



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

June 17, 2025

7:00 PM

66 Central Square

Academy Building

Council Chambers/2nd Floor

The Town Council meeting was streamed Live via You Tube.

MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Loreti called the Town Council meeting to order at 7:05pm on Tuesday, June 17, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

Present: Adelene Ellenberg, Sonya Striggles, Mary McGrath, Johnny Loreti, Paul Murphy, Dr. Perry, Marilee Hunt and Mark Linde.

Absent: Sean Kennedy

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

Councilor Loreti noted that there were no veteran that passed away but asked for a moment of silence for all veterans and their families.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) June 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Perry made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from June 3, 2025, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.

Motion passed 8-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Councilor Loreti noted that the override vote is this Saturday and noted the hours of early voting and the council will continue to work towards fiscal practices and deliver the services for all of the residents. Not only the schools but across all town departments.

Councilor Loreti also noted that on Saturday there is the 3rd annual First Responders Day at Town River Landing, from 2 to 5pm. There will be food trucks and entertainment.

PROCLAMATIONS

- a) Bridgewater-Raynham Robotics Team TJ² (TEAM 88) - 2025 Massachusetts State Robotics Champions
Councilor Loreti asked that the Robotics Team come to the front of chambers and he read the proclamation into the record.
- b) Firefighter/Paramedic Retirement - James "Jimmy" Beatty
Councilor Loreti read the proclamation for James "Jimmy" Beatty into the record. FF Beatty was not in attendance but will be given the proclamation during his retirement open house.

Councilor Loreti read a proclamation for Town Manager Robinson into the record and presented Ms. Robinson with a gift card and flowers for her support to the Town of Bridgewater.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: has questions on the TIF. Thinks town should not be offering a TIF. Concerned about the development down near the NIP. Developer is looking for a lot of things.
- Linda Schumck, 15 Sunset Lane: spoke about the development near the NIP; Lake Shore Center Phase 4; already have two apartment complexes, two business office and a hotel. Submitted their final report to MEPA and notice of change and we need to keep close watch on this. Area of environmental concern.
- Donna Jewel, Keith Place: 11/12 FY25-011 allocated \$1M to the school district for capital school projects. Put in a public records request, did that beginning of June. Only provided information 6 out of the 11 projects. \$700k - \$800k not being spent. What happens to the money if a bid comes up under, does it come back to the town or does it get used by the school for something else. Wants to adopt a new policy that if money is allocated to the district and upon submission of the invoices it gets drawn from that account.
- Mike Flaherty, 120 High Street: spoke about his fathers property and the issues with it.

APPOINTMENTS

- a) TIF Ad Hoc Oversight Committee for 60-86 Broad Street
Councilor Hunt made a motion to postpone the appointments to the Ad Hoc committee until the new Town Manager takes his position in July. This was seconded by Councilor Linde.

Councilor Hunt noted that the CED already exists within the council, one of the ad hoc members is on the CED committee. Could be easily done within the CED committee.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – No; McGrath – No; Loreti – No; Perry – No; Murphy – No; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion failed 3-5.

1. Councilor Striggles

Councilor Perry made a motion to appoint Councilor Striggles to the Ad Hoc committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – No; Linde - No. Motion passed 6-2.

2. Councilor Murphy

Councilor Striggles made a motion to appoint Councilor Murphy to the Ad Hoc committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – No; Linde - No. Motion passed 6-2.

3. Councilor McGrath

Councilor Striggles made a motion to appoint Councilor McGrath to the Ad Hoc committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – No; Linde - No. Motion passed 6-2.

It was noted that since Mr. Rulli and Ms. Guerrini are not residents of Bridgewater they cannot be appointed to a committee. The Town Manager will be appointing two people at the next meeting.

4. Robert Rulli, CED Director

5. Laurie Guerrini, Finance Director

b) Appointment:

1. Conservation Commission - Debrann Campbell Term of 2025-2027

Councilor Perry made a motion to appoint Debrann Campbell to the Conservation Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

c) Reappointments:

1. Conservation Commission - Harry Bailey Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Harry Bailey to the Conservation Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

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

2. Elder Affairs Commission - Gloria Lemieux Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Hunt made a motion to reappoint Gloria Lemieux to the Elder Affairs Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

3. Elder Affairs Commission - Marylou Harding Term of 2025-2026

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Marylou Harding to the Elder Affairs Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion

passed 8-0.

