



Town of Bridgewater

Rules and Procedure Committee

March 18, 2024

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/82321107272>

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

Meeting ID: 823 2110 7272

MEETING AGENDA

Disclosure: Pursuant to Section 20 of Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2020, An Act Relative to Extending Certain Covid-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency, and the March 31, 2025, extension granted by Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, this meeting for the Town of Bridgewater will be fully remote and accessible to the public through remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance is 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) November 9, 2023 Meeting Minutes

C. Public Comment

D. Items Referred

- a) General Ordinance D-FY24-005: Amend Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Tires"
- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

E. Adjournment of Meeting



Town of Bridgewater

Rules and Procedure Committee

November 9, 2023

7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Councilor Chase called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Council Members Present:

Councilor Chase

Councilor Murphy

Councilor McKinnon

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a) October 3, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Murphy made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; McKinnon – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ITEMS REFERRED

a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009: Bridgewater Town Charter Article III, Elected Officials Recall Provision

Councilor Chase noted that the subcommittee worked through Ordinance on various occasions and discussion at Town Council level was around paragraph B.

A discussion was had regarding (b) (2), (3) and (4) and the councilors thought those were appropriate.

Councilor Chase noted that for (5) Councilor Perry commented with concerns for “lack of fitness” and “moral turpitude” and was looking for definitions. Not defined.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to strike “lack of fitness” from (b) (5), which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; McKinnon – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Chase noted that he found a definition of moral turpitude in Black’s Law which read “conduct contrary to justice – legal offenses, fraud, breach of trust. Could be broadly defined.

Councilor Murphy noted that this was very subjective, ambiguous, would like removed.

Councilor McKinnon noted that might be easier to remove, sees both sides.

Councilor Chase made a motion to strike “conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude,” from (b) (6), which was duly seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; McKinnon – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Councilor Chase made a motion to return Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-009 back to Town Council, which was seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; McKinnon – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

A roll-call vote was taken and the results were recorded as follows: Chase – Yea; Murphy – Yea; McKinnon – Yea. Motion passed 3-0.

Meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Brad McKinnon
Date Introduced: 2/6/2024
First Reading: 2/6/2024
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

General Ordinance D-FY24-005: Amend Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Tires"

WHEREAS, Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Rubber Tires" allows the outdoor storage of rubber tires, and

WHEREAS, the outdoor storage of rubber tires can depress property values of neighboring properties, and

WHEREAS, the outdoor storage of rubber tires attracts mosquitos which can carry deadly disease and other undesirable animals, it is therefore,

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend Chapter 74, Article II, "Storage of New or Used Rubber Tires" to read as follows:

Part III. General Ordinances

Chapter 74. Fire Department

Article II. Storage of New or Used Rubber Tires

Section 1. Prohibition.

The outdoor storage of used rubber tires shall be prohibited in the Town of Bridgewater. Existing outdoor used tire storage sites shall maintain suitable access, alleyways and fire lanes capable of supporting fire department apparatus to any buildings located therein and throughout the storage yard. All sides of storage pile shall be accessible by means of alleyways and fire lanes. An alleyway shall have a width of one and one-half times pile height, but not less than twenty (20) feet, with fire lanes between alternate rows of two pile groups, providing a clear space of at least one hundred (100) feet. Each pile shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five (125) feet in length, twenty-five (25) feet in width, nor fifteen (15) feet in height. Fire lanes shall be provided for access across each end and shall provide a clear space of at least one hundred (100) feet to adjacent pile rows, or other exposed property. Where practical, greater widths are desirable to minimize the effects of radiated heat,

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

particularly in high-piled yards. Fire lanes shall be kept unobstructed at all times to permit the maneuvering of fire suppression equipment and other emergency vehicles. For basic fire protection, a water supply shall be provided. The water supply shall be large enough to provide 1000 G.P.M. for a period of two (2) hours, and shall be accessible to fire apparatus as directed by the Fire Chief, or his designee.

Section 2. Preventing Weeds.

Any existing used tire storage area shall be kept free of all trees, weeds, grass and similar vegetation. Dead vegetation shall be removed. Weed burners shall not be used. Good housekeeping shall be maintained at all times, including regular and frequent cleaning of materials handling equipment.

Section 3. Smoking Prohibited.

Smoking shall be prohibited in outdoor tire storage yards. No smoking signs shall be posted in tire storage yards.

Section 4. Unauthorized Access.

Access into yard areas by unauthorized persons shall be prohibited. Storage areas shall be enclosed with a suitable fence equipped with proper gates located to permit entry of Fire Department and other emergency apparatus.

Section 5. Care of Site.

Miscellaneous occupancy hazards, such as vehicle storage and repair shops, cutting and welding operations, flammable liquid storage, liquefied petroleum gas storage and similar operations shall be safeguarded in accordance with NFPA standards. Vehicles and other power devices shall be of an approved type set forth in standards for powered industrial trucks, NFPA 505, and 225 be safely maintained and operated. Vehicle fueling operations shall be conducted in specified safe locations isolated from storage areas and principal operating buildings. All electrical equipment and installation shall conform to the provisions of the National Electrical Code NFPA 70. No cutting, welding or other use of open flames or spark producing equipment shall be permitted in storage areas. The owner of the storage yard shall be responsible for the hiring of any heavy equipment to aid in the extinguishing of a fire should it be deemed necessary by Fire Chief, or his designee.

Section 6. Non-criminal Disposition.

Any fine issued under this Section may be assessed through non-criminal process in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40, Section 21 D. Each day on which any such violation continues shall be considered a separate violation of this section. The availability of non-criminal process herein shall not preclude the use of criminal process or other means of enforcement.

Explanation:

This amendment prohibits the outdoor storage of used tires and preserves the requirements for access to existing piles of used tires. It also eliminates the requirement to use herbicide, but preserves the requirement to keep the existing piles free of trees, weeds, grass and similar vegetation.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Dennis Gallagher, Councilor
Date Introduced: 9/7/2021
First Reading: 9/7/2021
Second Reading: 8/8/2023
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 9/5/2023
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY22-008: Bridgewater Town Charter Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend

ORDERED that The Town Charter, Article II, Legislative Branch Section 2-13(a) Annual Stipend shall be amended to reflect that each member of the Town Council shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and the Town Council President shall receive an annual stipend, payable in arrears, in the amount of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500). Incumbent Councilors shall receive a stipend as above set forth as of each annual Town Election Day. A Councilor who vacates their office will be entitled to receive a pro-rated stipend as of the last date of their service. Regardless of compensation, members of the Town Council shall not be eligible for benefits from the Town. Any modification of the stipend amounts set-forth herein may be adopted by ordinance duly adopted by the Town Council, provided however that no increase or reduction in such stipends shall take effect during the year in which such increase or reduction is voted, and no change in such ordinance shall be made between the election of a new council and the qualification of the new council. Such ordinance shall be subject to the provisions of MGL Chapter 39, Section 6A.

Such amendment shall be effective only after approval by the Town Council, the State Legislature and the voters of the Town of Bridgewater.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referrals and Dispositions
• 9/7/21: Town Council First Reading - Referred to Rules & Procedures • 1/5/22: Rules & Procedures - Voted to recommend with amendments. • 8/8/23: Town Council - Second Reading • 9/5/23: Town Council Third Reading - Referred back to Rules & Procedures • 10/3/23: Rules & Procedures - Voted 3-0 to recommend changes

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES A MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

- 10/10/23: Town Council Fourth Reading - voted to continue to next meeting with further information from Town Counsel.
- 10/24/23: Town Council - Voted with amendments to refer to Advertising.
- 11/21/23: Town Council - voted to refer back to Rules & Procedures

Attachments: None