



Town of Bridgewater Rules and Procedure Committee

December 12, 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/83654381390>

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

Meeting ID: 836 5438 1390

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 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes
- b) December 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

C. PUBLIC COMMENT

D. LEGISLATION REFERRED

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-008: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1B (2)
- b) Ordinance D-FY25-009: Veterans Volunteer Services Program (Work-off)
- c) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1
- d) General Ordinance D-FY25-011: General Ordinance - Amend Chapter 300, Article II, "Truck Exclusions"

E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING



Town of Bridgewater

Rules and Procedure Committee

November 13, 2024
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

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

Councilor Chase called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm pm Wednesday, November 13, 2024. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Council Members Present:

- Councilor Chase
- Councilor Murphy
- Councilor McKinnon

B. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a) October 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes
Councilor McKinnon made a motion to approve the October 8, 2024 meeting minutes, which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

C. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

D. ITEMS REFERRED

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-006: Bridgewater Town Charter Amendment for Gender Neutral Language

Councilor Murphy noted that he sponsored this ordinance to change the language to be gender neutral.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to recommend Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-006, which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

- b) Proposed General Ordinance D-FY25-007: Acceptance of MGL c.33, Section 59 Military Service on Salary, Seniority and Leave Allowances for Public Employees

Councilor Chase noted that the passage of this ordinance would enable the Town to compensate military employees up to 40 days per year. Benefits, pay and seniority would not change.

Councilor McKinnon made a motion to recommend Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-007, which was seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

E. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Councilor McKinnon made a motion adjourn, which was seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:16pm.



Town of Bridgewater
Rules and Procedure Committee

December 2, 2024
7:00 PM

MEETING MINUTES

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

Councilor Chase called the Town Council Rules & Procedures Committee meeting to order at 7:00pm pm Monday, December 2, 2024. The meeting took place via Zoom.

Council Members Present:

- Councilor Chase
- Councilor Murphy
- Councilor McKinnon

Also present was: Shelley McCauley, Chief Assessor; Laurie Guerrini, Finance Director; Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager and Greg Martin, Veterans Agent

B. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

C. LEGISLATION REFERRED

- a) Ordinance D-FY25-009: Veterans Volunteer Services Program (Work-off)

Councilor Chase read the Statute into the record.

Councilor McKinnon asked who was setting the hourly rate and Ms. McCauley noted that the State sets the rate to \$15 per hour.

Councilor Chase inquired about other benefits they may receive and Ms. Robinson noted that they would receive no benefits but if they got hurt during their shift then they would be covered under Workmen’s Compensation.

Councilor Chase then inquired about legal expenses and Ms. Robinson noted that it would depend on the situation, but a person would not be put into a position that would have any issues.

Ms. McCauley noted that the Town has been doing the SAVE Program since 1997 and there have been no issues.

Councilor Murphy inquired as to how does the Town confirm if the Veteran lives in the town or owns property. Ms. Robinson noted that the veteran needs to be a property owner. Ms. McCauley added that the veteran would need to own their home and be the person responsible for the property tax bill.

Councilor Chase asked if the veteran is eligible under this would they be able to secure the SAVE program also.

Ms. McCauley was unsure and there were a few questions that the councilors wanted to get answered so they asked Ms. McCauley to reach out to the DOR for the answers.

Ms. McCauley will reach out to the DOR and get back to the councilors.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to continue Ordinance D-FY25-009, to the next Rules and Procedures Committee meeting. This was seconded by Councilor McKinnon.

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

D. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 10/15/2024
First Reading: 10/15/2024
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-008: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 1, Article III, Section 1B (2)

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of Section 2-06 of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter relative to amendments to the Town ordinances, it is therefore:

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend the Administrative Code, Chapter 1, Article II, Section 1B (2) as follows:

B. Multiple member Bodies and Ad Hoc Committees.

(2) The Bridgewater Town Council may from time to time, based upon passage by a majority vote of its membership, establish ad hoc committees to assist the Town Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities. Ad hoc committees shall be limited to a particular subject area and serve only in that capacity for a specified period of time. Appointments to these ad hoc committees shall be made by the Town Council President subject to ratification by Town Council.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none">10/15/24: Referred to Rules and Procedures Committee.

