



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

A quorum being duly present, Town Council Vice-President Fred Chase called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm, on July 13, 2021.

PRESENT:

Peter Colombotos, Francis Sousa, Shawn George, William Wood, Fred Chase, Dr. Kevin Perry, Erik Moore, and Dennis Gallagher. Town Manager Michael Dutton and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins were also present.

ABSENT: Matthew Rushton

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE

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

Vice-President Chase announced: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, this meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through 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 Zoom or Facebook Live.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **June 29, 2021**

Councilor George motioned to approve the meeting minutes from June 29, 2021.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Chase – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS - none

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- **Samuel Baumgarten – Short St:** shared comments on support for the ordinance involving flag raising
- **Marilee Hunt – Austin St:** shared comments on the “nip ban” ordinance and gave a quick update on the reprecinting process she has been working on.
- **Pat Neary – Lakeside Dr:** shared comments on the flag raising ordinance and the “nip ban” ordinance.
- **Jeff Daniels – Maple Avenue:** shared comments on the “nip ban” ordinance, the raising of the pride flag, and the Perkins Foundry Project.
- **Rebecca Cordeio – Deerfield Dr:** shared comments on the flag raising ordinance and commented on the “nip ban” ordinance.
- **Taylor Sullivan – Norland Park:** shared comments on the “nip ban” ordinance and the flag raising ordinance.



E. APPOINTMENTS

- Finance Committee – Julie Scleparis

Councilor Sousa motioned to approve the reappointment of Julie Scleparis to the Finance Committee.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

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 8/3 at 7:05 p.m.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- **P-2021-014: One Day Entertainment – Larkin Motors Foundation, 850 Bedford Street, Larkin Motors Foundation 1st Annual Charity Car Show 8/14/21 (Rain Date: 8/15/2021) 12:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**

Councilor George motioned to approve P-2021-014 which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

H. PRESENTATIONS

- **Perkins Foundry Project**

Steven Meltzer with Edgewood development shared a presentation for the Perkins Foundry Project at 168-180 Broad Street. The presentation covered the site, development options and land use limitations. The development options include industrial, commercial, residential, and mixed use. Several of the concerns posed by the council were regarding the obstacles the project might face, the loss of industrial zoning, and the revenue that might be generated from the completed project.

- **Town Buildings Update**

Christopher Hartman gave a thorough presentation with updates on the Town Buildings that included their repairs, maintenance, and overall conditions. Several council members posed questions on the priority of repairs and on-going projects.

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and is on schedule. The MSBA has sent back their draft budget and it will be reviewed within the next 14 days to confirm the numbers presented for the budget. The topping off ceremony will be hosted on July 29th and the Town Council will receive invitations.



- **Mid-Year Goals Update**

The Town Manager is working with the Finance Department on a financial strategy for infrastructure development in the downtown. The feasibility study for Old Town Hall has been completed and the Town Manager will meet with the cultural council later this month to discuss opportunities. The schematic design for the new Fire Station is underway. Final construction documents are almost complete for the Memorial Building and are expected by early September. Development of a volunteer recruitment plan is underway, and three sessions have been held.

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- **Ordinance D-FY21-007: General Ordinance – Amend Admin Code PT III, CH157**

Discussion: Councilor Chase discussed the recommended amendment from the Rules and Procedures Committee and offered an additional amendment to the final version of the ordinance. The amendment proposed by Councilor Chase was to remove “The precise hours of flag raising and lowering cannot be estimated or stipulated in advance.” from line #5 under section 2.

Councilor Chase motioned to approve the discussed amendment of removing a sentence from D-FY21-007 which was duly seconded.

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

Colombotos – Yea; Wood – Yea; Moore – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

Councilor George motioned to send D-FY21-007 as amended to advertising which was duly seconded.

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

George – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; Chase – Yea; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

- **Ordinance D-FY22-001: Prohibited Sale of 100ml or Less Alcoholic Beverage Containers**

Discussion: Councilor Sousa gave an explanation on the proposal for the ordinance brought forth to the Town Council. Discussion centered around the litter problem and the goal to reduce such litter by adding a bottle deposit to 100ml or less containers.

Councilor Sousa motioned to refer D-FY21-001 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; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.



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- **Order O-FY22-008: Acceptance of a Gift – Donation of \$55,000 from Bridgewater State University**

Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-008 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; Sousa – Yea; Moore – Yea; Wood – Yea; Colombotos – Yea. The motion passed.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Each Councilor was given the opportunity to speak with several speaking on the 4th of July celebration.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George motioned to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 10:07 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; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; Perry – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw