



Town of Bridgewater

Town Council

July 15, 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 7:00pm on Tuesday, July 15, 2025 in the Council Chambers.

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

Also in attendance was Town Manager Justin Casanova-Davis and Town Attorney Jason Rawlins.

Councilor Loreti read the names of veterans who have passed and a moment of silence was held:

- William Metcalf, US Army – Passed away on August 8, 2024 (was not aware he was a veteran until recently)
- John Davies, US Navy – Passed away on May 17, 2025
- Harvey Shore, US Air Force and US Navy – Passed away on May 19, 2025
- Peter Mazzaferro, US Army – Passed away on May 30, 2025
- Bruce Langlan, US Marines – Passed away on June 10, 2025
- James O'Neil, US Marines – Passed away on June 12, 2025
- William Heerman, US Army – Passed away on June 17, 2025
- Norman Nelson, US Army – Passed away on July 7, 2025

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

a) June 17, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Councilor Linde made a motion to approve the June 17, 2025 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.
Motion passed 9-0.

- b) June 30, 2025 Meeting Minutes
Councilor Hunt made a motion to approve the June 30, 2025 meeting minutes, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A roll-call vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea.
Motion passed 9-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT - None

PROCLAMATIONS

- a) Korean War Armistice Agreement Day - July 27, 2025
Councilor Loreti introduced Korean War veteran Mr. William “B” Levy. Mr. Levy is a lifelong Bridgewater resident who currently resides on Aldrich Road. He entered the US Army on January 8, 1952, and was soon sent to fight in the Korean War. His awards include the Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Korean War Service Medal, Army Meritorious Unit Citation, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation. Councilor Loreti read the Korean War Proclamation into the record and presented it to Mr. Levy.

Councilor Perry made a motion to take Q. Executive Session out of order. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Hunt made a motion to go into Executive Session. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde - Yea. Motion passed 9-0.

The Town Council went into Executive Session at 7:10p.m.

The Town Council came back from Executive Session into Regular Session at 7:40pm.

CITIZEN OPEN FORUM

- Ray Ajamian, 221 Aldrich Road: updated the council on the Tree Committee - the Town was awarded a Tree City again. A local student was published in the calendar and was awarded a Tree City Flag. Tree Committee has a lot to do. The Town hired an on-call Tree Warden and he has already notified the committee that many trees on the common are diseased.
- Brad McKinnon, 86 Spring Street: spoke about the tie in fees and what that money could go to, prison phase 1. 7/26 there will be a Farmer’s Market at Town River Landing. Look into 40Ys, Lakeville just had them in front of their Planning Board.
- Sam Baumgarten, 60 Short Street: welcomed Justin; spoke about the upcoming dance on 7/26.

- Gina Guasconi, 35 Ball Avenue: welcomed Justin; congratulated the Hanson Family for the conservation restriction placed on the property, signs and trails will be built. There will be a ceremony sometime in the Fall.
- Carlton Hunt, Austin Street: welcomed Justin; spoke about the Charter. Admin Code Item II Economic Development function defines the role of the CED Department.

APPOINTMENTS

a) Parks and Recreation Reappointments:

1. Mark Thomas (2025 - 2028)

Councilor Striggles made a motion to reappoint Mark Thomas to Parks and Recreation Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

2. Gina Guasconi (2025 - 2028)

Councilor Perry made a motion to reappoint Gina Guasconi to Parks and Recreation Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

b) TIF Ad Hoc Oversight Committee for 60-86 Broad Street:

1. Dan Greenberg

Councilor Linde asked if Mr. Greenberg was on the Zoning Board of Appeals and if this would be a conflict. Town Attorney Rawlins noted that possibly but would need to know the facts.

Councilor McGrath asked if Mr. Greenberg was the newest member? CED Director Rulli noted that he was the newest fulltime member. Works for a development company but been on the board for atleast 3 years.

Councilor Kennedy noted that he was contacted by multiple residents and will be voting no.

Councilor Hunt noted that this was in opposition to the Charter, will be voting no.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that due to a conflict of interest she would be a no vote. Councilor Loreti noted that this project would not be seen by ZBA so there will be no conflict.

Councilor Striggles noted that if we were to go by what Mr. Hunt was speaking about; the residents elected us to represent them, if we hand this over to CED Department you are taking away the residents voices. I don't see a conflict, I see expertise.

Councilor Linde noted that he believes CED Committee could handle this.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to appoint Dan Greenberg to the TIF Ad Hoc Oversight Committee for 60-86 Broad Street. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 5-4.