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
 Date Introduced: 10/15/2024
 First Reading: 10/15/2024
 Second Reading:
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Ordinance D-FY25-009: Veterans Volunteer Services Program (Work-off)

WHEREAS, the Veteran Volunteer Program provides a mechanism to allow veterans or a spouse of a veteran in the case where the veteran is deceased or has a service-connected disability, to volunteer to reduce the real property tax obligations on the tax bill in exchange for volunteer services, and;

WHEREAS, the program will allow an approved representative for persons physically unable to provide such services to the Town of Bridgewater;

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled to vote the acceptance of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 59, §5N, and available and effective in fiscal year 2026,

Explanation:

This ordinance is equivalent to the Senior Associates Volunteer Program (SAVE) that the Town of Bridgewater adopted which has proven to be successful. The program will provide a valuable source of volunteer labor to the Town of Bridgewater while providing a beneficial reduction in the Veteran's tax bill.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Disposition(s)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/15/24: Referred to Rules and Procedures Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rules and Procedures Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12/2/24: Voted to continue to next meeting.

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Mary Mcgrath
 Mark Linde, Councilor
 Date Introduced: 10/15/2024
 First Reading: 10/15/2024
 Second Reading:
 Amendments Adopted:
 Third Reading:
 Date Adopted:
 Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Federal Public Law; 116-67, the National POW/MIA Flag Act, which states; The POW/MIA flag is required to be displayed at specified locations to all days on which the U.S. flag is displayed.

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of American veterans have been held captive or are believed missing in action, arising from wars over the course of many decades: and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater is committed to showing respect and gratitude to those Americans who are classified as prisoners of war or missing in action by flying the POW/MIA flag at the Academy Building at all times.

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1 “Flag Raising” as follows:

4. Flag of the United States *and POW/MIA*: During any Period of Display, a flag approved for public display in the manner permitted hereby shall be flown beneath the flag of the United States *and POW/MIA, which both shall be continuously flown*, in a manner consistent with the United States Code (4 U.S.C. Section 7).

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10/15/24: Referred to Rules and Procedures Committee

Attachments:

1. General Code - Flag Raising on Town Property

Chapter 157. Parades and Public Gatherings

Article I. Permit Required

Section 1. Parades

No person shall form or conduct any parade in any public street, public sidewalk or public way within the town, or form or conduct for the purpose of display or demonstration, any procession or assembly of people, except a military funeral or funeral parade or procession, within such public street, sidewalk or way, without first obtaining a written permit from the Chief of Police; and no person shall take part in any such parade, procession or assembly which is not authorized by such a permit.

Section 2. Public Address

No person shall give any public address, speech or harangue in any public street, public square or public park within the town, without a written permit from the Chief of Police.

Article II. Flag Raising on Town Property

Section 1. Flag Raising

The Town of Bridgewater, acting through its Town Council, may allow the raising of a flag on the flagpole located at the Academy Building in observance of an event or occasion, subject to this ordinance (the "Ordinance") and the attached rules appended to this Ordinance (the "Rules"), each as may be amended by the Town Council from time-to-time.

1. Request Procedure. An organization or individual (in either case being resident in the Town of Bridgewater) may request that the Town raise a particular flag by written request presented to the Town Council Clerk. Such request must be received by the Town Council Clerk sufficiently in advance of a regularly scheduled meeting of the Town Council to conform with public notice requirements. The requested period of display (the "Period of Display") may commence no sooner than thirty (30) days following receipt of the request by the Town Council Clerk.

The Town Council will consider approval of the request in accordance with all rules and procedures applicable to matters before the Town Council. A decision to approve or deny the raising of a flag is made in the sole and complete discretion of the Town Council.

2. Appropriate Events. The events and occasions for which a request pursuant to this Ordinance may be considered are limited to events or occasions designated within a formal proclamation duly issued by a governmental authority, as follows:
 - a) A Proclamation issued by the President of the United States;
 - b) A Proclamation issued by the Congress of the United States;
 - c) A Proclamation issued by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; or
 - d) A Proclamation issued by the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.
3. Period of Display. The Period of Display of a flag to commemorate an event or occasion above-described shall be limited in the following manner:

- a) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one (1) day of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to one (1) day of public display to take place on the date set-forth within the proclamation;
- b) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one week of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to one (1) week of public display to commence and cease in accordance with the dates specified within the proclamation, or as closely thereto as practicable; and
- c) A flag raising intended to coordinate with a proclamation designating one (1) month of honor, recognition, celebration or remembrance shall be limited in duration to no less than one (1) week and no longer than (1) month of public display, such period to commence in accord with the earliest date set-forth within the proclamation, or as closely thereto as practicable.

4. Flag of the United States *and POW/MIA*: During any Period of Display, a flag approved for public display in the manner permitted hereby shall be flown beneath the flag of the United States and *POW/MIA, which both shall be continuously flown*, in a manner consistent with the United States Code (4 U.S.C. §7).

