



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

March 4, 2025

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

The Town Council meeting is being streamed Live via You Tube.

Go to the Town of Bridgewater Facebook Page for the link.

MEETING AGENDA

Due to Massachusetts Open Meeting Law requirements, discussions will not take place during Public Comment periods. If appropriate, responses to questions and concerns will be given by the Town Manager at a future Town Council meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) February 18, 2025 Meeting Minutes

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

C. PROCLAMATIONS

D. CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

E. APPOINTMENTS

F. HEARINGS

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-013: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 290, Article I, Section 1 Shade Trees

Public Hearing: *Advertised in the 2/18/25 Enterprise. Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 at their 1/15/25 meeting.*

G. LICENSE TRANSACTIONS

H. PRESENTATIONS

- a) Town Manager Finalists Announcement: Community Paradigm
- b) Fire Department Update: Chief Schlatz
- c) Water, Sewer and Road Projects Update: Azu Etoniru, DPW Director

I. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

J. DISCUSSIONS

K. COMMITTEE REPORTS

L. LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Resolution R-FY25-006: Asking the Town Manager to explore applying for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Fund PFAS Remediation
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- b) Resolution R-FY25-007: A Resolution Affirming Bridgewater as a Welcoming Community for All
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- c) Order O-FY25-044: Contract Ratification - Town Manager
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.
- d) Order O-FY25-046: Emergency Order - An Order to Establish the Voting Procedure for the Appointment of a Town Manager

M. OLD BUSINESS

N. NEW BUSINESS

- a) Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY25-018: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT: Business B and Residence C Districts In the Bedford Street, Winter Street and Flagg Street Area
- b) Order O-FY25-047: Transfer Order for Town Manager's Office

O. CITIZEN COMMENTS

P. COUNCIL COMMENTS

Q. EXECUTIVE SESSION

R. ADJOURNMENT



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

February 18, 2025

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

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MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being duly present, Town Council President Kevin Perry called the meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 18, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Fred Chase, Paul Murphy, Mary McGrath, Kevin Perry, Mark Linde, Adelene Ellenberg, Johnny Loreti and Sonya Striggles.

Also in attendance was Acting Town Manager Blythe Robinson and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

Councilor Perry read the names of veterans who have recently passed away and held a moment of silence:

- Barbara Dipoli, US Air Force & US Army Iraqi Freedom, passed away January 14, 2025
- Frank McAlpine, US Army Vietnam War, passed away February 2, 2025

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) February 4, 2025 Joint Meeting with Town Council, Finance Committee and Bridgewater-Raynham School Committee Meeting Minutes

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 Joint meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0.

- b) February 4, 2025 Town Council Meeting Minutes

Councilor Loreti made a motion to approve the February 4, 2025 Town Council meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councilor Perry once again noted that residents should complete their census and the deadline for registering dogs to avoid a late fee is February 28th.

Council Vice President Murphy read a statement regarding the Resolution that is being introduced tonight. He noted that the resolution does not make Bridgewater a sanctuary city, nor is it designed to promote Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

PROCLAMATIONS – None

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

Councilor Linde made a motion to allow Jenise-Campbell Means to speak. This motion as duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- Jenise Campbell-Means, BCCR President: noted the resolution on the wall on the first floor because of a hate incident in the town and what it represents.
- Marilee Kenney Hunt, 80 Austin Street: thanked Councilor Murphy for the definition of the resolution and thanked that the fountain is on the agenda.
- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: met with Town Manager Robinson today and Summer Street Park acquisition, submission of final design and specifications by June 1, 2025 – what is the plan for completing the park design by June 1, 2025?
- Beryl Domingo, 36 Saddle Drive: thank you for your commitment to serving the town. Spoke about the resolution on the welcoming community for all. Thanked the council.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: thanked Mr. Murphy for bringing forth the resolution and the statement.
- Karen Sigel, 75 Three Rivers Drive: community page is not transparent, not user friendly. Found out about Resolution on a Boston page.
- Jim Wilder, 185 Curve Street: does not change anything, why do we need to write this resolution. Language says regardless of federal laws, have a problem with that.
- Kelly, 5 Jessica Way: found out about resolution on a Boston Twitter page. Feel like it is a very inclusive place to live, came from Brockton. Going to get more involved with Town Council meetings.

APPOINTMENTS – None

HEARINGS

- a) General Ordinance D-FY25-011: General Ordinance - Amend Chapter 300, Article II, "Truck Exclusions"
Public Hearing: Advertised in the 2/3/25 Enterprise. Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 to approve at their 12/12/24 meeting.
Councilor Perry opened the Public Hearing at 7:21p.m.

Councilor Linde gave a brief update on the Ordinance.

Councilor Perry asked if anyone in the audience had any questions. No questions were asked.

Councilor Perry asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Councilor Perry asked if anyone wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.

Councilor Perry asked if there were any questions from the Councilors.

Councilor McGrath asked if there would be more traffic on the other streets and Councilor Perry noted that this would be keeping the trucks off of the smaller roads.

Councilor Perry closed the Public Hearing at 7:26pm.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve General Ordinance D-FY25-011, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS

a) Tree Committee Presentation - Ray Ajemian, Chair

Ray Ajamian, Chair of the Tree Committee gave an update on the history of the tree committee.

Noted who the current members are. Spoke about different trees in town.

Mitigation for tree removal, an applicant may be required to make a payment. There is a shade tree ordinance that takes care of the town trees. If you cut down a shared tree it is a violation in town and can be fined. Developments are required to plant trees (street trees). In operation for two years, have some accomplishments but still have work to do.

Arbor Day in 2023; Williams School Arbor Day 2024, also had a contest with students to draw trees. Signs will be put up throughout the town.

Proposed update to Chapter 290, Shade Trees sent to Town Manager. Proposed Tree Mitigation Schedule. Planning Board adopted a list of street trees good for the town. Planted trees on Broad, Main, and at the Senior Center. Held a forum last year and will be having another one on April 1st.

The State requires towns to have Tree Wardens. We are working with the Town Manager for an on-call Tree Warden. Tree Committee should have an arborist but the way the code was written it had to be a town resident, but that was recently changed.

Would like to do a tree survey, would like an established budget, forestry department/bucket truck reinstituted and public education venue.

National Grid contacts the Tree Warden when they are coming into town to cut trees.

Trees are important and the town has to take accountability.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a) Fire Station Update

Acting Town Manager Robinson gave a update on the Fire Station and noted that even though it's been cold weather the project still remains ahead of schedule by a month. Progress made every day. National Grid responded about the pole relocation, transformer cannot be delivered until date set. In the packet is the change order log, committee meets every Wednesday.

b) Academy Building Fountain

Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that she spent time with Facilities Coordinator and the process is every Spring it is opened, cleaned and serviced and pump calibrated. Pressure adjustments need to be made, that might require a new pump (approximately \$2,500) or a new fountain head. In the past few years the fountain was turned off because there was water limitations.

Councilor Linde noted that the BIA donated to the town, has the history, maybe talk to those folks.

c) Public Meetings - Hybrid Options and ESL Services

Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that there have been requests for hybrid meetings and they are working on how to achieve that in Council Chamber. Technology changes would need to take place, another staff member would need to run the Zoom. Not an easy task, working on it.

Acting Town Manager Robinson also noted that the law does require that if someone lets us know 24 hours in advance that they need certain services to participate in a meeting, we would have to get the State to help – approx. cost is \$500 per meeting. Have not had any requests. There is equipment to buy but have not looked into it yet.

Councilor Linde noted that he will inquire to Stoughton about what they use for hearing impaired.

d) Perkins Development Mitigation

Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that it is up to \$200k in mitigation for this project which could include sidewalks, etc. but it has not started yet and there is currently no start date.

Councilor Linde asked if the deadlines for Summer Street Park could be met. Would like the topic on the next agenda.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Linde noted that a joint hybrid meeting between the Finance Committee and Budget and Finance Committee took place prior to the Town Council meeting.

Councilor Murphy noted that the Town Manager Ad Hoc Committee held interviews on 2/8/25 and 4 individuals are being put forth to the full council.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY25-032: Acceptance of Non Recurring Revenue to Capital - Department of Corrections
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-032, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- b) Order O-FY25-037: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-037, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- c) Order O-FY25-038: Acceptance of Grant – Firefighter Safety Grant Equipment Program
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-038, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- d) Order O-FY25-039: Adoption of a 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-039, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- e) Order O-FY25-040: General Fund Capital Transfer Order
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-040, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- f) Order O-FY25-041: Capital Transfer Order – Water Enterprise Fund
Budget & Finance voted 3-0 and Finance Committee voted 5-0 at a joint meeting held on 2/28/25.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-041, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

Councilor Ellenberg asked if the water the college uses will be in the study and will money come back to the Town. Councilor Ellenberg also asked if the college is charged for their water and how much do they pay. Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that all water

Councilor Murphy asked if we knew who the company was doing the study. Acting Town Manager Robinson noted that the Town has reached out to firms and that the general taxpayers are not paying for the study. – do we know the company that is doing the study? BR – reached out to firms. General taxpayers are not paying for the study.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- g) Petition P-2025-019: Town Election Warrant - April 26, 2025
Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Petition P-2025-019, which was duly seconded by Councilor Loreti.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY25-042: Transfer Order - CPC Purchase and Restoration of Samuel Edson's Coroners Book
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-042 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- b) Order O-FY25-043: CPC Additional Funds - Restoration of Parthenon Frieze
Councilor Chase made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-043 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- c) Order O-FY25-044: Contract Ratification - Town Manager
Councilor Striggles made a motion to retain Order O-FY25-044 at Town Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- d) Resolution R-FY25-006: Asking the Town Manager to explore applying for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Fund PFAS Remediation
Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY25-006 at Town Council, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

- e) Resolution R-FY25-007: A Resolution Affirming Bridgewater as a Welcoming Community for All
Councilor Chase noted that he is supportive of this resolution and that Councilor Murphy's comments earlier helped to explain why.