4. Elder Affairs Commission - Robin Sherrick Term of 2025-2026

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Robin Sherrick to the Elder Affairs Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor McGrath.

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

5. Historical Commission - David Moore Term of 2025-2027

Councilor Linde made a motion to reappoint David Moore to the Historical Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

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

6. Historical Commission - Sharon Anderson Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Striggles made a motion to reappoint Sharon Anderson to the Historical Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

7. Open Space Commission - Eileen Hiney Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Linde made a motion to reappoint Eileen Hiney to the Open Space Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

8. Open Space Commission - Maureen Minasian Term of 2025-2027

Councilor Hunt made a motion to reappoint Maureen Minasian to the Open Space Commission, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

9. Parks and Recreation - Michael Flaherty Term of 2025-2026

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Michael Flaherty to Parks and Recreation, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

10. Planning Board - Patrick Driscoll Term of 2025-2030

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Patrick Driscoll to the Planning Board, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

11. Tree Committee - Raymond Ajemian Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Striggles made a motion to reappoint Raymond Ajemian to the Tree Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

12. Tree Committee - Shirley Krasinski Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to reappoint Shirley Krasinski to the Tree Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

13. Zoning Board of Appeals - Daniel Greenberg Term of 2025-2028

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Daneil Greenberg to the Zoning Board of Appeals, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

HEARINGS - None

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS - None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Fire Station Update
Town Manager Robinson noted that the Fire Station is coming along good. Project is on schedule and on budget.
- b) Speeding - East Street
Town Manager Robinson noted that traffic enforcement on East Street had been done and they did not find excessive speeding by trucks, they will send out the officers again to do one day and one evening and will move the digital sign.
- c) National Grid - Trimming of Trees Near Power Lines Process
Town Manager Robinson noted that she has spoken with National Grid regarding the Cherry Street area, they are working towards addressing tree trimming, some of the trees are above the size of the truck they use. Have appointed a Tree Warden and these matters will be looked at in the upcoming months.
- d) FY26 General Roadways Plan Update
Town Manager Robinson noted that South Street is currently being worked on – milling down the road, the next step is to come back and put a skim coat over that, raise the sewer covers, etc, fix the sidewalks and then do the full pavement over the Summer. Knows there has been some frustration on notice but there are just two contractors that can be used for the bids and there has been a lot of rain this season and they had an opening to start yesterday and chose to take it.

Continuing work on Flagg Street, drainage project should be done soon. Project could wrap up by end of Summer but it is dependent on weather and contractors.

Waiting on the Governors budget to go out to bid for Winter Street. Main Street is planned if the override is passed.

Councilor Ellenberg asked about the parking lot at the Senior Center and Town Manager Robinson noted that they are looking into doing the back park of the parking lot.

DISCUSSIONS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Order O-FY25-068: United Steel Workers Bargaining Contract Ratification
Budget & Finance Meeting 6/17/25 and Finance Committee meeting 6/16/25.
Councilor Loreti noted that the Finance Committee did not meet on 6/16/25 so this order will need to be on the 7/15/25 agenda.
Councilor Striggles made a motion to continue Order O-FY25-068, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

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

- b) Order O-FY25-069: United Steel Workers Collective Bargaining Appropriation Transfer
Budget & Finance Meeting 6/17/25 and Finance Committee meeting 6/16/25.
Councilor Loreti noted that the Finance Committee did not meet on 6/16/25 so this order will need to be on the 7/15/25 agenda.
Councilor Linde made a motion to continue Order O-FY25-069, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- c) Order O-FY25-070: Non-Union Affiliated Positions Appropriation Transfer
Budget & Finance Meeting 6/17/25 and Finance Committee meeting 6/16/25.
Councilor Loreti noted that the Finance Committee did not meet on 6/16/25 so this order will need to be on the 7/15/25 agenda.
Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to continue Order O-FY25-070, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- d) 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

Councilor Perry note that this has been vetted by the Planning Board and CED prior to the election with a favorable recommendation.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Zoning Ordinance D-FY25-018 to advertising, which was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY25-071: An Order Establishing a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District for 60-86 Broad Street

Councilor Loreti noted that this is a proposed district for 60-86 Broad Street, just a suggestion.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-071 to the Ad Hoc Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

Councilor Linde asked how can this be referred to committee if the committee is not complete and Attorney Rawlins noted that the committee has to be filled with 5 members before something can be referred to that committee.

Councilor Striggles rescinded her motion to refer.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to continue Order O-FY25-071, which was duly seconded by Councilor Ellenberg.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Absent; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Abstained; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea. Motion passed 7-0.