2. Fred Chase

Councilor Perry noted that Mr. Chase prior experience on the council would be an asset to the committee.

Councilor Kennedy noted that residents reached out to him and he will be voting no and would like to see resumes.

Councilor Perry made a motion to appoint Fred Chase to the TIF Ad Hoc Oversight Committee for 60-86 Broad Street. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

Motion passed 5-4.

HEARINGS

- a) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010: Proposed Amendment to Chapter 157, Article II, Section 1
Public Hearing. *Advertised in the 6/30/25 Enterprise. Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments at their 5/27/25 meeting.*

Councilor Loreti opened the public hearing at 8:05pm.

Councilor McGrath noted that she has been speaking up to have this flag flown for over a year.
Councilor Linde noted that this would not take the place of other flags flown just the POW Flag

Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public had any questions. No one had questions.
Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.
Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.
Councilor Loreti asked if any councilors had any questions. None

Councilor Murphy made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010 by adding under number 4. “at the Town Academy Building” after “display” in the first sentence. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Loreti closed the public hearing at 8:10pm.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-010 with the amendment, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

- b) Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016: Bridgewater Town Charter Article IV, Section 4-3, Town Manager Powers of Appointment

***Public Hearing.** Advertised in the 6/30/25 Enterprise. Rules and Procedures voted 3-0 to recommend with amendments at their 5/27/25 meeting.*

Councilor Loreti opened the public hearing at 8:11pm.

Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public had any questions. No one had questions.

Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in favor. No one spoke.

Councilor Loreti asked if anyone from the public wished to speak in opposition. No one spoke.

Councilor Loreti asked if any councilors had any questions. None

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to amend Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016 by changing "majority" to "2/3". This was duly seconded by Councilor Linde.

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

Motion passed 8-1.

Councilor Loreti closed the public hearing at 8:13pm.

Councilor Striggles made a motion to approve Proposed Ordinance D-FY25-016 as amended, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

LICENSE TRANSACTIONS - None

PRESENTATIONS

- a) Water and Sewer Rate Presentation: Toby Fedder and Will Thramman from Raftelis

Toby Fedder from Raftelis gave a water and sewer presentation. Bridgewater is not the only community going through this issue in Massachusetts. New and evolving regulatory regulations have been passed. Entering into a period of significant capital investments (wastewater compliance and water/wastewater capacity constraints).

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a) Fire Station Update

CED Director Rulli gave an update on the fire station noting that it is now at 75% completion; scheduling furniture installation, will begin around Thanksgiving; about 3 months ahead. Real healthy place to be in the budget.

Councilor Perry asked if there was a date of occupancy and Mr. Rulli noted that target date is December 1st.

- b) Community Engagement Update

Town Manager Casanova-Davis thanked the community and is excited to be here. Believes it is important to have listening sessions with the public and will be scheduling some in the future.

DISCUSSIONS

- a) Water Quality and Capacity

Councilor Loreti added this discussion to the agenda because he want the residents to know that water issues are our top priority and we are actively working on it.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that this is a priority for us, we are having meetings and his hope is a summer meeting to focus on what we are doing. A lot of hard work being done, applying for grants.

Councilor Kennedy asked that the Town Manager looked into two sewer pumps and noted he will send the exact location to the Town Manager.

Councilor McGrath noted that she looked at 2024 master water plan. Great hill tank is 98 years old. Vernon Street wells was recommended, permits expired, did we get them back yet. Need to look where we are getting all of our water from.

Councilor Kennedy asked how much water do we have available, would appreciate raw numbers and why we continue to build. How much building can we continue to do and where are we at. Let residents know.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that Bridgewater needs to develop it's own capacity. If we tie into something else they can raise the rates and we will be held hostage.

Councilor Loreti noted that it does appear we have room for development but we don't know how much. Looking forward to the water presentation at a later date so we can have a clear vision.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Strategic Planning: Councilor Perry noted that Strategic Planning met on July 10th on the goals for the Town Manager. Will be meeting with other people and will be meeting again in the beginning of August and will then submit our recommendation the first meeting in September.

LEGISLATION FOR ACTION

- a) Resolution R-FY25-014: A Resolution Requesting an Independent Operational and Financial Review of the Bridgewater-Raynham Regional School District

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.

Councilor Loreti noted that this was discussed at the last meeting, request of the School Committee to do an independent review, not an audit. Raynham Board of Selectmen voted 3-0 to do something similar.

Councilor McGrath made a motion to approve Resolution R-FY25-014, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

Councilor Hunt asked who was going to pay for it and Councilor Loreti noted that Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that there may be some grant money for this.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that he spoke with the DOR and that the program is not funded at the moment but he would explore other funding opportunities.