Councilor Striggles noted that today was a challenging day as a councilor, Twitter post naming her personally, no one coming to her defense.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to retain Resolution R-FY25-007 at Town Council which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to amend Resolution R-FY25-007 by removing all words after "valued: in paragraph 3 and all words after "individuals" in paragraph 6. This motion was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

Councilor Loreti read proclamation on the first floor, declaring Bridgewater a welcoming community. We all live in this community as stated. Not sure this is needed. Appreciate the spirit. This resolution does not do anything new. Could be held accountable.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that trying to be DEI and sanctuary city, concerns of federal funding.

Councilor McGrath noted that the town is already kind, feels it will divide the community, cannot support this.

Councilor Perry asked for a 5 minute recess at 8:30pm.

At 8:37pm Town Council meeting was back in session. Councilor Perry reminded the audience to keep the talking to a minimum.

A voice vote was taken for the Motion to Amend with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 7-1

Councilor Loreti made a motion to table Resolution R-FY25-007, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

Councilor Linde read the proclamation on the wall that is hanging on the first floor that was adopted by the Town Council noting that it needed to be updated.

Councilor Loreti noted that perhaps the proclamation downstairs gets amended. Attorney Rawlins noted that Resolutions are statements of the current board, not a prior board so a new resolution would need to be drafted.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she is a person of faith and actions speak louder than words.

A roll call vote was taken for the motion to table with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – No; Perry – No; Linde – No; Chase – No; Striggles – No; McGrath – Yea; Motion to Table defeated 3-5.

A roll call vote was taken for the motion to retain at Town Council with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion to keep at council passed 8-0.

- f) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-017: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 60, Article I, Section 1 – Elections
Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY25-017 to Rules and Procedures, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion

- g) Order O-FY25-045: Acceptance of Donation - Discovery Channel's Expedition X Circle the Globe Production
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-045 to Budget and Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Motion passed 8-0

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Laurene Powers, Sunshine Drive: people commented that this resolution was not needed but Councilor Striggles noted what she just went through. How can they say it is not needed.
- John Healey, - document says immigration status, putting ourselves at risk for federal laws, funding.
- Shawn Kennedy, 475 summer street: urge you to vote no. intent is vague, puts national politics into our local community.
- Marilee Hunt, Austin Street: when we moved to Bridgewater we did because it was welcoming.

- Ray Ajamian: proclamation on first floor came about because of a hate incident at the post office. However you vote on this, I hope you do not vote on the basis of fear.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: who is creating all this fear, the federal government. We are afraid of federal funds, statements are important. If we are a welcoming community what is the harm of bringing another statement forward.
- John, 261 South Street: thanked Councilors Murphy and Linde about having an open session a few weeks ago, took advantage of that, found it very useful. Encourage others to take advantage of it when it is offered again. Councilor Loreti said it the best on the resolution, Bridgewater is a welcoming community.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: spoke about not being welcome in a town and feels that it is happening in this town.
- Brandon, 1093 High Street: my generation is welcoming to all people. Immigration status is not on the proclamation downstairs. Discrimination is wrong and my generation is tired of listening to it.
- MJ Spagone, 5 LakeShore Center: first woman to be appointed as chair of the Finance committee. Committee is in need of 2 additional members. Implore someone in this room to join me on the finance committee. How welcoming this community has been to me. Have the courage to stand up and speak from my heart and mind.
- Sandra Wright: never experienced hate or discrimination, need to earn respect. It's how you are brought up in your home.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McGrath: noted that she was sorry that Councilor Striggles was going through what she was going through.
- Councilor Striggles: no comments
- Councilor Chase: noted that it is within the Town Council to make resolutions from time to time. It is a statement on our feelings on a particular subject. That is our free speech. No action, does not require anything.
- Councilor Linde: would like to see some kind of middle ground.
- Councilor Murphy: believes it's a time to reaffirm our commitment and will continue to work with folks to amend. Still a commitment to be made. To Councilor Striggles - the council supports you and are saddened to see what was put out today.
- Councilor Ellenberg: DEI and Sanctuary city subfortuse language which can be determined by the Feds. I do not think it leads us in a good position. As a person of faith we need to treat everyone with respect and dignity. Resolution is not needed.
Ad hoc committee had 26 applicants but only 4 are being sent forward. Opened up to the rest of the council.
- Councilor Loreti: sorry that Councilor Striggles received what she received.

