



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

April 22, 2025

7:00 PM

The Town Council meeting was streamed Live via You Tube.

MEETING MINUTES

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.

CALL TO ORDER

Town Council to order at 7:00pm on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

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

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:

- Michael B. Lynch, US Marines & Army. Passed away on April 4th.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- a) April 8, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Murphy made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 8, 2025, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Town Clerk Tina Larson made an announcement that the 2025 Street Listing is available. \$20 for a printed copy. This weekend is the Town Election. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm at the Middle School. 221 people have received ballots. Absentee ballots are available until noon on Friday. After that you must vote in person at the Middle School.

PROCLAMATIONS

- a) Recognition of Lt. Scott Hile of the Bridgewater Police Department

Dr. Perry read the proclamation of Lt. Scott Hile into the record and presented the Proclamation to Lt. Hile and thanked him for his dedication and achievement of graduating from the FBI Academy.

Lt. Hile thanked everyone for their support while he was attending the FBI academy.

Chief Delmonte noted that Lt. Hile was selected by candidates across the Country.

b) Arbor Day: April 25, 2025

Councilor Chase read the Proclamation regarding Arbor Day into the record and presented it to Nicole Holmes of the Tree Committee.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Nicole Holmes, 80 Old Farm Road: thanked the Councilors for the Arbor Day proclamation and noted the importance of Arbor Day. Cottage Street playground trees will be replanted by the Tree Committee this Friday. Congratulated the Middle School 5th Graders for participating in the Arbor Day poster contest.
- Ray Ajamian, Aldrich Road: driving force behind the Tree Committee is Nicole Holmes.
- Chris Ajamian, Aldrich Road: Today is Earth day and there is a webinar on April 30th regarding Water. *Send email to councillors and Tina*

Councilor Linde made a motion to suspend the Council rules and allow an out of town person to speak. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- Kate, 2014 Graduate lives in Boston. Her parents live at 135 Jennifer Circle: described her time at BR High School and what she has been able to do with her education.
- Ashley Mallard, 270 Grange Road: noted that Kate was her student and she reached out and asked what she could do. 76 members will be laid off and hits will most likely be at the High School. Loss of electives, cut off language to two years, sports fees \$1,000 per sport. Business department, Art Department, ELA, will be cut.
- Frank Sousa, 596 Main Street: spoke about housing issues in Bridgewater and the high cost for seniors. Noting that the Accessory Dwelling should be 900 square feet not 800 square feet as recommended by the Planning Board.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: hoping the prop 2 ½ will not be approved tonight to go on the ballot and there is a discussion. Is this a band aid, want to see those numbers. What does it mean per tax payer. Confused about Accessory Dwelling units, does not agree with making it 900 square feet.
- Sean Kennedy, 487 Summer Street: a request by a councilor was submitted but denied by the council. Divide the proposition 2 ½.
- Kimberly Burke, 14 Heather Lane: spoke about the Pride Flag and comments made at the 4/8/25 meeting by a councilor.
- Brad McKinnon, 86 Spring Street: spoke about various residents who have made it in sports, spoke about the cleaning of Bridgewater and Saturday and thanked those that showed up. Why aren't we flushing hydrants?
- Greg Martin, 493 High Street: spoke about veterans suicide and how it lives here in Bridgewater and that they host monthly meetings. Mr. David Sulthalter turned 98 last week and wished him a Happy

Birthday. On April 30th there will be a Veterans event at the Riv being sponsored by the Greater Women's Club.

- Christine Behnke, 36 Magnolia Way: spoke about the school committee that was held last week and the impact of the override failing. Teacher positions would be cut, mostly at the high school level which will lead to more study halls per day.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: thanked the council for being welcoming, listening to the comments. Spoke about the passing of the Flag Resolutions which will show how welcoming Bridgewater is.

APPOINTMENTS

- a) Joshua Earley - DEIB Term of 2025-2026
Councilor Chase made a motion to approve the appointment of Joshua Earley to the DEIB Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that there should not be a DEI committee because that will make us unable to get federal grants. Voting against his appointment.

A Roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passed 7-1.

- b) Kathleen Reid - SAVE Committee Term of 2025-2028
Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the appointment of Kathleen Reid to the SAVE Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- c) Amanda Metell - Zoning Board of Appeals Alternate Member Term of 2025-2028
Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the appointment of Amanda Metell to the Zoning Boards of Appeals, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- d) Jane Marochino - Elder Affairs Commission Term of 2025-2028
Councilor McGrath made a motion to approve the appointment of Jane Marochino to the Elder Affairs Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

- e) Stephen Dempsey - Tree Committee Term of 2025-2028
Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the appointment of Stephen Dempsey to the Tree Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- f) Thomas Pratti - Planning Board Term of 2025-2030
Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the appointment of Thomas Pratti to the Planning Board, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

HEARINGS

- a) Order O-FY25-036: Laying Out and Accepting a Private Way - Firefly Lane
Public Hearing: *Advertised in the 4/11/25 Enterprise. Planning Board recommended with a condition at their 2/19/25 meeting.*

Councilor Perry opened the public hearing at 7:50pm

Attorney Daniel Viera spoke on behalf of the Petitioner. Firefly Lane is a road that has been constructed with the Rules and Regulations of the Town.

Councilor Perry asked if there were any general questions from the public. No one spoke.

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

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

Councilor Perry asked if there were any questions from the Town Council. None

Councilor Perry closed the public hearing at 7:52pm.

Councilor Striggles made a motion that the laying out of Firefly Lane is required by common convenience and necessity, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-036, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- b) Petition P-2025-020: Petition for National Grid and Verizon New England Inc. Joint or Identical Pole Location – Stetson Street

Public Hearing: *Advertised in the 4/11/25 Enterprise*

Councilor Perry opened the public hearing at 7:54pm

Riordan Hoffman from National Grid noted that this was needed for the safety of the public and National Grid.

Councilor Perry asked if there were any general questions from the public. No one spoke.

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

Councilor Perry asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.
Councilor Perry asked if there were any questions from the Town Council. None
Councilor Perry closed the public hearing at 7:55pm.

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Petition P-2025-020, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- c) Proposed Zoning Ordinance D-FY25-014: Zoning Amendment for Accessory Dwelling Units
Public Hearing: *Advertised in the 4/11/25 Enterprise.*
Councilor Perry opened the public hearing at 7:55pm
Councilor Perry noted that the zoning ordinance was at the request from the Planning Board because of State Law going into effect.
Councilor Perry asked if there were any general questions from the public. No one spoke.
Councilor Perry asked if anyone wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.
Councilor Perry asked if anyone wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.
Councilor Perry asked if there were any questions from the Town Council. None

Councilor Perry closed the public hearing at 7:58pm.

Councilor Murphy made an amendment to change “800” to “900” on page 67, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Zoning Ordinance D-FY25-014 with the amendment, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS – None

PRESENTATIONS – None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Fire Station Update
Town Manager Robinson noted that work is going well, mechanical, electrical and plumbing going in. Budget on track, things moving along well.

Councilor McGrath asked what the complete date as and Town Manager Robinson noted that it would be either the end of 2025 or early 2026.

Councilor Murphy asked that Town Manager Robinson check on the hydrant flushing schedule and update at the next meeting.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY25-048: Contract Ratification - Town Manager
Councilor Murphy noted that he had the pleasure of speaking with the potential incoming Town Manager regarding the contract. Very fair, very open and looking forward to working with him.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-048, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – No; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passed 7-1.

- b) Order O-FY25-049: Order Approving a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreement for the Development Project at 70-86 Broad Street

Order has been withdrawn

- c) Order O-FY25-050: Acceptance of Donation - Bridgewater Firefighter's Association
Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-050, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- d) Order O-FY25-051: Transfer Order - Flag Pole
Councilor Ellenberg asked how much has been raised and who is holding the money. Councilor Perry noted that the person who is handling the fundraiser is very trustworthy and about \$4,000 has been raised so far.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-051, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

Councilor Loreti asked why the Finance Committee did not approve. Councilor Linde noted that there was not a lot of discussion and they just voted opposite.

Councilor McGrath noted that maybe a store or something could sponsor it. Councilor Perry noted that this could be taken up at a later date and to speak with the fundraising people.

Councilor Chase urged the council to approve, spent months discussing flags and flag poles. These funds are from FY25 and have been budgeted.

Councilor Linde noted that the funds are in this fiscal years budget and we should move forward with this.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she has had quite a few constituents asking why are spending money on flag poles when we are asking for an override.

A roll-call was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passed 6-2.

- e) Order O-FY25-052: Acceptance of Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs MVP Grant for Hanson Farm Conservation Restriction Purchase
Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-052, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- f) Order O-FY25-053: Acceptance of Grant - High Street Dam - Town River Restoration
Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-053, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- g) Order O-FY25-054: Transfer Order - Conservation Easement/Restriction - Hanson's Farm
Councilor Linde made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-054, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- h) Order O-FY25-055: Proposition 2 1/2 Ballot Question
Councilor Perry noted that they would take each section one by one and vote on the amount.

Councilor Perry noted that the School Committee is looking for \$6,034,614.95 and suggested that the number not be changed.

Councilor Ellenberg made a Charter Objection. Attorney Rawlins noted that the Charter Objection is out of order because it should have been made at the first reading which was at the last council meeting.

Discussion on “To Fund Critical Roadway Repairs”

Councilor Perry noted that residents are looking to see road improvements made. Adding to the budget that would be there year to year that could take care of some road improvements.

Town Manager Robinson noted that communities that put aside extra funds to help with road repair help with maintaining.

Councilor Murphy suggested that \$500k would be a good starting point for road repair and then 2.5% could be added annual.

Councilor Chase noted that he understands the reluctance to take a bite at the big number but would be able to provide on an annual basis to help with the road repair. The 6 roads need full depth reconstruction (under the surface). Not sure where we can find \$50M without adding to an override. Maybe not include roads in the override and look at a debt exclusion.

Councilor Linde noted that he thinks Councilor Murphy's idea is a great compromise.

Councilor Murphy asked how much Bridgewater received in Chapter 90 money and Finance Director Guerrini noted that it was about \$1.2M.

Councilor Linde asked if road repair could be bonded and Finance Director Guerrini noted that the Town could authorize to bond and it would come out of the operating budget and once bonded the taxpayers would be billed.

Councilor Loreti noted that he was concerned that this council will be putting it towards roads but if another council comes in they may not want to use it for roads. Councilor Murphy noted that an Order or Resolution could be created to make sure that the funds are only used for roads.

Councilor Striggles noted that she is agreeable to putting something in there because it is better than nothing.

Councilor Chase made a motion to change the dollar amount on the "Fund Critical Roadway Repairs" line item to \$1M, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loretti – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – No; Perry – Yea; Linde – No; Chase – Yea; Striggles – No; McGrath – No,
Motion failed 2-6.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to change the dollar amount on the "Fund Critical Roadway Repairs" line item to \$500k, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Loretti – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 6-2.

Discussion on "To Fund Schools"

Councilor McGrath noted that she does not know the teachers salary, bus maintenance, etc and does not know why we can't get a line item budget. Would like a little more time to pass the school budget, residents are asking questions.

Councilor Striggles noted that the working group will not be meeting until 5/1. The group will be meeting after to get the information out to the public.

Councilor Perry noted that the Council has been presented with a number and if override gets voted to the ballot then we are hoping to get the numbers out there to the public.

Councilor Linde made a motion to suspend the Council Rules to allow Tim Fitzgibbons to speak, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – No,
Motion Passed 6-2.

School Committee Chair Tim Fitzgibbons noted that the assessment is 3% to Bridgewater which is about \$1M each year, not \$4M each year. Regional School District sent a budget and the Town Council either rejects or accepts the budget. If rejected there are events that can take place. Urge you to take the number that the Town Manager has recommended and send to the voters.

Councilor Ellenberg asked Mr. Fitzgibbons how negotiations are going with the teachers and are they going above 2.5%. Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that he is part of the negotiating committee and will not be discussing it in an open meeting.

Councilor Linde asked what would happen if the school budget was \$5M instead of \$6M. Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that the school committee certified a budget, you can either approve or deny the amount.

Councilor Striggles noted that residents would like to see a 5 year projection, is that something that can be readily available? Mr. Fitzgibbons noted that he would speak with the Superintendent.

Councilor Lorette noted that he would also like to see a plan, looking at high increases but how can we be assured that it will work year after year.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve the amount of \$6,034,614.95 for the School, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea
Motion Passed 6-2.

Discussion on Town Budget Cuts:

Councilor Murphy made a motion to change the dollar amount on the "Restore Budgetary Cuts Services FY2026" line item to \$422,658.33, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

Councilor Murphy noted that he has spent significant time with the Town Manager and does not know how other councilors handled the budget/override.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 6-2.

Discussion on “To Add Services to Meet Community Demands”

Councilor Murphy made a motion to change the dollar amount on the “Add Services to Meet Community Demands” line item to \$783,156.72, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

Councilor McGrath noted that the Town needs to take care of police, fire and senior center.

Councilor Perry noted that he would like to see four firefighters added.

Councilor Murphy withdrew his motion.