Councilor Linde noted that if the public body requests this then the State Auditor can do this. Think we should look into this. Do not know the cost but may be less.

Councilor Murphy noted that without having a source of funding and dollar amount he would be voting against it. Also asking another body in town to do something doesn't seem right. Should we instead focus on our review of having a district in Bridgewater and bringing that back to the citizens. Maybe that is a better approach.

Councilor Kennedy noted that the supports this, it is a resolution so we are not forcing them to do it. It is what the residents want. School district is something we should look at more.

Councilor Murphy noted that we are so far off from what the school needs and what we can fund. Even though we are approving this increase we are still far from what the kids and teachers deserve. Will this amount to anything, how will we come up with the \$6M we need to fund our schools.

Councilor Perry noted that we are putting a band aid on the situation this year; the public wants to see more transparency. By supporting this resolution the school can show some clarity to the public that they are spending appropriately maybe an override may pass next time.

Councilor Linde noted that he thinks it is a good step forward for public comments. One of the school committee members asked for something like this. Maybe the cost could be split between the 3 entities. Get all of the information out there and people with trust the process.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that many constituents have told her they don't trust the budget process and this would establish trust again in this town.

Councilor Hunt made a motion to amend by adding the word Study and form a committee, which was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles for discussion.

Councilor Striggles notes that we would be requesting something be studied without someone to pay for it.

Councilor Kennedy noted that it does not seem that the amendment changes anything. This is just asking them to consider doing this.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that she thinks we should do the review and ask our Town Manager if he would be able to find the funds in the budget to do this. Having this study reflects the will of the people.

Councilor Perry noted that he agrees with Councilor Kennedy, do not think we need a study to look at this. Let the school committee start looking at the situation. Then it can come back to us for funding.

Town Attorney Rawlins reminded the councilors that they do not control what the Bridgewater-Raynham School District can or cannot do.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion to amend with the results as follows: Kennedy – No; Ellenberg – No; Striggles – No; McGrath – No; Loreti – No; Perry – No; Murphy – No; Hunt – No; Linde - No.
Motion Fails 0-9.

Councilor Murphy made a motion to move the question, which was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

A roll-call vote was taken on the motion to approve with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – No; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – No; Hunt – No; Linde - Yea.

Motion passed 6-3.

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

Councilor Loreti noted that this is the foundation of what may or may not become a TIF district. Want to refer it to the Ad Hoc Committee.

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

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Abstained; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – No; Linde – No

Motion passed 6-2-1.

Councilor Perry made a motion to extend New Business past 10pm which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Order O-FY26-007: Acceptance of Gift - Lopieke's Family Trust
Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-007 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

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

Motion passed 9-0.

- b) Order O-FY26-008: Loan Authorization for Phase 2 Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Preliminary Design and Engineering of Phosphorous Removal Upgrade Project
Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-008 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

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

Motion passed: 9-0

- c) Order O-FY26-009: Loan Authorization - Community Septic Management Program (CSMP) Title V - Homeowner Loans
Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-009 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

- d) Order O-FY26-010: Post Override Supplemental Appropriation
Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that as part of the council decision to support the school we worked to find a recommendation to fund this. Think this is a good course of action at this time. Will continue to work throughout the year to have savings for FY27.

Councilor Loreti noted that the council needs to approve this by August 11th and in order to apply with the Charter we need to make some moves. Refer to Finance, advise that we keep at council level and then advertise for 8/5.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-010 to Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

Councilor Striggles made a motion to retain Order O-FY26-010 at Town Council. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

Councilor Kennedy made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-010 to Advertising for posting of the public hearing. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

- e) Order O-FY26-011: FY26 Water Rates
Councilor Striggles made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-011 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

- f) Order O-FY26-012: FY26 Sewer Rates
Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to refer Order O-FY26-012 to Budget & Finance and Finance Committee. This was duly seconded by Councilor Perry.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

g) Zoning Ordinance Amendment D-FY26-001: MBTA Final Compliance Ordinance for the Town of Bridgewater

Councilor Striggles noted that the Town Council approved the MBTA district in our town and there were a few conditions that needed to be amended.

CED Director Rulli noted that in the letter in the packet, page 2, last two paragraphs. We were limiting development of one building per lot and just some language that seemed like we were capping. They just wanted us to clear that up.

Councilor Ellenberg noted that on the chart it says gross density per one acre is 15 units. Submitted was 30 units why are we submitting something higher than what is required. Residents do not want MBTA housing here.