- Dr. Perry: noted that Councilor Striggles did not deserve to be treated like she was treated. No one is coming together in the middle. We are all here as volunteers, no pay, trying to do a good job for the citizens of Bridgewater.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Councilor Perry read the Executive Session language into the record.

Councilor Chase made a motion to go into Executive Session, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A roll call vote was taken with the results recorded as follows: Loreti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea;
Motion passed 8-0

ADJOURNMENT



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 12/17/2024
First Reading: 12/17/2024
Second Reading: 2/4/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading: 3/4/2025
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-013: Proposed Amendment to Part II – Administrative Code: Chapter 290, Article I, Section 1 Shade Trees

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 290, Article I, Section 1 as follows:

Chapter 290. Shade Trees

Article I. Shade Trees

Section 1. Purpose and Definitions

This Ordinance is based on MGL, Chapter 87, Shade Trees, and MGL, Chapter 242, Waste and Trespass. It is meant to provide further clarification, implementation and enforcement of procedures applicable to the Town of Bridgewater.

Bridgewater is committed to maintaining and protecting its natural resources in order to enhance the quality of life of its citizens. It is a well established fact, that Trees, Shrubs, and Plants moderate the negative effects of pollution, temperature and water runoff. The trees and other vegetation growing along its roads contribute to the health of its citizens and beauty of the environment. Wildlife habitats are sustained and the rural character of the community differentiates it from more urban surroundings. In concert with the Master Plan, and Town ordinances, the economic value of the landscape along its roads, appeals to one's aesthetic sensitivity and connotes a sense of stability in commercial and residential areas.

The following definition shall apply:

Hazardous Tree: A tree with structural defects likely to cause failure to all or part of the tree, which could strike a target such as a person, vehicle, utility lines, structures, or block public ways.

Public Tree: Any tree on public land, including public shade trees.

Public Shade Tree: A tree growing within or on the boundary of the public right-of-way and subject to the

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Provisions of MGL, Chapter 87. In Bridgewater a tree may also be considered to be in the public way if either its root system or its branches extend into the public way as determined by the Tree Warden, Highway Department or Planning Board. A tree on a private way that has been laid out such that it will remain open to the public.

Tree Warden: The **elected (change to Appointed)** town official responsible for implementing and enforcing state and town laws and policies regarding trees subject to appeal to the Hearings Officer as herein provided.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
Town Council	12/17/24: Referred to Rules and Procedures Committee
Rules and Procedures Committee	1/15/25: Voted 3-0 to recommend
Town Council	2/4/25: Referred to Advertising

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Johnny Loreti, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/4/2025
First Reading: 2/4/2025
Second Reading: 3/4/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Resolution R-FY25-006: Asking the Town Manager to explore applying for the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant as Part of a Comprehensive Strategy to Fund PFAS Remediation

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater is committed to ensuring the safety and quality of its public drinking water supply;

WHEREAS, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination poses a significant health risk to residents and requires immediate and long-term remediation efforts;

WHEREAS, the Town has diligently pursued various funding opportunities, including grants and low-interest loans, to address water quality issues;

WHEREAS, the Emerging Contaminants in Small or Disadvantaged Communities (EC-SDC) Grant Program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides financial assistance to eligible communities for addressing emerging contaminants, including PFAS;

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater qualifies as a Tier Two community under this program, and despite potential federal funding delays, it remains in the Town's best interest to submit an application to secure financial resources for PFAS remediation;

WHEREAS, this application shall be part of a broader, long-term approach to establish a sustainable and diversified funding strategy for PFAS remediation, including additional state and federal grant opportunities, low-interest financing, and other appropriate funding mechanisms;

WHEREAS, PFAS remediation is scheduled as part of the Town's 2026-2030 budget, and as the Town is currently preparing for the FY 2026 budget, this initiative is timely and necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts:

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

1. That the Town Manager explore the filing of an application for the EC-SDC Grant Program to support PFAS remediation efforts.
2. That the Town Council remains committed to exploring all available resources to protect public health and ensure the long-term sustainability of Bridgewater's water supply.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)
• This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Paul Murphy, Councilor
Fred Chase, Councilor
Sonya Striggles, Councilor

Date Introduced: 2/18/2025

First Reading: 2/18/2025

Second Reading: 3/4/2025

Amendments Adopted: 2/18/2025

Third Reading:

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

Resolution R-FY25-007: A Resolution Affirming Bridgewater as a Welcoming Community for All

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater has long valued diversity, inclusion, and respect for all individuals regardless of their background, nationality, religion, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, our community is enriched by the contributions of people from all walks of life, fostering a culture of mutual respect, understanding, and shared prosperity; and