Councilor Perry made a motion to change the dollar amount on the “Add Services to Meet Community Demands” line item to \$1,050,999.05, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

Councilor Linde made a motion to amend the override number to \$8,008,272.33, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

Councilor Chase made a motion to put forth the override question as one question, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

Councilor Linde made a motion to extend the Town Council meeting past 10:00pm, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-056, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- i) Order O-FY25-056: 2025 Special Election Warrant - June 21, 2025
Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Order O-FY25-055 with the amendment. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- j) Resolution R-FY25-009: A Resolution in Recognition of Pride Month
Councilor Chase noted that for the past four years the Town Council has approved this request and hope we stand by and approve again this evening.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that we need to take into account the tax payers and if the town was to be sued.

Councilor Chase noted that there has never been any such lawsuit against the town and there is a flag raising ordinance.

Councilor McGrath made a motion to amend 1) in paragraph 2 change “haven” to “town”; 2) in paragraph 2 delete the word “all” between where and individuals; and 3) in paragraph 5, remove “for all” at the end. This was duly seconded by Councilor Lorette.

A roll-call was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – No; Perry – No; Linde – No; Chase – No; Striggles – No; McGrath – Yea,
Motion failed 3-5.

Councilor Chase made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY25-009, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – No; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 6-2.

- k) Resolution R-FY25-010: A Resolution Honoring Juneteenth
Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY25-010, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she is against Resolution and the Purple Heart Flag Resolution.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 7-1.

- l) Resolution R-FY25-011: A Resolution Honoring Purple Heart Month
Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY25-010, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Lorette – Yea; Ellenberg – No; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 7-1.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY25-057: BAA Collective Bargaining Contract Ratification
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-057 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- b) Order O-FY25-058: BAA Collective Contract Appropriation Transfer
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-058 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- c) Order O-FY25-059: Acceptance of Hanson Farm Conservation Restriction
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-059 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Chase.

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

- d) Resolution R-FY25-012: Resolution on FY26 School District Budget Funding
This will be postponed until the next meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Laurene Powers, Sunrise Drive: thanked the councilors for approving the flag raising.
- Ashley Mallard, Grange park: asked that the resolution regarding the letter not be approved. Trust the voters. Cutting off an option that the school committee would have.
- Sean Kennedy, 487 Summer Street: 6.3 of the Charter – was there enough information to vote on. 2.7c of the Charter, noted Charter violations.
- Brad McKinnon, 86 Spring Street: 1) Bridgewater was founded on June 3rd and we need to have a Bridgewater Day. 2) Businesses don't want to come to Bridgewater because of the tie in rates.
- Beryl Domingo, 36 Saddle Drive: spoke about the Pride flag and how it feels safe for LGBTQ community. Thanked the Council for their hard work.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: thought the flags would be a once and done deal and they would not have to come up every year. Thank you and good luck on Saturday.

- Christine Behkne, 36 Magnolia Way: thanked the councils for coming up with the numbers to the Town.
- Dr. Thomas, 72 Magnolia Way: thanked the councils and noted that flags should be considered because they are flown in front of Town Hall.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor McGrath: noted that First Responders Day is this Saturday and thanked everyone for coming out.
- Councilor Striggles: noted that she is honored to sit with Councilors Chase, Perry and Loreti and wished them luck on Saturday.
- Councilor Chase: thanked all the citizens who have come forward to voice their concerns and opinions. Covered a lot of ground this evening, supportive of the override. Reminded voters about the election this coming Saturday 7am to 8pm.
- Councilor Linde: thanked the citizens for coming to the meetings. Thanked those that came out for the clean-up and thanked Brad McKinnon for setting it up.
- Councilor Murphy: thanked the councilors, good discussion on the override number. Excited about the new Town Manager. Will set up some welcoming events for his first few weeks. Thanked everyone for clean-up day. Encourage everyone to attend First Responders Day and to get out and vote.
- Councilor Ellenberg: thanked everyone for coming out.
- Councilor Loreti: thanked the current council for serving over the last few months. Hope to see everyone out to vote and First Responders Day on Saturday.
- Councilor Perry: thanked all the council members for their discussion this evening. Thanked for the town clean-up. Thanked the council for working with him this year as Council President.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Bridgewater Administrative Association as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body.

Councilor Perry read the executive session wording into the record.

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

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Loretti – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Perry – Yea; Linde – Yea; Chase – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea,
Motion passes 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT

In accordance with the applicable provisions of the Town of Bridgewater Home Rule Charter and Town Council Rules and Procedures, the Town Council assembled voted, at their meeting on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.