CED Director Rulli noted that we went through a process to pass the form based code and because we are in compliance with MBTA we are eligible for 14 grants.

Councilor Ellenberg made a motion to amend Ordinance D-FY26-001 to reduce this is the required portion of the MBTA. This motion was seconded by Councilor Striggles for discussion.

Councilor Perry noted that we are referring to the subcommittee and at that time the council can make amendments.

After some discussion, Councilor Ellenberg withdrew her amendment.

Councilor Murphy asked that the Council get a list of grants that the town is eligible for because of being in compliance with the MBTA.

Town Manager Casanova-Davis noted that they can do that and include what has already been received.

Councilor Linde made a motion to refer Ordinance D-FY26-001 to CED Committee and Planning Board. This was duly seconded by Councilor Striggles.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed 9-0.

Councilor Perry made a motion to extend Citizens Comments past 10pm which was duly seconded by Councilor Murphy.

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed 9-0.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

- Bob Cormier, 65 Grange Park: thanked the councilors for moving the TIF forward. Great presentation for the rate structure.
- Carlton Hunt: asked what the scope of the TIF district is.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

- Councilor Linde: great water presentation would like to see another meeting. Would like to see better presentation from the school side on the budget.
- Councilor Hunt: congratulated CPC for the work on the Hanson Farm. Recommend listening to MMA and doing some of their classes.
- Councilor Murphy: welcomed Justin, know some tough decisions will be made for FY27. Thank you to the 4th of July committee; 10 out of 10 day, perfect celebration for our town.
- Councilor Perry: welcomed Justin for his first meeting with us and kudos to the Finance Team for finding the money for the school. Thanked the 4th of July committee and thanked those that came out to clean-up the day after.
- Councilor Striggles: thanked Justin for finding the funds to help pay for the school budget; also thanked the 4th of July committee and wished I could have attended.
- Councilor Ellenberg: had cataract surgery today but felt this meeting was too important to miss.
- Councilor Kennedy: thanked Justin for speaking with the councilors over the past few weeks, thanked the finance team, this is what we need. Thanked the public for staying with us for this long.
- Councilor McGrath: we have a water and sewer board and no one is on it; they recommend improvements. July 26th 2pm and 7pm the Farmers Market is there and most of the vendors are from out of town. It would be nice to have Bridgewater vendors there.
- Councilor Loreti: I encourage everyone to visit Town River Landing. Thank you to Justin for being so available. Just started and doing a great job.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- a) Executive Session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining
if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares; Bridgewater Firefighters' Union, Local 2611, Bridgewater Police Association, Bridgewater Administrative Association and United Steelworkers Local 9517 Unit 04.

Executive Session took place at the beginning of the meeting. See above for details.

ADJOURNMENT

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

A voice vote was taken with the results as follows: Kennedy – Yea; Ellenberg – Yea; Striggles – Yea; McGrath – Yea; Loreti – Yea; Perry – Yea; Murphy – Yea; Hunt – Yea; Linde – Yea
Motion passed: 9-0

Meeting adjourned at 10:38pm.

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, August 12, 2025, to approve the aforementioned minutes, as submitted.

Two meetings ago I asked that Councilors do a deep reading of the Towns charter, Administrative Code, and the Council Rules and Procedures. If you did you understand that no measure takes effect until 30 days after passage.

I served on the first Charter Review committee which recommended the 30-day window be shortened but it was not acted on by the Council. I note any future charter change with respect to that recommendation would need to accommodate the 10-day rule that enables an initiative or referendum filing by citizens on measures passed by the Town Council.

Note ~~the~~ Section 8-4 of the Charter has eight exceptions to the 30-day requirement. Most of the exceptions are related to financial measures and actions. However, Item 3) exempts ***Internal Operational Procedures of the Town Council*** from the 30-day requirement. I am not sure what falls under the phrase. I request the Council ask the Town Attorney for an explanation.

The Administrative Code in Section 8 (Community and Economic Development **Department**), Item E. (Organizational Components) (2) Economic Development Function of defines the role of the CED DEPARTMENT. The Department is assigned “*development of strategies to retain and attract business*” on Page 85. The strategy development charge specifically includes using a variety of tools including tax increment financing (TIF), and district increment financing (DIF) for strategy development.

I request the Town Council respect the Administrative Code stipulations. There is no reason for the Council to assume the economic strategy development function assigned by Code to the CED Department under its advisory role to the Town Manager. Engaging the department charged with developing these strategies is a more efficient use of time and expertise, especially when Counselors’ “*time is limited.*”