Section 2. Rules Governing Flag Raising

The Flag Raising Ordinance of the Town of Bridgewater (the “Ordinance”) shall be administered in accordance with the following rules (the “Rules”):

1. At no time will the Town of Bridgewater display a flag deemed to be inappropriate or offensive in nature, or a flag supporting discrimination, prejudice or reference to any religious movement. A determination of impropriety in this regard shall be rendered by the Town Council in its sole discretion.
2. A flag proposed for public display shall be considered for approval which features words, symbols, designs or colors customarily associated with the event or occasion to be commemorated and which does not otherwise, in the determination of Town Council, convey or suggest policies, positions or proposals beyond the intended scope of the proclamation with which it is purported to correspond.
3. A photograph of the actual flag proposed for display under this Ordinance shall be provided to the Town Council Clerk together with the written request for display and shall be deemed to constitute a necessary component of the request.
4. A flag proposed for display under this Ordinance shall be clean and serviceable, and corresponding in size with the flag of the United States beneath which it will be flown.
5. Flag raisings must occur on a normal business day during regular business hours as may be determined appropriate by Town administration. Requests outside of normal business days hours cannot be accommodated.

6. A flag delivered for public display must be presented to the Town Council Clerk during normal business days and regular business hours and, following the Period of Display, promptly retrieved from the Town Council Clerk. Neither the Town nor the Town Council Clerk shall bear responsible for flags not promptly retrieved.
7. If the President or other appropriate authority orders that the U.S. Flag be flown at half-staff, no other flag may be flown therewith during the pendency of such order.
8. The Town of Bridgewater shall bear no responsibility for the loss of or any damage to a flag presented for public display under this Policy.
9. The Town Council may amend or rescind this Policy or the Rules hereunder at any time and any authorization for display made pursuant to this policy may be amended or withdrawn upon appropriate action by the Town Council for any reason.

Chapter 160. Peace and Good Order

Article I. Profane or Obscene Language

Section 1. Disorderly Conduct

No person shall behave himself in a rude or disorderly manner, nor use any indecent, profane or insulting language, in any public way or place in the town.

Article II. Public Nudity

Section 1. Nude Bathing

No person shall bathe in any water of this town, in a state of nudity, in places exposed to public view, or in immediate sight of the occupants of any dwelling.

Article III. Public Nuisance

Section 1. Dangerous Conduct

No person shall throw balls, snowballs, or other missiles nor unnecessarily make any alarming or tumultuous noise, not make or light bonfires, or other fires, not ride upon the hind part of any vehicles without leave, not play at football or other games in any street, public way or square of this town.

Article IV. Impeding a Public Way

Section 1. Obstruction of a Public Way

No person shall loiter or continue to stand on any sidewalk or public place in the town as to obstruct the passage of or to impede or in any matter annoy other persons; nor shall any person in a street or way stand or loiter after being directed by a police officer to move on. No person being a member of an assembly of three or more persons shall disturb the peace by using obscene or profane speech in any public place, or obstruct and interfere with the free passage of foot traffic.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Mark Linde, Councilor
Date Introduced: 11/12/2024
First Reading: 11/12/2024
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

General Ordinance D-FY25-011: General Ordinance - Amend Chapter 300, Article II, "Truck Exclusions"

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater conducted a Heavy Vehicle Exclusion (HCVE) Study in September of 2023 for High Street, and

WHEREAS, the HCVE Study showed the percentage to be over 5.0% which met Warrant 1 of a heavy vehicle exclusion, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater submitted a request in June 2024 to MassDOT for the approval of a 24 hour heavy duty truck exclusion for High Street; and

WHEREAS, the 24 hour heavy duty truck exclusion was approved by the MassDOT on September 25, 2024, it is therefore,

ORDERED, that the Town Council assembled votes to amend Chapter 300, Article II, "Truck Exclusions" to read as follows:

Part III. General Ordinances

Chapter 300. Vehicles

Article II. Truck Exclusion; violations and penalties

Section 1. Definition. Any heavy commercial vehicle having a carrying capacity of more than 2 ½ tons.

Section 2. Restrictions. The use and operation of heavy commercial vehicles having a carrying capacity of more than 2 ½ tons are hereby restricted 24 hours per day on the following named streets or parts thereof:

Hayward Street: from the northern town line to High Street

High Street: from Broad Street to Route 104 (Plymouth Street)

Section 3. Exemptions. Section 1 shall not apply to heavy commercial vehicles going to or coming from places

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

upon said streets for the purpose of making deliveries of goods, materials, or merchandise to or similar collections from abutting land or buildings or adjoining streets or ways to which access cannot otherwise be gained; or to vehicles used in connection with the construction, maintenance and repair of said streets or public utilities therein; or to federal, state, municipal or public service corporation owned vehicles.

Section 4. Violations and Penalties. The penalty for violation of this section shall not exceed \$75 for the first offense and each successive offense. The enforcement officer of this section shall be the Police Department.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Town Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11/12/24: Referred to Rules and Procedures Committee
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •

Attachments: None