- b) Order O-FY25-072: Acceptance of Donation - Oliari Charitable Foundation Bridgewater Public Library

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-072 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

- c) Order O-FY25-073: Town Clerk's Salary

Councilor Murphy noted that the current town clerk salary is \$87k, 6.9% increase. Big giant step. Has a problem with that.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-073 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

d) Order O-FY25-074: Town Manager Goals

Councilor Murphy noted that these are goals for the incoming Town Manager, no surprises in here.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she would like to add one item – conduct forensic audit.

Councilor Perry noted that goals fall under Strategic Planning, there was some work done with Erik Moore when he was President. Conversations need to be had with the new Town Manager when he comes.

Councilor Linde thanked Councilor Murphy but asked that earlier communication with BR school district be done prior to putting together budget.

Councilor Perry made a motion to refer Order O-FY25-074 to Strategic Planning, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Carlton Hunt, 80 Austin Street: noted that Open Space Commission should be Committee and should include the committees in a 360 evaluation.
- Janet Hanson, Pleasant Street: tree trimming by National Grid, why are they trimming now. Parking lot behind Starrs gas station needs to be fixed.
- Stef D'Melia, 35 Harvest Lane: where do we stand with the water infrastructure; water impact report, don't know if those have been done. Do easements and right of way change when you change zoning.
- Donna Jewel, Keith Place: thanked Blythe for her time in Bridgewater.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: suggested a meeting about water and roads over the Summer, reminded people about the 4th of July, T-shirts are available and they will need help with clean-up.
- Councilor Hunt: thanked BCCR for their Juneteenth flag raising. BSU celebration is on 6/21 and reminded people about 4th of July.
- Councilor Murphy noted the golf course and the revenue it has brought into the town this year; spoke about grants – average \$8M in grants each year; ARPA funds are received and being used for the Fire Station. Spoke about 4th of July committee. Spoke about First Responders Day, great event. Thanked Town Manager Robinson for her dedication to the Town and me as a councilor. Welcome to our new Town Manager and encouraged everyone to get out and vote on Saturday.
- Councilor Perry: congratulate the robotics team on their success, Jimmy Beatty on his years of service and his retirement, thanked those that were appointed and reappointed. Thanked Town Manager Robinson for all the work she has done, the goal was to keep the town on track and she has done that. Election is this weekend, encouraged everyone to come out and vote.

- Councilor Striggles: thanked everyone who attended the Juneteenth event, made our town shine bright. The two students who spoke is why we need to invest in our children. My concerns about the Lakeshore Phase 4 development – for responsible development but that is not responsible development, too much at one time, needs to be thoroughly vetted. I have received the emails and express my concern for that project. Thanked Town Manager Robinson for her commitment to the Town and the Council. Guided us through a time that we did not foresee.
- Councilor Ellenberg: Ms. Robinson did a fine job as Town Manager, everyone should vote on Saturday and help the July 4th committee and buy a t-shirt.
- Councilor McGrath: thanked Mr. Robinson for her time as Town Manager.
- Councilor Loreti: noted that the total water ban has been lifted; spoke with Easton about PFAs and had great conversations with them; looking forward to working with Councilor Striggles on the development of Lakeshore Phase 4. Thanked Mr. Robinson for being an excellent Town Manager and keeping us on the path over the past year. Hope to see everyone at the polls, First Responder Day and Juneteenth celebration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Perry made a motion to adjourn, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.

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, July, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.

Donna Jewell
6/17/25 Town Council Meeting

Ordinance FY25-011
Capital Improvement BRRSD November 12, 2024

Amount: \$1,017,466

11 Capital Improvement projects

Only 6 projects appear to have been addressed per the response to my public records request to BRRSD.

So far, it looks like approximately \$750K -800k has not been put out to bid yet or spent.

One project was estimated to be \$200k but came in at \$65K. What happens to the remaining \$135k that was allocated for that project?

Where has that money been sitting and who has been earning interest on it for 8 months?

Notes:

- Williams School Roof Repair: \$25k will be returned to the town.
- High School HVAC upgrade was done in house for \$16k instead of \$40K (Does \$24k get returned to the town?)
- Unrelated to this ordinance, there was an expenditure of \$172,565.00 for window shades for the Middle School. Is this a necessary expenditure under today's financial climate?

Recommendation:

Develop a system for District appropriations that allocates the funds to the District but does not transfer the funds to the District until an invoice is presented.