WHEREAS, Bridgewater remains committed to ensuring that all residents, workers, and visitors feel safe, welcomed, and valued; and

WHEREAS, policies that promote discrimination, exclusion, or marginalization are contrary to the core values of Bridgewater, which are built upon principles of equity, justice, and human dignity; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council acknowledges the importance of fostering an environment where all individuals can thrive, participate fully in civic life, and contribute to the betterment of our community without fear or prejudice;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bridgewater Town Council affirms its commitment to being a welcoming, inclusive, and safe community for all individuals, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Bridgewater will continue to promote policies and initiatives that support inclusivity, fairness, and respect for all members of our community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Bridgewater stands united against discrimination, intolerance, and actions that seek to divide us, reaffirming our town's dedication to being a place where every person has the opportunity to live with dignity and respect.

VOICE VOTE - REQUIRES MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING

Adopted this _____ day of _____ 2025, by the Bridgewater Town Council.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)
• This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening.

Attachments: None



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Kevin Perry, Councilor
Date Introduced: 2/18/2025
First Reading: 2/18/2025
Second Reading: 3/4/2025
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-044: Contract Ratification - Town Manager

ORDERED, in accordance with the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter, the Town Council assembled vote to approve the negotiated Town Manager agreement covering March 5, 2025 through the day prior to the new Town Manager start date with Blythe Robinson.

Explanation:

The Town Council negotiated an agreement with Blythe Robinson, Town Manager. An affirmative vote of the Council will approve the contract as presented.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)
This measure was not referred to committee. 14 days has elapsed per Section XVII of the Council Rules & Procedures, therefore this measure may be finally considered this evening

Attachments: 1. Contract Blythe

EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT

TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER

TOWN MANAGER

WHEREAS, The Town Council appointed the Town Manager pursuant to Section 4-1 of the Town Charter;

WHEREAS, under Chapter 41, Section 108N of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town acting through its Town Council may contract with the Town Manager and may establish an employment contract for a period of time to provide for the salary, fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment for its Town Manager;

WHEREAS, the Town Manager, shall be a person of proven ability, accepts such appointment as Town Manager of said Town and desires to enter into this Agreement.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

Introduction

This Agreement, made and entered into this 5th day of March, 2025, by and between the Town of Bridgewater, a Massachusetts municipal corporation, (hereinafter called "Employer") and Blythe C. Robinson, (hereinafter called "Employee"), with an address at 1 Orchard Hill Drive, Westborough, MA 01581, an individual who has the education, training and experience in local government management and who, as a member of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), is subject to the ICMA Code of Ethics, both of whom agree as follows:

Section 1: Term

The term of this agreement shall be from March 5, 2025 to the day prior to the newly hired Town Manager's start date, but in no event to exceed six months or September 5, 2025.

The Employer shall have the authority to negotiate and enter into a contract with a new Town Manager during the term of this contract.

Once the Employer has entered into a contract with a new Town Manager, they shall notify the Employee. At that time, they will provide a date in which the new Town Manager will begin.

The Employee agrees to submit its resignation, in writing, terminating this contract, on the day prior to the start date of the newly hired Town Manager.

Both parties agree to these terms hereof, and have entered into negotiations relative to establishing a new employment contract for the stated term in order to provide for the salary, fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment, for the Town Manager.

Section 2: Duties and Authority

- A. Employer agrees to employ Blythe C. Robinson as Town Manager to perform the functions and duties specified in Article IV of the Bridgewater Home Rule Charter ("charter") and the Bridgewater Town Code ("code") and to perform other legally permissible and proper duties and functions without interference.
- B. Employee shall devote full time to the duties of the office and shall not hold any other elective or appointive office in the Town.
- C. Employee is the chief executive officer of the Employer and shall faithfully perform the duties as prescribed in the job description as set forth in the Employer's charter and/or code and as may be lawfully assigned by the Employer and shall comply with all lawful governing body directives, state and federal law, Employer policies, rules and ordinances as they exist or may hereafter be amended.
- D. Specifically, it shall be the duty of the Employee to employ on behalf of the Employer all other employees of the organization consistent with the policies of the governing body, the charter and code of the Employer.
- E. It shall also be the duty of the Employee to accept all resignations of employees of the Employer consistent with the policies, ordinances, state and federal law, except the Employee's resignation which must be accepted by the governing body.
- F. The Employee shall perform the duties of town manager of the Employer with reasonable care, diligence, skill and expertise.
- G. All duties assigned to the Employee by the governing body shall be appropriate to and consistent with the professional role and responsibility of the Employee.
- H. The Employee or designee shall attend, and shall be permitted to attend, all meetings of the governing body, both public and closed, with the exception of those closed meetings devoted to the subject of this Agreement, or any amendment thereto.

Section 3: Compensation

- A. Base Compensation: Employer agrees to pay Employee an hourly rate of \$95.00 payable in installments at the same time and manner that the other employees of the Employer are paid.
- B. It is anticipated that Ms. Robinson will work a Hybrid (both in person and remote) as agreed upon with the Town, which will include working in person three (3)

times per week, and a total average of approximately 30-35 hours per week, excluding any scheduled time off or holidays. Ms. Robinson will also be compensated for her travel time to and from Bridgewater (2 hours per day) for in-person work at the designated hourly rate.

Section 4: Health and Life Insurance Benefits

The Employee will not be eligible for health and life insurance benefits through the Employer. Employee hereby acknowledges and agrees to same.

Section 5: Paid Leave

The Employee will not be eligible for any paid leave through the Employer. Employee hereby acknowledges and agrees to same.

Section 6: Indemnification

The Town shall indemnify, defend, and save harmless Ms. Robinson for acts performed by her in good faith and within the scope of her employment with the Town, including reimbursement for any reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred by her as well as any judgements and/or settlements in connection with such claims or suits involving Ms. Robinson in her professional capacity as Town Manager for the Town, in accordance with and to the extent permitted by G.L. c. 258. Said indemnification shall include alleged civil rights violations. The indemnification shall continue to apply to Ms. Robinson after she leaves employment of the Town. The Town shall not defend, save harmless or indemnify Ms. Robinson for any criminal act or for any intentional violation of civil rights of any person or for any claims arising under this Agreement.

This section shall survive the termination of this agreement.

Section 7: Automobile

The Employer shall provide the exclusive and unrestricted use of an automobile to the Employee at the Employer's cost. The Employer shall be responsible for paying for liability, property damage, and comprehensive insurance, and for the purchase (or lease), operation, maintenance, repair, and regular replacement of a full-size automobile. The Employee shall be responsible for all additional expenses associated with said vehicle.

Section 8: Termination

For the purpose of this agreement, termination shall be deemed to mean the end of the Employee's relationship with the Employer. Based upon the foregoing, Termination shall be deemed to have occurred :

1. On the day prior to the newly hired Town Manager's start date as stated in Section 1, herein.

2. If Employee is removed by the Town Council at any time and for any reason not contract to law and in accordance with the Town of Bridgewater's Town Charter.

Section 9: No Severance

The employee will not be eligible for any Severance through the Employer. Employee hereby acknowledges and agrees to same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Town of Bridgewater has caused this Agreement to be signed and executed on its behalf by the Town Council and the Town Manager has signed and executed this Agreement, both in duplicate, on the day and year first above written.

Blythe C. Robinson
Town Manager

Dr. Kevin Perry
Council President
Councilor-At-Large

Brad McKinnon
Councilor-At-Large

Adelene Ellenberg
Councilor-At-Large

Fred Chase
District 2 Councilor

Mary McGrath
Councilor At-Large

Paul Murphy
Council Vice President
Councilor-At-Large

Johnny Loreti
Councilor-At-Large

Mark Linde
District 2 Council

Sonya Lee Striggles
District 1 Councilor



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Sonya Striggles, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/4/2025
First Reading: 3/4/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-046: Emergency Order - An Order to Establish the Voting Procedure for the Appointment of a Town Manager

EMERGENCY MEASURE: In accordance with Section 2-7 (b) of the Home Rule Charter, An emergency measure shall be introduced in the form and manner prescribed for measures generally except that it shall be plainly designated as an emergency measure and shall contain statements after the enacting clause declaring that an emergency exists and describing its scope and nature in clear and specific terms. A preamble which declares and defines the emergency shall be separately voted on and shall require the affirmative vote of two thirds of the town council.

PREAMBLE:

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater has set a date to interview and appointment candidates for its Town Manager position;

WHEREAS, that date was required to be set immediately to ensure the timely appointment of the new permanent Town Manager;

WHEREAS, the Town Council does not have a set voting procedure for this appointment;

WHEREAS, the Town Council would like to implement and utilize such a voting procedure for the appointment of the new Town Manager;

WHEREAS, due to the interview date that has been set, the Town Council must act immediately to create the voting procedure set forth below;

ORDERED, that the following Order constitutes an emergency under Section 2-7(b) of the Town Charter.

1. ROLL CALL VOTE TO DECLARE AND DEFINE EMERGENCY – 2/3 REQUIRED
2. ROLL CALL VOTE TO SUSPEND COUNCIL RULES & PROCEDURES SECTION 18 – READINGS – 2/3 VOTE
3. ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE MEASURE – MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

Emergency Order - An Order to Establish the Voting Procedure for the Appointment of a Town Manager

WHEREAS, the Town of Bridgewater desires to establish a transparent and efficient process for appointing a qualified Town Manager; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council recognizes the importance of a clear and consistent procedure to ensure the appointment of a Town Manager who is capable of effectively administering the operations of the Town;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordered by the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, as follows:

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this order is to establish a voting procedure for the appointment of a permanent Town Manager pursuant to Article IV, Section 4-6 of the Town Charter and to ensure that the most qualified individual is appointed to manage the Town's affairs.

Section 2. Appointment of Town Manager

Following the interview process, the Town Council will deliberate and vote using a Ranked Choice Voting process to determine which finalist is appointment of Town Manager. Any such appointment is subject to the negotiation of a mutually acceptable contract and appropriation of the funds necessary for same.

Section 3. Process

Each Town Councilor will rank each candidate in order of their preference (first choice, second choice, third choice and fourth choice...etc.)

After the Town Council has done so, they will take turns reading off their order of choices. This will be kept and tallied by the Town Council Clerk.

Each choice is worth its respective points. For instance, a first choice vote is worth one point, a second choice vote is worth two points, a third choice vote is worth three points, a fourth choice vote is worth four points...etc

The points received by a candidate will correspond with the total of the points they received from the council.

If any candidate receives more than half of the first choice votes, that candidate is immediately appointed as Town Manager.

If there no candidate receives a majority of the first choice votes after counting the first counting, the candidate with the highest points is eliminated.

After the elimination of the first candidate, the process shall repeat in the same way.

This process will continue until a finalist with more than half of the votes is determined.

Explanation:

Ranking candidates is different from simply selecting one candidate or what is known as plurality voting. It allows the Councilors to vote in order of preference and better representation

1. ROLL CALL VOTE TO DECLARE AND DEFINE EMERGENCY – 2/3 REQUIRED
2. ROLL CALL VOTE TO SUSPEND COUNCIL RULES & PROCEDURES SECTION 18 – READINGS – 2/3 VOTE
3. ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE MEASURE – MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Attachments: None

1. ROLL CALL VOTE TO DECLARE AND DEFINE EMERGENCY – 2/3 REQUIRED
2. ROLL CALL VOTE TO SUSPEND COUNCIL RULES & PROCEDURES SECTION 18 – READINGS – 2/3 VOTE
3. ROLL CALL VOTE TO APPROVE MEASURE – MAJORITY OF THOSE PRESENT AND VOTING.



Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Fred Chase, Councilor
Date Introduced: 3/4/2025
First Reading: 3/4/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY25-018: ZONING MAP AMENDMENT: Business B and Residence C Districts In the Bedford Street, Winter Street and Flagg Street Area

ORDERED that pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 40A, Section 5; the Town Council of the Town of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to amend the Bridgewater Zoning Map in the Bedford, Winter, Flagg Street, and Flaggstone Place Areas as follows:

- Amend the depth of the Business B boundary relative to Bedford Street to remove properties currently residential in use or as approved by subdivision.
- The amended line will follow a more logical and defined course along property lines, where possible and reduce the conflict currently posed by the uniform offset definition, currently defining the limit of the Business B zone.
- The proposed change will begin at the northerly limit of Map 75, Lot 21, where the line will turn to the west along the southerly limit of Map 63, Lot 2 to the intersection with Map 75, Lot 91 and continue southerly at the easterly limit of that parcel and the following lots of land:

Map 75, Lot 58; Map 75, Lot 80; Map 75, Lot 57; thence crossing the easterly portion of Map 75, Lot 19, and westerly along the southerly border of Map 75, Lot 19; to and along the easterly limit of Map 75, Lot 17; across Winter Street.

The new boundary will then follow the easterly limit of Map 75, Lot 14; and the easterly and southerly limits of Map 75, Lot 12; where it turns and follows the easterly limit of Map 88, Lot 42; across Flagg Street, to the northerly limit of Map 88, Lot 33; and the current Business B zone line.

