



Town of Bridgewater
Town Council Meeting – Virtual Meeting
Meeting Minutes

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 August 3, 2021.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT: Dr. 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 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

- **July 13, 2021**

Councilor George motioned to approve the meeting minutes from July 13, 2021

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. The motion passed.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS - none

D. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

- **Jacqueline Hunt - Waterford Village:** shared comments on the town's sidewalks.
- **David Frim – Wallace Street:** shared comments on the town's sidewalks.
- **Vernon Domingo – Saddle Drive:** shared comments on the flag raising ordinance.
- **Rebecca Cordeiro – Deerfield Drive:** shared comments on the flag raising ordinance.
- **Carlton Hunt – Austin Street:** shared comments on plans from the energy committee.

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 9/7 at 7:10 p.m.



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

President Rushton opened the hearing at 7:22 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 – There were no questions from councilors.

President Rushton closed the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Councilor George motioned to approve 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; Rushton – Yea; Chase – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

- **P-2021-015: One Day Entertainment – Black Hat Brew Works, 25 Scotland BLVD, August 14, 2021 & August 28, 2021**

Councilor Gallagher motioned to approve P-2021-015 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

I. TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

- **Mitchell School Update**

Work continues as planned and is on schedule. The topping off ceremony was held last week. The Town Manager expressed his satisfaction with the overall project.

- **Covid-19 Update**

The numbers for the delta variant are being tracked and the Town currently has 7 active Covid cases. 52% of Bridgewater residents are vaccinated and 5% have the first dose.



J. DISCUSSIONS

• Sidewalk Improvements

Councilor Colombotos opened discussion between the council and Town Manager on the strategy to improve the sidewalks throughout the town. The Town Manager discussed the comprehensive approach being considered, the engineering of future sidewalk design, which include bicycle and pedestrian needs, along with the preference of material (concrete) for newly built sidewalks. Several councilors shared concerns they had received from citizens on specific problem areas within town.

K. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Budget and Finance:** The Chairman of the Committee, Councilor Wood, shared the committee's disposition from the 8/3/2021 meeting regarding the legislation for action on the Town Council's 8/3/2021 agenda.
- **Rules and Procedures:** The Chairman of the Committee, Councilor Sousa, shared the committee's discussion on items considered during their 7/20/2021 meeting.

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

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

Discussion: No discussion.

Councilor Gallagher motioned to approve Order O-FY21-054 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: MOA – Town of Bridgewater and Local 1700 AFSCME Council 93

Discussion: Councilor Wood shared with the council the details of their review with the Town Manager on the order at their meeting held 8/3/2021.

Councilor Wood motioned to approve Order O-FY21-056 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-FY22-008: Acceptance of a Gift – BSU Donation of \$55,000

Discussion: Councilor George extended his thanks to BSU for the donation.

Councilor George motioned to approve Order O-FY22-008 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-FY21-011: General Ordinance – Amend Article II Section 2-1 of Town Charter**

Discussion: The Town Council discussed the changes presented by the Rules and Procedures Committee and invited the Town Clerk to speak on the status of the reprecinting process. After much consideration, the Town Council made the decision to send the charter and admin changes back to the Rules and Procedures Committee and wait for additional information to come through with regards to the reprecinting process.

Councilor George motioned to send 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.

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

Councilor Sousa motioned to send D-FY21-012 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.

M. OLD BUSINESS - None

N. NEW BUSINESS

- **Order O-FY22-009: Acceptance of Mitigation Payment**

Discussion:

Councilor George motioned to send Order O-FY22-009 to the Budget and Finance Committee and the 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; Chase – Yea; Perry – Yea; Gallagher – Yea; George – Yea. The motion passed.

- **Order O-FY22-010: Transfer for Downtown Charrette & Plan Agreement**

Discussion: Councilor Wood recommended the Town Council hold a workshop session prior to the next meeting to dive deeper into possible downtown revitalization. The Town Manager confirmed that a workshop was in the works and would be held prior to the next Town Council meeting on 9/7/2021.



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Councilor George motioned to refer O-FY22-010 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.

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

- **Marilee Hunt – Austin St:** shared comments on the town’s sidewalks.
- **Carlton Hunt – Austin St:** shared comments on the town’s sidewalks.
- **Vernon Domingo – Saddle Dr:** shared comments on the flag raising ordinance.
- **Jacqueline Hunt – Waterford Village:** shared comments on the town’s sidewalks.

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Each Councilor was given the opportunity to speak and share comments with the Town Council.

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

R. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor George motioned to adjourn the Town Council meeting at 9:20 p.m. which was duly seconded.

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

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

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Minutes submitted in draft form by: Joshua McGraw