



Town of Bridgewater

Rules and Procedure Committee

November 10, 2022

7:00 PM

The meeting will be held virtually via Zoom.

To attend via video, click on the link below:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87094809601>

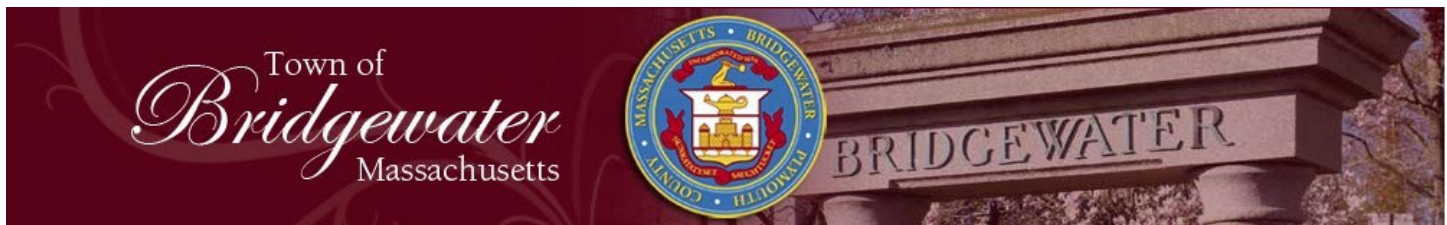
To attend via phone, dial: 1(646) 876-9923

Meeting ID: 870 9480 9601

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: 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 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.

- A. Call to Order**
- B. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - a) October 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes
- C. Public Comment**
- D. Legislation Referred**
 - a) Ordinance D-FY23-005: General Ordinance - Amend Article II. Sec. 14. Citizens Comments
- E. Adjournment of Meeting**



Town of Bridgewater

Rules and Procedure Committee

October 20, 2022

7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order

Councilor Chase, Chair of the Rules & Procedures, called the meeting to order at 7:00m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom.

Council Members Present

Councilor Chase

Councilor Sousa

Council Members Absent

Councilor Colombotos

B. Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) September 22, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Sousa made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 22, 2022 which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Sousa – Yes; Chase – Yes; Colombotos – Absent. Motion passed 2-0-0.

C. Public Comment

D. Legislation Referred

a) Ordinance D-FY23-004: General Ordinance - Amend Administrative Code Article III - Section 26A Tree Commission

Councilor Chase thanked those that worked on establishing the Tree Committee in the town.

Councilor Chase also noted that he spoke with the Town Manager about adding some additional language. The Order is binding, wording should be in that. Tree Committee advises, Town Manager creates an Order and the Town Council Approves.

Councilor Chase made a motion to strike commission on the heading to read "committee", which was duly seconded by Councilor Sousa.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were records as follows: Sousa – Yes; Chase - Yes; Colombotos – Absent. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Councilor Chase made a motion to add "The Committee shall advise town officials and the Town Council, as the appropriating authority, on the use of monies collected through any tree cutting mitigation funds the Town may receive." in paragraph B. as a last sentence. This motion was duly seconded by Councilor Sousa.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were records as follows: Sousa – Yes; Chase - Yes; Colombotos – Absent. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Councilor Chase made a motion to recommend Ordinance D-FY23-004 for approval with the amendment, which was seconded by Councilor Sousa.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were records as follows: Sousa – Yes; Chase - Yes; Colombotos – Absent. Motion passed 2-0-0.

E. Adjournment of Meeting

Councilor Sousa made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Councilor Chase.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were records as follows: Sousa – Yes; Chase - Yes; Colombotos – Absent. Motion passed 2-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.

Meeting minutes being submitted in draft form by Debra Ward.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Councilor Chase
Date Introduced: 10/11/2022
First Reading: 10/11/2022
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Ordinance D-FY23-005: General Ordinance - Amend Article II. Sec. 14. Citizens Comments

WHEREAS, the Town Council encourages active participation by citizens during meetings of the Town Council and has dedicated specific segments of each regular meeting of the Town Council for such purpose, designating such periods as "Citizen Open Forum" and "Citizen Comments"; and

WHEREAS, the "Citizen Open Forum" and "Citizen Comments" periods of meetings of the Town Council are essential opportunities for the Town Council to receive comment from residents of the Town relative to proposed legislation, public safety issues and all other matters of public concern; and

WHEREAS, this Section further provides opportunities for participation during said "Citizen Open Forum" and "Citizen Comments" periods by non-residents, subject to an approval vote of the Town Council; it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Town Charter, Article II, Section 14, by rescission of the second paragraph thereof and substitution therefor by the following:

A non-resident of the Town desirous of an opportunity to address the Town Council during a "Citizen Open Forum" or "Citizen Comments" period of a meeting of the Town Council shall be permitted to do so, subject to compliance with the following provisions:

1. Not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the designated time of commencement of the meeting of the Town Council at which the non-resident wishes to speak, a written request to address the Town Council must be received by the Town Council Clerk from such non-resident, which shall include:
 - a) The name and street address of said non-resident.
 - b) The name and street address of a resident of the Town who shall be deemed to have invited the non-resident to address the Town Council.
 - c) A brief description of the subject matter upon which the non-resident shall speak.
 - d) A brief statement of the educational, occupational or other training, experience or qualification upon which basis the non-resident professes information, knowledge or expertise, if any, to opine on the subject matter.
2. Within twelve (12) hours prior to the designated time of commencement of the specific meeting of the Town Council at which the non-resident wishes to speak, but in no case less than six (6) hours prior to such designated time, the Town Council Clerk shall electronically forward to each member of the Town Council a copy of the written request received from such non-resident.
3. During the "Citizen Open Forum" or "Citizen Comments" periods of the meeting, the Town Council assembled shall consider a motion, duly made and seconded, to permit said non-resident to address the Council. An affirmative vote by a majority of the Council members present and voting shall be required to permit the non-resident to address the Council.

FIRST READING - NOT FOR ACTION

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the owner of a business located within the Town who is a non-resident of the Town (or a designated employee or officer of such business) shall be permitted to address the Town Council during such periods upon compliance with paragraph numbered 1 hereof, but shall not be required to adhere to the further requirements set forth within subparts (b) or (d), hereof.

All other provisions of this Section 14 shall be applicable to non-residents.

EXPLANATION:

The “Citizen Open Forum” and “Citizen Comments” periods are intended for solicitation of input from residents. Comment from a non-resident may, at times, also furnish valuable insight and should be allowed. Presently, the Council is presented with a request from a non-resident without advance notice and without any opportunity to properly identify the non-resident or evaluate the experience or background upon which basis the non-resident purports to speak. This proposed amendment would provide an opportunity for Council members to, should they individually so-choose, personally assess the merits of the comments to be rendered by a non-resident during his or her allotted time.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)

Attachments: None