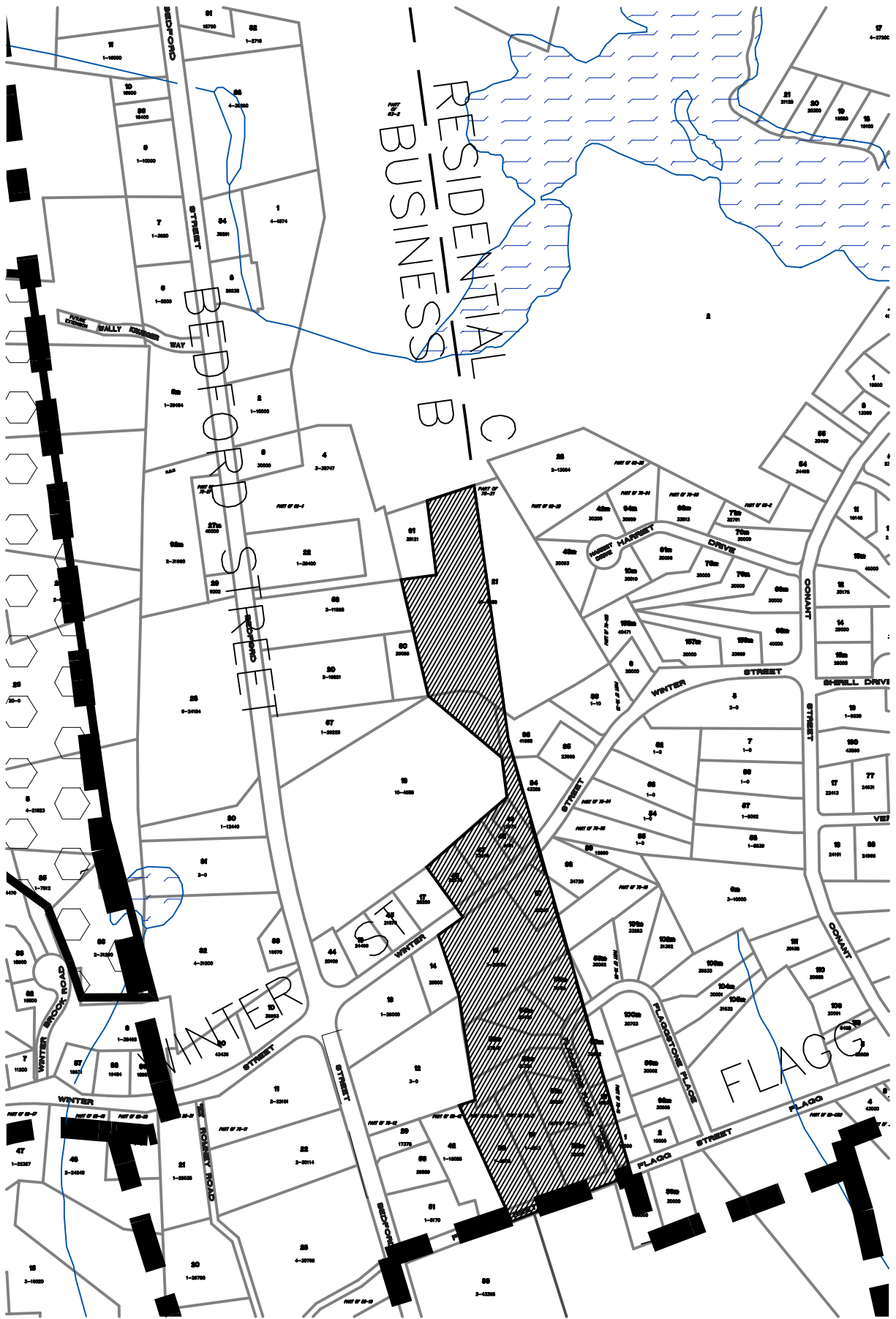
- The proposed changes will result in a more realistic limit of the Business B zone of the current land uses by redesignating homes and residentially approved land to the Residential C zoning district.
- The proposed changes would protect residential uses in these areas from being converted into Business (B) uses.

- The proposed changes are illustrated on the attached “Proposed Zoning Change “ plan dated January 15, 2025, as prepared by Silva Engineering Associates.

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: 1. BusBZoningChangePlan 2025





Bridgewater Town Council

Introduced By: Blythe Robinson, Acting Town Manager
Date Introduced: 3/4/2025
First Reading: 3/4/2025
Second Reading:
Amendments Adopted:
Third Reading:
Date Adopted:
Date Effective:

Order O-FY25-047: Transfer Order for Town Manager's Office

ORDERED, that the Town council assembled vote to

Pursuant to Section 6-4 of the Town of Bridgewater Charter, that the Town Council of Bridgewater, Massachusetts in Town Council assembled vote to appropriate \$102,616 below schedule:

Source of Funds	Account No.	GL Account Description	Amount
Other One Time Stabilization Fund	80135-596100	Transfer to General Fund	\$ 102,616.00
Total:			\$ 102,616.00
Use of Funds	Account No.	GL Account Description	Amount
Town Manager Employee Salaries	01235001-510000	Full Time Wages	\$ 65,000.00
Town Manager Professional Services	01235013-530000	Professional Services	\$ 37,616.00
Total			\$ 102,616.00

Explanation:

Transfer from Other One-Time Stabilization Fund for contractual services for the Town Manager's office. Current Fund balance in this Fund is \$463,285

NOT FOR ACTION - FIRST READING

Committee Referrals and Dispositions:

Referral(s)	Disposition(s)
•	•
•	•
•	•

Attachments: None