-hoc committee has approved and posted a final form for the job description. The ad-hoc committee continues to work with the Assistant Town Manager, Kimberly Williams, to ensure the best candidate for the position is selected. A pool of candidates has been selected from around 50 applicants and the committee will meet again to discuss each member’s top 3-4 candidates. The ad-hoc committee will then submit their narrowed selections to the full committee for review.

**K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

**L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION**

- **Order O-FY21-048: Acceptance of a gift – Bridgewater Police Association**

*Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-048 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY21-049: Acceptance of a Grant – Home Depot Foundation**

*Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-049 which was duly seconded.*

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.

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

*Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-050 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.



- **Order O-FY21-052: Support of Diversity & Equity Inclusion Committee**

*Councilor Moore motioned to approve Order O-FY21-052 which was duly seconded.*

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.

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

*Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY21-053 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY21-055: Emergency Measure – Grant of Conservation Restriction to Wildlands Trust**

*Councilor George motioned to declare Order O-FY21-055 an emergency measure which was duly seconded.*

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.

*Councilor Wood motioned to approve Order O-FY21-055 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

**M. OLD BUSINESS - None**

**N. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Ordinance D-FY21-010: Zoning Ordinance – Zoning Map Amendment 96 Main Street**

Councilor Sousa spoke on the order and indicated that the owner at 96 Main Street would like to adjust the zoning from residential to allow for a parking lot for a mixed-use building.

*Councilor George motioned to refer Ordinance D-FY21-010 to the CEDC and Planning Board which was duly seconded.*

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.



- **Ordinance D-FY21-011: General Ordinance – Amend Article II Section 2-1 of Town Charter**

Councilor Gallagher is sponsoring the ordinance in anticipation of the reprecinting process that the Town of Bridgewater will undergo later this year.

*Councilor Wood motioned to refer Ordinance D-FY21-011 to the Rules and Procedures 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Ordinance D-FY21-012: General Ordinance – Admin Code Change Part II Ch. 1 Article II Section 2**

Councilor Gallagher recommended the change to the Admin Code to match the proposed amendments in D-FY21-011.

*Councilor George motioned to refer Ordinance D-FY21-012 to the Rules and Procedures Committee which was duly seconded.*

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.

- **Order O-FY21-054: Acceptance of Federal Funds ARPA – CLFRF Funds**

*Councilor Wood motioned to refer Order O-FY21-054 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY21-056: Contract Ratification Local 1700 AFSCME Council 93**

*Councilor Wood motioned to refer Order O-FY21-056 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; Chase – Yea; Rushton – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

## 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.



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

**P. COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Each Councilor was given an opportunity to speak with many of the councilors sharing upcoming community activities and excitement for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.

**Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION** – *No Executive Session was held.*

**R. ADJOURNMENT**

*Councilor George motioned to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:32 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; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 9.25 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw